



Chatham County Board of Commissioners

The Steering Committee hereby recommends your consideration of Plan Chatham. We have honored your trust by listening carefully to the people of Chatham over the past eighteen months. This Final Draft of the plan is a result of that dialogue. Here are some of the major themes you will find:

Chatham County growth will be significant in the next two decades and the decisions of the County Board promise to be a major influence in the direction of that growth.

Rural character is a citizen priority, but it has been eroded by recent development. Changes in Chatham County's development regulations are needed to preserve rural character in the future.

Agriculture and forestry are the heart of Chatham County and provide the "rural character" we value. Water is becoming critical to farming. The county should take any and all measures necessary to provide water to the agricultural community.

The dominance of the residential tax base is insufficient to provide the public funds necessary for the life-style and facilities envisioned in the future. New business and industry are necessary components of our future well-being. A well-educated work force system is an essential component of this future.

The existing transportation infrastructure is a lifeline to the county. To promote the county as a prime place to live and work, the county should take steps to expand transit services, implement complete streets policies where applicable, and maintain and enhance its trail system.

Chatham County has unique natural assets including the Haw River, Rocky River, Deep River, and Jordan Lake. A broad range of measures should be implemented to improve their water quality and stop further environmental degradation.

County parks and recreation are understated. Parks and recreation enhance our health and happiness as well as serving as economic development tools in Chatham County. The county should take steps to enhance park facilities and programs.

The county should consider adopting a Health in All Policies (HiAP) framework. HiAP is an approach for including health in processes and decisions.

Intergovernmental cooperation will be the key to implementing this plan. Focusing future growth in the municipalities and sharing of limited resources will take significant cooperation.

The Steering Committee appreciates this rare opportunity you have given us. Hopefully, this plan will help guide future decisions in a manner consistent with the wishes of Chatham County's citizens.

James "Jim" Elza Jr.

Chairman, BOC At-Large

John "Andy" Bailey

Vice Chairman, BOC At-Large