

Appendix E: Town Hall Meeting Responses

Q1. What do you value most about your community?

- School system
- Small caring community
- The way the elected leaders work together (teamwork amongst elected officials)
- Low crime rate, good school system, wholesome living, wide open spaces, quiet community
- We are a close-knit community.
- Rural lifestyle
- Values of the community
- Quality of life
- Country atmosphere
- Church-going community
- Hometown values
- Glascock Co Action Partners do a lot for the community
- Location
- Bedroom community
- Feeling of security and safety
- Rural, taking caring for others, peaceful, low crime, rural beauty, family atmosphere, no traffic lights, no traffic, no pollution
- Great place to raise kids
- We know each other
- WinterFest
- We still believe in "God We Trust"!
- Our youth
- History [you've got to know where you come from to know where you're going]
- Heritage; small town feel; appearance
- Architecture [National Historic Register buildings]
- We want pride
- Rural county
- Cleanliness [value it, don't have it]
- Educational progress [value it, don't have it]
- Family values
- Close community
- Unity [value it, don't necessarily have it]
- Individual likes and differences
- Talented residents
- Opportunity to come together for economic growth—and to design the growth
- Minimal crime
- Pine Tree Festival
- Community events
- Community services banks, grocer, pharmacist—we know who we deal with
- St. Gobain [perfumery]
- Safety
- Faith based communities
- Sandersville Tech
- Family Connection Collaborative
- Knowing our neighbors
- People
- We need to bring about togetherness in all areas of the community
- Business
- Ishmaelite
- People
- Growth
- Industry
- Honesty
- History
- Quiet
- Integrity
- Education
- Future
- Churches
- Ishmaelite
- Courtroom [it's beautiful]
- Library
- Planning [value it, don't have a long range plan]
- Ferst Foundation [literacy program]
- Tri-County Health
- Land
- Churches
- Historical sites
- Natural resources (water, granite, etc.)
- People
- Youth
- Families
- Schools
- Pinetree Festival
- Hunting brings money into the community: land leases, etc.
- Our people and quality of life
- Friendliness and fellowship of residents of the community—closeness
- Spirit of the community (more than just the people—friendliness of the community, village charm, helping your neighbors).
- Entrepreneurship—percentage is higher. Folks know how to pull themselves up and do the right thing and not wait for the dole
- High percentage of involvement
- Christian attitude
- Leadership (historically been concerned about the best interest of the community)
- Close knit community

- Lincoln County is HOME and there is no place like home. We haven't left home though to really know. However, many people who leave come back.
- Good place to retire
- Lincoln County and Lincolnton have a "southern" charm where people know their neighbors
- A great place to raise your kids
- Natural resources, the lake, Graves Mountain
- People feel like they can walk about without fear of being mugged, robbed, assaulted (the community is safe)
- Quality of life. Good educational system—not always reflected in the scores
- Great recreational amenities in the community
- Abundance of natural resources
- Sportsman's paradise (camping, hunting, boating, fishing)
- Six or seven pro football players—athletic program, especially the football team
- Far enough away to be rural, but close enough to be where you want to go
- Geographically located in a great location (2 hours to mountains, beach, Atlanta, Charlotte)
- Great weather
- Not that far from Augusta, get business from there and can work there and it is 22 minutes to the Super Wal-Mart
- Conscious of preserving the history in Lincoln County, great historical park
- You can go anywhere in the world from here
- State facilities—Elijah Clark State Park, camping facilities
- Downtown activities and festivals
- Lower unemployment
- Quality of life overall (education, history, recreation, work)
- Great place to raise a family
- History, heritage, hope
- Slower pace is an attraction
- Young people are great
- No road rage
- People
- Small town atmosphere
- Family values
- Friendliness
- Church atmosphere
- Natural beauty
- Some of its leadership
- Religion
- Historical architecture
- Nothing
- Cooperative spirit
- Natural resources
- Good city services
- Improving
- Warren County's website
- Combo of progressive and conservative attitudes
- Cooperative social service effort
- Improved school system
- Support services for families and children
- Potential for growth
- The potential
- Family
- Location and weather
- Safe environment
- The way the community comes together in time of need
- Law enforcement
- Cooperation [intergovernmental; business is integrated with government]
- Pride in community
- Citizens
- Cohesive working group
- Intergovernmental cooperation
- Strong sense of community and values [we care about it and want people to know we're from here]
- People
- Local entrepreneurs
- Heritage and beauty
- Industry [broad-based, although it could be better]
- Natural resources
- Good educational system [public schools]
- Good hospital
- Loyalty [to community]
- School support [passed SPLOST, good attendance at PTA]
- Feels like the 50's
- Photographer was generous [referring to slide show]
- Accessible gov. agencies [many are located here (including federal), and we know who to contact]
- Opportunities within the community
- Great geographical location...no gnats
- I-20 Interstate
- Hospital
- Tech school
- North of the fall line
- Youth within the county [they come back]
- Diversity [racial and cultural]
- Community expertise about gov. access
- Quality medical facilities
- Strong local officials who work together
- Gov. working together
- Law enforcement
- Valued agency participation
- Godly community

- Geographical location within the state
- Airport
- Worship centers/churches
- Regional partnership [hospital, industrial parks]
- Financial institutions
- Excellent infrastructure...water, sewer, airports, schools
- Collaborative partnerships
- Water-sewer infrastructure (regional)
- Strong grass roots [community support]
- History of approving SPLOST programs which indicates cohesion and agreement among the community
- Tech school
- Dual gov. good for now
- The lake
- Recreational resources
- Rural areas of the county
- Low taxes
- Work together across racial lines
- Good churches throughout the area
- Social, racial, and economic diversity and cooperation
- Commitment to growth and development
- Interstate
- Building from within
- Industrial growth from within
- Large land area
- Friendly people
- Religious life
- Friendliness of citizens
- Diverse racial groups
- Quality of schools
- Good place to raise family
- Partnership shared between different organizations
- Clean environment
- Opportunity of growth
- Educational facilities
- Small enough to get involved
- The people who make up the community
- Agricultural activities
- Rich history
- Roads
- The school system and facilities
- The opportunities available
- Deep Southern tradition
- Small town charm
- Good leadership,
- Job employment
- The proximity to larger cities,
- Plant Vogtle
- Potential for growth
- New library
- Close to metropolitan area
- Excellent school facilities
- Many churches
- Medical center
- A value of history
- Affordable housing
- Senior citizen programs
- People who care
- Veterans who have served
- Schooling for secondary education
- General locality / geographic location
- Opportunities of US 25 expansion
- Love of outdoors
- Beauty/scenic
- Helpfulness of city government
- Historic architecture of housing stock
- Diverse landscape: rivers, lakes, and flat areas for farming
- Quiet evenings and late mornings
- History
- Quaint downtown
- Resources available in the community
- Dedication of elected and governmental officials
- Great medical facilities
- Quality of life
- Small town atmosphere
- Spirit of community
- Ease of travel around the community
- Recreational facilities
- Schools
- Stress-free lifestyle.
- Small.
- No traffic.
- Somewhat insulated from the problems associated with urban areas, both geographically and socially.
- A good school system.
- Low crime rate
- Quality of life.
- Family structure and people
- Convenience of the location of the stores
- Preserving your neighborhood--overall cleanliness of it and safety
- Rural small quality of life.
- Insulated from problems brought on by high population. (No urban stressors)
- Religious activity
- Schools
- Family-oriented.
- Natural resources
- Knowing your neighbors
- Religious life

- Safety in schools and communities
- Individual customer service, people know you by name.
- Being small, relationships are easier to foster.
- The future of our children
- Low crime rate
- The financial institutions tend to know their customers better.
- Clean environment
- Our Senior program
- Low crime rate.
- Sense of community spirit, pride in one's community
- Improving health care
- If you need a service, someone can refer you. (Consumer sharing of services, more confidence in services performed)
- Good quality of resources
- Good, profitable hospital
- Potential for growth
- Improving racial communications
- Small town atmosphere
- Sense of ownership
- Access to higher education (local technical school, close to 4 year colleges)
- Better communication between governments
- The level of health care available locally
- Our school system
- The people
- Our youth
- People
- Closeness of community members
- The teachers
- Faith Community
- Town meeting [tonight]
- Small town atmosphere
- The leaders
- Rural life style
- Natural resources [the river, the park, trees]
- It is a small place.
- The people
- Peace and quiet, serenity
- Close knit community
- Collaborative spirit.
- My church
- Friendliness, people helping each other
- Community resources [organizations come together]
- Churches
- City and county government
- Community partnership
- The size of the city
- God
- Support system
- Recreation department
- Jesus
- Low crime rate
- Resources and people
- Schools
- Our location [central]
- Churches
- Slowness
- Close knit community
- Schools
- Economical living
- Our high school principal and assistant principal
- Strong communities
- Rural areas
- Less traffic
- River bridges
- The library
- Historical buildings
- The town
- Convenient location accessible to larger cities
- City limits sign [tells you where you are]
- Low cost of living
- Family enrichment
- Elementary school principal and staff
- Some places are beautiful, scenic
- The friendly people
- Magnolia Springs
- growth potential
- Magnolia
- The river
- Community programs
- Good central area from surrounding cities
- Family Enrichment Center
- 4-H
- Good health care for size of community
- Chamber of Commerce and Better Home Town
- Senior citizens know about the history, institutional knowledge
- Community welcome signs
- The agriculture [cotton, peanuts, tomatoes]
- Magnolia Communities in Schools
- Our determination not to give into hardships
- Community as a whole is invested in youth
- School activities
- Potential for improvement
- Fair on the Square
- The palm trees at Dairy Queen
- The many opportunities we have to fellowship
- All our bus drivers
- The athletic facilities
- Recreation department
- Caring and concerned citizens

- Good cooperation with law enforcement
- Magnolia Springs, parks and recreation
- Athletic booster club
- Jobs
- No Child Left Behind program
- Planned improvements
- Good hunting and good fishing
- Location in state
- CIS [Communities in Schools]
- ISS [In-School Suspension]
- Leadership [county and city]
- People
- People
- Low traffic
- Educational systems [k-12, Sandersville Tech]
- Leadership
- Low crime
- Industry
- Education
- Safety
- Family feeling [you can go into the local hardware store and say "Charge it to my dad" and they know who you mean]
- Good schools [private and public]
- Community in faith [churches work together]
- Industry
- History
- Infrastructure
- Healthcare [good nursing home]
- Basic services
- Interpersonal relationships [community feeling]
- Medical
- Networking ease
- Kaolin industry
- Unique businesses [great shoe store; family-owned businesses]
- Library
- Better than average wages
- Architecture
- Natural resources [nice state park]
- Georgia Historical Plates
- Space [a lot of open space: room for development]
- Mary Alice Jordan [a person to go to for answers to all sorts of questions; knows a lot about the history of the area; she's gotten a lot done; a pioneer for the county]
- Low crime
- Good access to the county
- Highways
- Historical resources
- Fall line freeway
- Climate
- Family friendly lifestyle
- Anticipated 4-lane of Hwy 15
- Location
- Sandersville Technical College
- Airport
- Affordable housing
- District DOT office
- Education
- Health care
- Honest government
- Industry
- Good schools
- Family-friendly life style
- Agribusiness
- Agribusiness
- Wildlife
- Recreation
- Tourism
- Natural resources
- Small businesses
- Churches
- Plentiful water supply
- Safety
- Good relationship with state government
- Progressive and resourceful community
- Heritage—memorial statues
- People
- Community spirit
- Small town feeling
- Historic preservation
- School system(s)
- Safe feeling of the community
- Low crime rate
- Small town atmosphere
- Antebellum
- Forest
- General appearance
- Wholesome /hospitable community.
- Morality
- Local people
- Friendliness
- Small town character
- The county does not have a crowding/traffic issue.
- Town Square
- Beauty
- Friendliness
- Sense of community identity.
- Individuals committed to change, growth, development of the community
- Good Public Safety (Law enforcement, Fire Safety, EMS)
- History
- Heritage and small town atmosphere

- Receptive to new ideas
- Abundance of wildlife
- The wonderful people
- Beautiful rural areas and countryside
- Lack of traffic from automobiles
- Roads are well maintained
- Abundance of civic organizations and clubs
- Historical venue
- Safe/secure
- Community supporting one another.
- Beauty/pride
- Historic preservation
- People care about each other
- Geographical location between Augusta and Atlanta
- Charitable
- Beautiful downtown Washington
- Close proximity to the University of Georgia
- Active church groups
- Fitzpatrick Hotel
- County courthouse
- Bed and breakfasts
- Close proximity to major medical facilities, as well as our local hospital.
- We have a hospital
- Moderate climate
- Close-knit environment
- We enjoy all 4 seasons
- We live in a community where people still display respect to one another.
- Concerned leaders
- Very social community
- Excellent community theatre program
- Affordable housing
- Christian values
- Relationships help us to accomplish our goals
- Great special events—Mule Day, Arts Festivals
- Historical significance of the county
- Rural landscape
- Located in the heart of the state's prime hunting area
- Strong school system
- Golf course
- Little theatre for additional cultural arts, exposure
- Beautiful historic hotel and bed & breakfast inns
- Rich in history/heritage
- Abundance of water
- Because of our great geographic location, we are not subjected to large extremes of weather.
- Sound government
- French restaurant
- The quality of life—simplicity
- Easy access to services—"ex-urban"
- Value the people—caring nature of the people—friendly, open, "they speak"
- A feeling of safety—"you can go to a little league game and leave your kids while you go home to do whatever, and they will be safe and secure"
- People wave and honk their horns
- Modern medical facility—hospital
- Serenity, lack of hustle & bustle
- Perfect for retirement
- Location
- Great cocktail parties
- Local hospital
- All schools meeting the state's AYP.

Q2. What do you consider to be your community's weaknesses?

- No jobs
- Lack of jobs
- Drugs
- No jobs
- Lack of jobs
- Better jobs [needed]
- Some of the past leaders
- Not enough for youth [recreation]
- Unsightly property
- No public transportation
- Run down buildings
- Lack of Industry
- Low paying jobs
- Run-down houses
- Lack of shopping
- Lack of jobs opportunity
- Lack of ways to recycle
- High drop out rate
- Poverty level
- Lack of public transportation
- Cleanliness
- Not enough restaurants
- High gas prices
- Lot of services are regionalized [meaning they are concentrated in regional hubs and are hard to access from rural areas on the edge of the region]
- Lack of leadership
- No WALMART
- English and math
- Sidewalks need improvement

- Lack of activities for young people
- No MCDONALDS
- Lack of hope in students
- More grocery stores
- No public transportation
- Poor roads
- Police Officers
- Hope/dreams
- More industry
- Lack of supermarkets
- Justice system
- Teen pregnancy
- Literacy level
- Cotton Avenue improvement [not going quickly enough]
- Prejudiced people
- NOT ENOUGH SHOPPING
- More community involvement [needed]
- No ambition
- Bad infested buildings
- Not enough funding for schools
- NEW SCHOOLS
- A large truck stop on the newly constructed highway that will create jobs
- Lack of ability to generate revenue
- No vision or goals
- No growing jobs
- Lack of pride to improve property appearance
- Lack of community resources
- Old buses
- A decent shoe store
- Hospital stability
- Lack of parent support
- Old houses
- No well-built schools
- City ordinances not enforced [nobody to do it]
- Cooperation and collaboration
- Need more grocery stores with better prices
- Lack of parental support
- Lack of equal opportunity
- Something for our youth to do Cultural activities for youth
- Run down buildings
- Better roads
- Lack of parent follow-through
- Lack of trained workforce
- Lack of business
- More youth activities
- Lack of businesses
- Poor country roads
- Better leaders
- High rate of uneducated people
- No shopping centers
- Lack of family entertainment
- Lack of advancement opportunities for people who are not born and raised in Jenkins
- Get rid of Development Authority leaders
- College graduate rates
- Greater education in teachers
- City to clean up run down neighborhoods
- Lack of job opportunities for new citizens of Jenkins County
- Larger teacher supplement
- Lack of communication in the community
- Lack of communication
- Need dog catcher
- School test scores
- Get highways paved instead of dirt roads
- Uninformed citizens
- Cat catcher
- We need to start thinking about what we can do for our County rather than what our County can do for us.
- Industry executives not living in the community
- A good reading program
- Poor attitudes
- More zoning restrictions
- More open mind's
- Bring better food eating places in Millen
- No decent affordable housing
- Professional administrators not living in the community
- Sewage system not in some town areas; bad county roads
- Less housing
- Private roads where buses have to pick up students
- Better school lunches
- Bedroom community
- Lack of jobs in the community
- Not enough jobs
- Lack of options for high school course of study
- Unable to match grants at the state and federal level
- Our need for some sort of industrial
- No local paper
- Lack of preplanning for economic development
- Unable to retain young people after graduation (brain-drain)
- Negative attitude for change (If it ain't broke don't fix it)
- No EMS dept
- Limited recreational opportunities
- Lack of recreational facilities
- Community clean up
- Lack of historic preservation
- No full time county administrator
- Lack of affordable housing

- Too many "ostriches"
- Too many state mandates without necessary resources (unfunded mandates)
- Lagging recreational department
- Setting unobtainable goals [ignoring less lofty goals that would be likely successes]
- More organization in Recreation Department
- Lack of coordination within community programs or activities
- Reactive not proactive
- Need jobs
- Lack of follow-through
- No on-site secondary education, i.e. vocational study
- No EMS Dept.
- No school band or music program
- Too many levels of government (for this size county, city/county)
- Need more county commissioners on board
- Racial division
- Lack of pride [downtown looks bad, trash everywhere, no code enforcement]
- Cooperation between government officials [between and within both city and county governments as well as between citizens and government]
- Leadership
- Hospital [have 1 ambulance, 1 clinic, the county health department is funded by the state but not the county]
- Lack of concern
- Medical resources
- Lack of representation from county, city and BOE administration
- Lack of industry
- Education
- Leadership
- Elected leaders
- Pollution
- No law enforcement
- No hospital
- Poor roads
- Social division [across the board, across racial lines]
- Lack of unity
- Ordinances not enforced
- Closed attitude
- Apathy
- Lack of communication
- Poor planning with E911
- Industry, concept of what we want the future to be [need long range planning]
- Little economic growth
- Available housing [lack of low income housing]
- Lack of organized outlets and opportunities for children
- Lack of employment opportunities
- Perpetual poverty
- Cliques
- Lack of county manager, city and county needs to be consolidated
- Need vision
- Lack of development
- Innovation
- Nepotism?
- Vacant and dilapidated buildings
- Racial division
- Local elected officials
- Quality of education [158th out of 159 counties; need more options in curricula so graduates do well in post-secondary education; students aren't taught to care for their own community; intangibles not taught]
- Absentee voter fraud
- Morals
- Move junk autos
- Lack of community involvement
- Lack of beautification for downtown
- Grants and money funneled into community with no accountability
- Slothfulness
- Just plain ole unconcern for quality of life
- No places to shop
- Resistance to change
- Outshopping
- Not enough high speed internet access
- Limited job opportunities locally
- High School dropout rate
- Not enough recreation activities for youngsters
- Transportation access—need better access to Augusta (Greenbriar)
- Need more paved roads
- Not enough recreation for the adults either, unless they create their own [cultural activities, entertainment]
- Aptitude of the citizens about what we actually have here in Lincoln County
- This is a dry county. Can't get restaurants.
- Lack of four-lane access (transportation infrastructure)
- Lack of local hospital
- Soil perc is poor. Need sewer system.
- Water and sewer capacity in needed areas (particularly sewer, too many areas of the county that do not "perk" well)
- No way to compete for medical facilities
- Long range planning should look further into the future
- Too many administrative requirements associated with getting state dollars to assist with local projects
- Need downtown design ordinances—need a unified look

- Need historic district designation
- Too much paperwork required and too many obstacles to hurdle when working with state and federal funds on local projects.
- Need to designate historic areas that would come under historic preservation guidelines
- New development needs to tie in [with the look of the area]
- Outside view of the small rural community is negative.
- Certain areas look like a dog—\$400,000 home next door to junk house with weeds up to here
- Telephone service
- Need more retail opportunities outside the city limits, need growth outside the city limits
- Drugs
- Poverty
- High dropout rates
- Low tax base
- Communication between community and school system
- Teen pregnancy
- 3 undeveloped I-20 exchanges
- Unemployment rate/lack of employment
- Poor infrastructure
- Uncooperative people
- Remnants of racial tension
- Some of its leadership
- Child abuse
- Professional citizens not returning
- Perceptions of racism
- Lack of night care for children
- Lack of involvement by the majority
- Racism, not necessarily black-white
- Litter
- No homeless shelter
- Apathy
- History of people not wanting community to grow
- Lack of communication between races
- No cohesive long-range plan [Comprehensive plan needs to be updated, and the state has now pushed the deadline back even further; too many agencies and organizations not working together; duplication of services using state funding.]
- Teen pregnancy
- Wages [low]
- High teen pregnancy rate
- Out of work and out of school youth [dropouts not doing anything]
- African American male graduation rate [50%]
- School drop out rate
- Litter
- Not enough good paying jobs
- Affordable housing [There is low-income housing and expensive housing, but nothing in the middle. People who work in manufacturing jobs have to live in Columbia County.]
- Child abuse
- Lots of subsidized housing [invites in more people who need government services]
- Complacency among some [they don't step forward; they only want to complain]
- Limited housing
- Job opportunities
- Lacking in up-to-date ordinances and code enforcement...weak zoning
- Better wages [lack]
- Drop [out] rate
- Teen pregnancy
- DOT problems with Main Street [no bypass yet; you may or may not be run over by a truck when crossing the street; 1600 cars/day]
- Poverty
- Suitable housing
- No support for local businesses [people shop in Augusta; small, local businesses have a hard time]
- Working poor [people work but can't live on the wages they make; they can't afford to buy anything locally; college students graduate with too much debt to afford to buy a house]
- Drug problem
- Absence of well developed, middle class subdivisions with curbs, gutters, paved streets, and sidewalks
- Not enough for kids to do [teenagers think they need to go to Augusta to have fun]
- Schools are good (building) but education needs improving
- Community apathy
- Animal control problems
- Empty buildings downtown
- Additional doctors [needed]
- Did not take advantage of being an enterprise zone [nobody applies]
- Lake levels fluctuate
- Lack of diversified retail
- Planned growth [lack]
- No alcohol on Sunday
- Something for the kids to do
- Don't support the arts
- No decent facilities for larger events
- A past predicated on resistance [to] local zoning ordinances rules and regulations...the mentality
- Resistance to change
- No effective sign ordinance
- Don't enforce codes
- Limited racial mix among the black and white community

- Need facade grants
- No proactive planning
- Buy-in to the community progress [2% know what's going on, 98% could care less]
- No entertainment in general
- No new generation of leaders is stepping forward (or being asked to be involved)
- Slum lords
- High school dropout rate
- Lack of unity in the community (churches)
- High unemployment
- Drug infestation
- Dilapidated buildings
- Policy making for law enforcement, county and city
- Distance from rural areas from schools and medical centers
- Low-paying jobs
- Slums
- Teenage pregnancy rate
- Drug abuse
- High school dropout rate
- Lack of housing
- Lack of activities (bowling, skating, movies, etc.)
- Poverty, unemployment, welfare
- Drugs, crime, violence
- Poor work ethic
- Too many housing projects
- Inconsistent racial harmony
- Resistance to new ideas/change/growth
- Lack of amenities.
- Transportation
- Jobs
- High unemployment
- Lack of structure, recreation for teenagers/children.
- Brain drain: educated young people not returning to their communities
- Lack of job growth
- Lack of community gathering places. No civic center, municipal center, auditorium.
- Lack of shopping/department stores
- Poor wages.
- Lack of jobs, industry, tax base.
- Too divided between the cities
- Teen pregnancy
- Lack of development of a goal and a mechanism for creating that goal
- Not enough citizen input
- Lack of competition among retailers
- Recreation for child/young people
- Lack of broad based entertainment
- High gas prices
- Poor relationship with state officials
- Limited hours of retailers
- Lack of downtown development
- Lack of eating establishments that are open at night
- High teen pregnancy
- Drug increase
- Geography: running buses all over county a huge expense.
- Teen pregnancies
- Lack of extra government money to maintain basic needs, like sidewalks, gutters, public facilities
- Better cooperation between communities (county wide)
- Slow trash pick-up
- Lack of structured activities for children, such as recreation facilities—nothing to do and nowhere to go during summers especially
- Low wages
- Voter apathy
- Becoming top-heavy with age. Young adults leaving the community because no jobs for graduating students
- Lack of political clout
- Need a closer working relationship among communities—need to pool resources
- Community Ownership
- Transportation for children to get to the structured activities in the larger city areas such as Wadley, Wrens, and Louisville
- Lack of political clout/representation at the state level
- Hopefulness [lack of hope]
- Lack of mental providers
- Loss of youth to urban areas
- Transportation for any services. Jefferson Transit shuts down at 5 p.m.
- Lack of adequate, affordable housing
- Too many billboards
- Not enough jobs
- Too far from interstate
- Teenage pregnancy
- Availability of land [few land owners]
- Low literacy level
- Poverty
- Poverty
- Not enough housing
- Drugs use
- High school dropout level
- Abandoned homes
- Lack of qualified work force [can't read, so they can't work]
- Drugs
- Not enough opportunity for young people [they leave and don't come back]
- Illegal drugs

- Low income housing
- No civic center
- Not enough community pride
- Not enough high paying jobs
- No follow-up with community projects until election time
- Littering
- No community centers
- Government is too reactive, not enough pro-active
- County dump sites [dumpster areas are a mess; full of trash]
- Trash pick-up
- No land use planning in county
- Need more recreation: bowling alley, skating rink
- No transparency of gov't.
- Armadillos and possums and deer, oh my!
- No building inspector for county
- Lack of public transportation
- Need further improvement of airport
- Lack of county zoning
- No services for senior citizens [recreation]
- Lack of a good grocery store
- Limited system in place for community collaboration [No gathering place for large crowds; this room is about it. The organizations in town need to be able to get together like we are tonight.]
- No drug rehab centers
- Lack of communication b/w local gov't and people
- Inadequate day care
- Unfair newspaper coverage
- Declining industry
- Leadership
- Lack of adequate recreation: swimming pool
- Lack of zoning
- Lack of employment
- Lack of high paying jobs
- Lack of voter participation
- Drug problem—BIG
- Communication/technology
- County road maintenance (Skull Shoal Road)
- Lack of skilled labor force
- Rental housing
- Lack of zoning and enforcement
- Poor work ethics/work habits
- Unsightly properties
- No technical school/higher education
- Lack of achievement mentality
- Dirty streets
- Pervasive drug abuse
- Public transportation (lack)
- Poor job prospects for graduates
- Lack of coordination b/t agencies/committees/etc. working towards same goals
- Lack of rental properties
- Upkeep of museums and attractions
- Teen pregnancies
- After school/evening activities for youth
- Lack of high tech employers/businesses
- No Wal-Mart
- Limited labor force
- Regularly scheduled transportation
- Four lane hwys not completed
- Diminishing middle class
- Lack of participation by members of city and county officials
- Small towns are not represented in general
- High dropout rate
- Lack of industry/decent paying jobs
- Speeding on most streets
- Noisy vehicles
- Undercounted population
- Limited tax base
- Shopping should be local when possible—too much shopping occurs out of town. Support local merchants.
- Inability to retain the leaders of tomorrow
- Odor control of dumpsters around county
- Lack of inspiration of new ideas
- Activities for specific age groups
- Difficulty in keeping good doctors—lack of trust in the hospital and medical field
- Blighted areas
- Adequate/affordable childcare
- Not capitalizing on our assets such as tourism
- Reluctance to accept new ideas: "We've never done it that way before" is a dangerous thing.
- Racial tension
- Unwillingness of some citizens to do their part in keeping the county clean.
- Persistent poverty
- Concerned teachers (lack)
- Very little is done during City Council meetings. Most things seem to be handled prior to the meeting and the meetings seem moot.
- Lack of work ethic
- More minority teachers (to include males) (need more)
- Lack of focus on industry
- Eateries
- Broken families
- Business curriculum in schools
- Several elected officials seem to make most issues racial
- Local classes from technical colleges/lack of continuing education offered locally
- Education for small business owners (lack)

- Everybody has ambition, but there is no action.
- Ugly entrances to the city
- High unemployment
- Greatest racial divide
- Apathy
- Lack of exposure
- Social ills, due to long term lack of access
- Blighted areas
- We cannot access services that urban areas receive, such as telephone, cellular services—some companies are blocked, even television or satellite network

Q3. What three things would you change about your community?

- If we could improve our ability to attract specialized industry [those kinds pay better, will keep the youth here. "Build roads and they will come."]
- Have a four-lane highway developed through the county connecting the Fall Line Freeway to Interstate 20
- Hire full time county administrator
- Have a community plan—cities and county—established to set, measure and follow through with identified community goals.
- Improve extracurricular activities at the school and implement an after-school program
- Government [merge city and county, bring in a county manager]
- Attitude [need more positive attitude]
- Innovative leadership
- Racial division [I've witnessed it since I returned to the area; need more programs where people interact; need workshops; need an alternative person to vote for; need to work together from the top]
- Improvements to the educational system: looking at best practices across the country and finding out how other communities turned their educational system around
- Responsible accountability [people need to be more accountable for the positions they hold; people need to be more involved]
- Encourage citizens to come together and bring local officials into accountability
- Renewing of the minds [Get out of the box of "this is my side of town, my business." When I ask friends and neighbors to go to meetings, they can't be bothered. How do you categorize that?]
- Diversified groups come together to improve the community
- "Over all System Change" where everyone works together for the common good of the county
- Full time tourism expert [need to position ourselves to take advantage of what we have in the county]
- Focus on industry, tourism, history to promote tax dollars to lower ad valorem taxes
- Expert county manager
- Mentorship for single parent families and their children [local leaders and citizens should be mentors. DFACS tries to do this.]
- Unity among churches
- Combine city/county government (in order to consolidate constructive and positive leadership) [Glascock County is too small to have a county government and three separate city governments. If all the jurisdictions were represented in a single government, it would have a positive impact on the county.]
- Utilize existing resources and learn to share resources with each other [Instead of an "it's mine and you can't have any" attitude]
- One Dollar General/Family Dollar store [25 miles to the nearest one, so if you run out of something, you have to drive a long way; elderly folks don't always have transportation]
- Need zoning and building permits
- Clean up of communities through initiatives such as zoning, ordinances, building permits
- Overhaul of recreation department
- To have Sandersville Tech establish a satellite campus in Glascock County
- Need more art, design and culture—encourage more arts and cultural arts center
- Improve infrastructure to better accommodate growth (residential, commercial, industry) [Bridge grant for fiber optics; remove long-distance charges to Augusta; county/city need to work together to install sewer system; internet access needed for the whole county]
- Provide adequate sewer to a majority of the residents, county wide
- Create job opportunities designed to keep young adults in Lincoln County.
- Have a distinctive, unified look to the downtown—saying success [unified look for branding, marketing]
- Need a referendum on strong drink
- Increasing participation in the school and community through activities such as the mentoring program, the apprenticeship program etc.
- Need to provide leadership development programs at an early age
- Collaborating between the races on events that will bring about more common interest like Relay for Life
- Continue to make progress in developing of the interstate exchanges; infrastructure is already being developed; prospects are being sought.
- Young black males

- Instill in parents the critical importance of proper parenting
- Continue to improve land use rules, and enforcement of litter and zoning ordinances. Raise awareness of existing laws so that citizens will want the area to be clean.
- Provide for more constructive activities for our young people to engage in
- A more focused economic development plan in the core city
- Align educational curriculum with future needs of industry [specialized programs in schools to inspire students—including vocational. Youthbuild program trains youth in construction skills and soft skills while they work to build low/mid-income housing. Programs are available, but people don't take advantage.]
- Consolidate city and county government.
- Change the core of downtown by redeveloping slum housing, reestablishing small businesses, and establishing rules and programs of change
- Community and school art programs should be enhanced and developed
- Widen and change the participation of the majority of the community
- A community housing and building initiative that addresses, rental, quality of construction, costs, codes enforcement, aesthetics, history
- Address the issues/problems around the evolving (some say dysfunctional) family unit and its affect on poverty, education, etc....
- Law enforcement training and accountability
- Workshops for parents and children, making them accountable for their actions
- Community setting standards and holding citizens accountable
- Focus earlier and put more attention on trades and vocational programs geared toward these kids who we know will not go to college
- More collaboration between public and private sectors
- More parental training
- Government, communities, churches and schools all working together on anti-drug and anti-pregnancy campaign
- Educating individuals in the community: parenting classes
- Increase willingness to change
- Flexibility
- Increase the tax base—create individual regional economic development boards (i.e. partnering with another county), more industrial prospects to create growth. Also, create industrial growth from within the community.
- Recruitment of outside major chain stores or businesses
- Decrease rising crime by increasing public safety resources
- Use the community's personality to promote tourism, migration to Jefferson County.
- Develop local co-ops for economic, cultural, and human development. Start with a younger person and show them the benefits of giving back to the community. It will show them a sense of pride and that they can make a difference in someone's life.
- Create more jobs by creating more insensitive with help from the state, county and cities—help with improving infrastructures
- Develop a comprehensive mentoring program.
- Jobs/employment
- Elect someone from Jefferson County to state legislature
- Market the county for recruitment
- Workforce development to train & motivate employees
- Develop the river for recreation purposes. Would create tourism as well as create a place for local citizens. Develop a recreational park.
- Recreation—broaden our perspective for recreational activity; promote family-oriented recreation;
- Housing—encourage entrepreneurs to develop more affordable housing
- Change the double standard in law enforcement for black vs white citizens: 1) meeting to discuss the problem; 2) balance the police forces; 3) professional training for officers.
- Market the community as a retirement community—disposable income, time to volunteer
- Decrease the number of children who live in poverty by providing better than minimum wage jobs within the community. No more fast food or low paying jobs.
- Enhance entrepreneur opportunities as opposed to chain businesses such as Wal-Mart
- Four-lane US 1
- More affordable housing by education of requirements for home ownership.
- Owners of run down buildings need to be held financially and legally responsible
- Clean up run down houses
- Doctors to pay more attention to patient
- Change negative attitudes to positive through better communication with citizens and leadership
- Write a grant to help get dirt roads paved
- Buy new buses
- Create more incentives to keep our youth in school [revoke drivers licenses, etc.]
- Improving equal employment opportunity by hiring a person according to their qualifications.
- New municipal building
- Encourage more opportunities for industry to come into the county by providing tax credits, incentives and an openness on the part of elected officials to welcome new industry
- Establish a better English and math departments in public schools

- More of a teacher/parent relationship
- Property owners take pride in their own property
- To improve drop out rate schools should work together to develop a plan of action for each student to ensure they maintain their grade level performance.
- Business must be in a commercial zone
- Recruit industry to provide better paying jobs; improving living standards for people.
- Encourage more men to serve as mentors and role models and encourage all parents to push education
- Trying to communicate with big industries that would create more jobs to let them know that we have a workforce in Millen, we have a major highway coming through that would make business prosper, more people will be able to be home with their children and be more able to help in the community for our youth.
- When city councilmen get elected do their jobs
- Board of Education to back up their school system more
- Create activities for teens like bowling, skating, movie theatre, reading programs, etc.
- Encourage youth to rationalize their dreams, by building around a dream and making them attainable. This can be encouraged through HERO mentorship, youth programs, and the recreation department.
- Reduce the teenage pregnancy rate by encouraging more parental involvement and education.
- To keep our kid's in school, hold them and parents accountable
- Work with drug tasks force to reduce drug problems
- Each parent should be made feel important to their child's success in the school and be encouraged to visit the school
- Have more positive alternative activities for children
- An After school and Weekend Teen Center where they have a lot of say about how it is run
- Make appearance of community attractive and great to look at and live in.
- Attract focal manufacturing facilities in our county to help create jobs that we will be training our citizens to be employed in.
- Make sure that Millen has industry and jobs that pay well enough for families to be self-sustaining.
- Develop more after school programs to keep youth busy after 3:00 p.m.
- Concentrate \$ and community efforts to be sure that ALL families are not struggling to survive.
- Upgrade hospital
- Develop community pride to increase volunteerism by promoting the benefits it provides to the community
- Upgrade fall line to interstate status
- Removal of abandoned homes → infill housing to increase home ownership = pride for homeowners, ease for children in school... don't have to move from place to place
- Foster better working relationships between private businesses and co. & city governments; having informative open meetings, etc.
- Develop a collaboration between local business and poverty youth that may not be able to attend higher education for higher paying jobs [certification for high school graduates and making sure there is a job available for them]
- Revitalization of downtown business districts = entrepreneurial opportunities and historical pride
- Upgrading secondary education to a junior college
- Sustain our local regional health facility
- Development of recreational areas for the youth to cut down on teenage pregnancy and drug use
- Motivate all high school students towards graduation so we have a ready workforce or ready for further education. Motivation will be provided through ample jobs.
- More economic growth across the community
- County zoning
- Continue to improve highway transportation to attract industry (easy access to interstate)
- Bring in technical education by securing a state funded higher education facility.
- Community focus on youth to reduce the negative incidences, occurrences, and possibilities of drug use/sales, loitering, pregnancy, drop out rate, etc.
- Recognize tourism is vital as an industry, particularly heritage tourism (the largest growing segment of tourism). We do this by enhancing and preserving the uniqueness of built environment. Enhance promotions and change DOT signs to take people off bypass and through town. We need to do this by electing officials who are receptive to these ideas.
- Provide voter education to increase voter participation.
- Recruit educational agencies such as Tech Schools/Jr. Colleges, that would locate a satellite Facility here.
- Promote a positive attitude about Washington among its people
- Improve work force by more technical/hands-on programs at the high school
- Clean up industrial park
- Public transportation on a regular schedule that goes outside of the community to improve employment opportunities.
- Develop/promote a dedicated workforce

- Improve economy by shopping HERE and bringing in more tourists
- Create a mentoring program to foster and encourage an achievement mentality on a one to one basis.
- Market to tourists more effectively.
- Better parenting skills by expanding the Family Connection Programs
- Beautify entrances to the City of Washington (improve the landscaping)
- Funds to make changes—secure grants, etc.
- TRANSFORM minds with a "door-to-door" visitation program to discuss problems in the community and ways, such as the above, to change things.
- Diversity in shopping and cultural events and/or activities.

Q4. If the Governor and/or DCA Commissioner were here tonight, what would you tell them they could do to help you make the changes above?

- Funding
- Stop bringing all the jobs to Atlanta and move jobs out into the state.
- Give us the assistance that we are begging for without charging us
- Stop giving us money and telling us how to spend it. Let us spend it on what we need.
- Tell DOT that the taxpayer is the boss
- Give us the same respect as other counties that have "more to offer"
- Recognize that rural Georgia needs different help than urban Georgia
- Bigger is not always better
- Need more low cost / zero cost infrastructure assistance
- Recognize that there are two Georgia's (Atlanta and everyone else).
- Lower mandated salaries for elected positions in a small county—what we can afford, and match the workload.
- Help us buy the old school for a community resource center.
- Help!
- Move state jobs out into the rest of the state.
- We want our extension agent back
- Require that parents go through an education process once they become pregnant
- Help maintain our individual county entities by not losing more of our services for Glascock Co., e.g. Forestry Dept., ambulance, DFCS.
- Full time tourism expert
- HELP
- Expert county manager
- Enforce the laws
- Fire every elected official in this town and start over!!!!
- Perimeter road [would get traffic out of downtown and make it more pedestrian friendly; it might encourage small businesses]
- Come and see us to find out what is needed in our county
- Develop Lake Sinclair [hotel, motel, golf course, convention center, build a bridge, etc.]
- Hold local leadership accountable to do their jobs and spend money properly
- Need more industry [small industry of 50-60 jobs each; Governor could steer development here]
- Develop Ogeechee River [walking paths, for example, keeping it as is, but making it more accessible]
- Develop wood feedstock industry [ethanol or butane plant; wood is our biggest resource]
- Governor Purdue, we would like for you to create an overall state system change wherein the leadership in all communities is required to work with local citizens to develop a plan for their community with benchmarks, action steps and an accountability process.
- Promote agritourism
- Encourage industry that preserves the small town feel of rural counties
- Make downtown a pedestrian area
- Promote Hancock County all over the world
- Forget what happened in the past; hold local officials accountable for how they spend and use county funds
- Speak with the disenfranchised, let them share their concern
- Improve education [make sure the system is moving in the right direction; fund no child left behind]
- Help to improve the roads
- Emphasize tourism in small towns and rural Georgia
- Cut the red tape
- Have to have a study, a plan, action and MONEY
- Give Communities of Opportunity participating communities bonus points on grant applications.
- Move state offices out of Atlanta
- Speed up transportation planning—some are on books but take 10-15 years for rural communities

- More child care funding
- Employment assistance/JOBS
- More community programs that will provide opportunities for young people to be active
- Provide more resources to county strategic plans
- Quit playing politics with decisions they make in governing the state. Specifically: get out of Atlanta and see first hand what the needs are. Streamline dramatically all services, technical support, less red tape. Too many strings are attached to state grants.
- More school funding for special programs like art, music, career preparation, etc.
- Streamline communications between local governments and state officials
- Fix the tier status.
- Fix the childcare prescription funding
- Quit worrying about morality and get on the government
- Provide funding for evidence-based programs of change.
- Give me my wireless money!!!!
- Developmental transportation program is a must. Smaller cities need more help with basic infrastructure.
- At state level, we need more state wide incentives to attract industry to Georgia.
- Safe guard the impact of special interest on the local governments and its people.
- No unfunded mandates. Education, water, sewer, etc.
- Quit shifting the cost on someone else
- We need more incentives for re-development in cities with financial assistance through grants.
- Not all government can run as a business. They can not make a profit or break even, and that was by original design.
- The way we educate needs to be overhauled completely.
- Stop cutting funding to state funded programs
- More opportunities for vocational programs in middle schools so local taxpayers wouldn't have to bear the burden
- Budget, finance, "life skills" need to be on the curriculum regardless of standardized test funding
- Community improvement strategy that reaches children at home so that what they accomplish at school carries over
- Use the charter schools/magnet schools best practices without having to change the school's status; for example, having smaller classes for harder-to-teach students
- How do we know who our graduation coaches are and what they're doing?
- More law enforcement funding
- Money for non-traditional education programs (not worrying about standardized testing) that are tailored to the community
- Funding for training
- Give us a blank check
- Help us provide jobs for blue-collar industry
- Need more industrial prospects for the area; instead of focusing on areas that are already prepared for industry
- Provide necessary resources without making communities jump through so many hoops
- Provide unbiased oversight to manage government resources
- Funds for ongoing home ownership education and communication of the programs. Ongoing classes for home ownership
- See us through with this process until our community is at the top of the list of economic growth and potential. Don't just stop here. Stop the political speech and give us action.
- Funding for recreation facilities—provide transportation to the facility from all areas of the county. Facility similar to YMCA
- Re-focus on rural natural resources instead of always Atlanta
- Establish & enforce standards for resource distribution
- Spread state departments around the state
- Four-lane US 1 and GA 17
- Give Wrens permission to get started on their TE project
- Decentralization of state government offices will create a labor pool and opportunities for the community, such as Social Security. All of health and human services offices are being cut back. Jefferson County just lost MHMRSA, Adult Protective Services has been moved out of DFACS. One person is now covering multiple counties. Take the big Atlanta offices and make regional offices. Everything is handled out of Atlanta. FSA offices have been combined.
- More finance training and home ownership training in the high school.
- Turn the DOT into an asset instead of a liability
- More money
- More and more money
- Let us in the local community work together to decide how to use \$ that is available to our community. Do not prescribe how we can use our \$.
- Fully fund social service programs
- To build new schools
- Create incentives for people to become entrepreneurs so that they are investing in their futures.
- Offer tax breaks as incentives to get big businesses to come here
- More, more, more, money
- Be allowed to choose which Rural Development Authority we want to be a member of. This way we can go with where we get the best service.

- Provide more funding for the various programs needed in our communities.
- Grant money at the recreation department to provide assistance for the after school program already in planning stages. These programs cannot be carried out unless there is funding to help do so. Funding is the key to beginning something new and sustainable for any program.
- Money money money and more money
- Do what's morally right for good of the people of Georgia and Jenkins County
- Stop running negative campaigns
- We need our fair share of DCA grant money so we can support and provide the incentives needed to bring industry to Millen.
- Make sure that all state employees get pay increases accordingly.
- Revamp sales tax laws to allow a % of money spent out of county to go back to the county of residence.
- More jobs
- Tax breaks for the retired
- Better health care for Jenkins County youth and seniors citizens
- Counties with lower tax base should not be treated equally with counties that have more revenues
- Mandated laws should be properly funded on the state level
- Need to build a mall and shopping centers
- Increase minimum wage
- Offer grants to supply funds for business, hotels, scholarships for youth, community center for youth, funds to pay activities to pay activity director, and make it long-term grants.
- Make some decisions about \$ nonpartisan so that politics are removed from these decisions. That way small counties like us will not be penalized because of the few voters that we have.
- Nonpartisan elections for all county, city, and BOE
- Build better jobs and let them last for a long time
- More parks areas for the children
- Provide a continuous financial support to develop industry and job opportunities to lower income communities.
- Give grants for youth programs in Jenkins County
- State needs to reimburse the county for tax incentives provided to industry
- Find better teachers to teach math
- State assistance for recruiting industry: \$ and tax rebates, etc.
- Show their concern for each county in Georgia by supporting them the right way.
- More \$ for low-income housing
- Establish higher guidelines for English and math teachers for Jenkins County
- Provide money
- Funding
- Realize rural GA isn't Metro-Atlanta [Atlanta has a lot of non-profits and neighborhood groups that can help tackle problems. In rural communities, when you talk about leadership, you're talking about maybe 3 people.]
- Improve Medicaid reimbursement
- Provide incentives to industry that make rural areas more attractive than metro areas [regionalism doesn't work; One Georgia was supposed to be for rural areas, now it's for anyone]
- New industry to be located to needy counties by tax credits, etc.
- Don't leave us out (rural GA)
- Task force needs to be made up of people from all walks of the work force [Farmers have something to say; state task forces are always made up of people mainly from Atlanta.]
- More state funding for underprivileged youth (Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCA, teen centers)
- Get your checkbook out and have a seat
- Restore funding that has been removed from education over the past 4 years.
- Four-lane from Thomson to Washington and Washington to Athens
- Return state and federal jobs to the rural communities
- Un-funded mandates: programs that are put into place that you need money to fund—"Show us the Money"
- Don't mandate changes/policies that aren't funded by the State
- Politicians of all levels should be present and listen at all times, not just prior to elections
- Live on my salary, in my town, for one month.
- Equal and adequate school funding statewide, without unfunded mandates.
- Recognize that there is more to Georgia than Atlanta.
- Expand operational hours for schools/buses to address community needs.
- Enforce immigration and drug laws
- People need to be paid to complete the applications (for grants and state funds). We do not have the money to pay "tons of money" to complete the apps.
- Less spending / less taxes
- Cut government spending, increase small town aid
- We need to be in one political district for state representation
- Prioritize state spending
- Court order drug treatment and provide funding to support it.
- Every one of the programs cost us MONEY! If you don't jump through the hoops and play the games, you don't get the money
- Repeal H.B. 1187

- Wilkes County needs to be reevaluated so that it isn't represented as a wealthy county but what we truly are—a poor county
- The State should provide special assistance to small communities regarding accessing funds.
- Establish local controls over local funds (funds given to local community by state/federal government)
- More needs to be done at the Dept of Commerce to sell the values of small communities.
- Regional Meetings are not ATLANTA. Convene "Technical Assistance" meetings regionally.
- Streamline state resources into a team

Q5. Based on what you've heard about the Communities of Opportunity Initiative, what advice do you have for its future implementation?

- Communities that participate in the program should be given extra points on grant applications and allowed to file CDBGs on an annual basis.
- Plan your work and work the plan
- Don't give up, the little guy needs some help, and there seems to be a glimmer of hope in what you are attempting.
- Make it mandatory for all elected officials and employees to attend
- Advertise, advertise...keep doing this and come back—follow through with these meetings...
- Need to see some results
- Not another 4 inch notebook, save your money on that
- Moving forward, people need to be more educated on what's going on
- Need more involvement—i.e. needed more people at this meeting tonight
- Could we get more feedback on where the state is on some of these issues?
- Be serious about the input received, don't just take surveys
- Don't create another program in which reports have to be completed
- Keep the communication lines open; keep us involved
- It's good. Continue working to get diverse groups involved in these discussions. Try to engineer more "mixed" tables, somehow...This was a good session.
- Stay like you are
- After conducting focus groups, surveys and town hall meetings, it is important that communities know that their work was not in vain. Thus, something positive should come from this hard work in terms of financial support and technical assistance. In addition, please come back to the communities and provide summary information.
- Keep an open mind and please stay focused.
- Do it, don't just let it be talk.
- Try your best and nothing less, and with the saying of Nike "Just Do It!"
- Good Luck!!!!
- Keep doing your job!!!
- Keep doing your town hall meetings—repeat your lectures over and over to be successful
- To fund the solutions that communities have identified to help them move forward
- I believe the program is good...need to press on. Don't make the paperwork side so cumbersome that communities without full-time resources can't take full advantage.
- Continue to have these town hall meetings and get input and buy-in from community leaders.
- Increase flexibility and change, which allows for the acceptance of ideas from citizens within the community.
- Very good discussion; however I would make sure that comments from tables are left anonymous...some of the attendants are employed by city, county, school board systems and other positions that may hinder truthful opinions.
- A more in-depth session and a follow-up session would be helpful. An examination of what has worked in successful communities would also help.
- Advertise more; get more people involved.
- Follow up on what we discussed. Hand-deliver this report to Governor and Commissioner.
- Help us to get started. We need a catalyst. We all know the problems but need help in moving toward solutions.
- 1) Continue the town hall meetings; 2) put a plan into action; 3) follow up with the people who were at the meeting; 4) don't just meet and talk but take a form of action!
- You should go ahead with this initiative throughout the other counties with follow-up dates scheduled to return to each for more input after each as had an opportunity to think over the initiative.
- Listen before you act; act on what we have just said.
- See Jefferson County as its own entity.
- Need to involve the local citizen in the Atlanta policy-making.
- Keep politics out of it.
- Take action
- Start now
- Don't get bogged down in politics
- Help communities use an asset-based development approach to solve these problems from within their own communities
- Stay with us until we see improvement in our status

- To see us a communities of opportunities, not communities of problems that need to be solved.
- Be prepared to see us through because we need and want help
- That the commission have a local rep from each of the counties to help present the info to the gov's office
- Bring state level stakeholders to our table
- Work to ensure that the initiative provides positive results for the participating community; don't let the plans collect dust on a shelf or someone's desk.
- Keep communities informed of the progress of the initiative and how it relates to their specific area.
- Solicit input from all sectors of the community and citizenship.
- Data needs to be returned to the community. Follow-through is vital.
- As with many Government programs, the process takes a considerable amount of time to run its course. In the private sector, issues are studied and acted on in a more timely fashion. With the Govt. it's not uncommon for the problems/issues to have changed before the study has been concluded. Once the process starts there needs to be an aggressive timetable to see the plan through.
- Stay with us, help us, technical assistance—
MONEY