2025 GREATER LANIER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

FOR

LANIER COUNTY
CITY OF LAKELAND

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2025 GREATER LANIER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

The purpose of the 2025 Greater Lanier Comprehensive Plan is to provide elected and advisory officials with a tool to manage and guide future growth and development of the county and cities through the year 2025. The Plan represents joint city-county participation in and contribution to the coordinated planning process as set forth by the Georgia Planning Act of 1989. By meeting the Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures established as part of the legislation, the 2025 Greater Lanier Comprehensive Plan establishes a planning process for the provision of public facilities and services. In addition, the comprehensive plan will serve as the basis for local government decision-making regarding the future land use pattern, environmental protection, and economic development.

PLANNING PROCESS

The 2025 Greater Lanier Comprehensive Plan was prepared using the basic planning process required by Georgia's Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures. This process is summarized below:

PART I - WHERE ARE WE?

Inventory and Assessment: Background information on such factors as population, economic development, natural and cultural resources, community facilities and services, housing and land use was collected and analyzed. An assessment of these factors was conducted to determine their adequacy in light of projected population changes and anticipated future development patterns.

PART II - WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE?

Statement of Impacts and Opportunities, Goals and Policies: Based upon the inventory and assessment, problems and needs were identified. Goals and policies were developed to meet identified needs and to document the future aspirations of the city and the county. The Plan's goal statements are consistent with, and supportive of, the statewide planning goals as set forth in the Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures. These statewide goals are:

(a) **Economic Development:** To achieve a growing and balanced economy, consistent with the resources of this state and its various regions, that equitably benefits all sections of the state and all segments of the population.

(b) **Natural and Historic Resources:** To conserve and protect the environmental, natural and historic resources of Georgia's communities, regions and the state.

(c) **Community Facilities & Services:** To ensure that public infrastructure facilities serving local governments, the region and the state have the capacity and are in place when needed to support and attract growth and development and/or maintain and enhance the quality of life of the residents of the state.

(d) **Housing:** To ensure that all people within the state and its various regions and communities have access to adequate and affordable housing.

(e) **Land Use:** To ensure that the land resources of the state are allocated for uses required to promote and sustain growth and economic development; to conserve and protect the natural, environmental and historic resources of the state; and to protect and promote the quality of life of the people of Georgia's communities, regions, and the state.

PART III - HOW DO WE GET THERE?

Implementation: Based upon the Impacts and Opportunities / Goals and Policies (found in Part II) of the Plan, a strategy to put the plan into action is prepared. Part III of the Plan includes a Five-Year Short-Term Work Program that outlines projects and programs, which need to be undertaken and/or completed by the year 2009 to meet existing needs and achieve future goals, and Future Land Use Plans for Lanier County and the City of Lakeland.

PLAN PRODUCTS

As stated previously, the 2025 Greater Lanier Comprehensive Plan was prepared following the guidelines in the Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures. This Plan provides an inventory and assessment of existing conditions of the city and county, and an implementation strategy consisting of impacts and opportunities, goal and policy statements, and a Five-Year Short-Term Work Program, and a future land use plan for each unit of government.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In accordance with the Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures, a public hearing was held on August 17, 2004, prior to the preparation of the Plan. A second public hearing was conducted to receive input on the 2025 Greater Lanier Comprehensive Plan on April 6, 2005.