

## PlanFirst Program Application - May 15, 2017

**Introduction:** The Department of Community Affairs' PlanFirst program rewards local governments that clearly demonstrate success with implementing their local comprehensive plan. To apply for PlanFirst designation, a local government must have Qualified Local Government certification and be current on required reporting to DCA. (To check status of both, please visit <http://www.georgiaplanning.com/planners/planreview/default.asp>).

A multi-agency review panel will evaluate a number of indicators of community success with plan implementation to select communities for this designation. All of these indicators are equally important, but size of the community is taken into consideration in the evaluation so that communities of various sizes are equally competitive for PlanFirst designation.

**Instructions:** Please answer all the following questions thoroughly, attaching additional pages where necessary, so that the reviewers have sufficient information to measure the success of your comprehensive plan implementation. Supporting documents might include: news articles, legal ads, lists of attendees, letters of support or other evidence of local involvement and commitment to successful plan implementation activities in your community. *Total application length, including supporting information and support letters, must not exceed 20 pages. Text areas will expand as needed.*

Applicant government	City of Forsyth
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Contact person; title	Janice Hall
Application prepared by	Brittany Bullock, Middle Georgia Regional Commission

I, the undersigned authorized representative of the applicant, certify that to the best of my knowledge the information in this application is true and correct.

Name of authorized official signing; title	Janice L Hall, City Manager
Date	May 15, 2017
Signature	Janice L Hall

## PRE-REQUISITES

**A. (1)** We have a consistent record of maintaining our Qualified Local Government status **and** submitting required reports to DCA, including the current Report of Local Government Finances. (To check status, please visit <http://www.georgiaplanning.com/planners/planreview/default.asp>).

QLG status:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> yes	<input type="radio"/> no
Local government reports:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> yes	<input type="radio"/> no

**A. (2)** We have attained the Minimum Standard for performance as called for in our regional commission's regional comprehensive plan.

<input checked="" type="radio"/> yes	<input type="radio"/> no
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For each of the following indicators, fully explain how your community addresses this indicator; identifying specific examples and resulting local successes. (Each indicator will be scored 1, 3 or 5 points, except indicators j. and t. which may score up to 10 points.) Add exhibits and examples as needed to tell your story.

## INDICATOR: GOALS

**B.** The Goals (or Vision) section of our comprehensive plan is supported by the community and its leadership. How?

The vision adopted jointly by the City of Forsyth with the City of Culloden and Monroe County receives broad support by the community and its leadership. The vision reads as follows:

*“The City of Culloden, City of Forsyth, Monroe County, and its many cross-road communities are dedicated to growing in a manner that protects and enhances our unique character and fosters our commitment to being an active economic, cultural and social center for Middle Georgia. We will be a safe and vibrant community that is both an important destination and a desirable place for families, due to our high quality of life enjoyed by all citizens in every neighborhood, community, and downtown. We aspire to be a place of unity where our governing bodies are dedicated to promoting communication, cooperation, and total citizen involvement.”*  
*2006 Community Agenda for the City of Forsyth, pg. 3*

The community and local leaders were actively involved in the development of this vision. Their involvement included participation in the steering committee, attendance in public hearings, and personal outreach by local leaders and community members. The community's participation is further detailed in Sections K-O. The involvement of key stakeholders has created great buy-in for the goals and vision of the community. In recent development and planning efforts, it is evident the goals of the comprehensive plan lead local leaders in their decision making.

**C.** The Goals are both ambitious and achievable for the community. Please give examples of some ambitious yet achievable Goals included in your comprehensive plan.

The City of Forsyth continuously sets ambitious goals that are achievable for the community. For example, in the 2006 Community Agenda, the community recognized “the opportunity to capitalize on commercial, retail, and service sector increase due to the addition of the Georgia Department of Corrections at the Tift College Campus.” In years since, the community has focused on expanding retail and services in the downtown area to accommodate the growth catalyzed by the Department of Correction’s relocation. The City of Forsyth, Downtown Development Authority, Chamber of Commerce, and Main Street have worked collaboratively to see this goal come to fruition. For example, the city now hosts 12 downtown restaurants to include Grits Café, Al’s City Café, Bluetick Mercantile Co. and more. The addition of new restaurants in the downtown area is vital in the city’s efforts to capitalize on the relocation of the Department of Corrections. These developments also encourage in-town living and further small business development, while also improving the quality of life for all citizens.

The City of Forsyth also set a goal to work collaboratively with Monroe County to “plan for future growth and development to ensure that it happens in a manner in keeping with community character and sense of place.” (2006 City of Forsyth Community Agenda, pg. 21). The city has worked to achieve this goal in numerous ways. Successful projects thus far have included the application and award of the 2014 Community Development Block Grant for water infrastructure improvements to the Bibb Mill Village area of unincorporated Monroe County, as well as collaborative efforts to establish a Boys and Girls Club. Finally, both Monroe County and the City of Forsyth have undertaken zoning ordinance updates in the past year, with one element being the standardization of many terms and definitions across jurisdictional lines. These projects will have a lasting positive effect on the efforts to revitalize the community and prepare for future development.

**D. The Goals steer local decision-making on a continuous basis. Please tell us how and provide specific examples.**

The City Council, city staff, and community organizations are fully aware of the existence of the comprehensive plan and are committed to its implementation. Therefore, the plan is used on a regular basis in local decision-making. Traces of the comprehensive plan goals are evident in budgetary decisions, planning and zoning decisions, and funding assistance requests. Current and past work programs exhibit the city’s forethought in planning matters, and reports of accomplishments showcase their success in plan implementation. For example, in their last comprehensive plan, the City of Forsyth identified the need to develop their downtown and historic areas (2006 Community Agenda, pg.6-7). The community has embraced this goal by creating programs to establish successful businesses downtown, detailed in Section O, through partnerships with Main Street and the Downtown Merchants’ Association. The city also worked to achieve this goal by supporting the façade grant program, hiring an economic development professional, and more. As shown by this one example, local decisions are clearly connected to the goals put forth in the comprehensive plan.

**E. Consistent progress is being made at achieving the Goals. Please explain, and if possible, include examples of this progress.**

The City of Forsyth has a great track record of achieving its goals. For example, the City set a long-term objective in the 2006 Community Agenda to upgrade all water infrastructure (pg. 39). The city has since pursued and been awarded Community Development Block Grants on several occasions to improve water and storm water infrastructure first along James Street (2008) and later in the Bibb Mill Village (2014). The city has continued its efforts to continually improve its infrastructure with a grant application for Blount Street in 2017.

Also in the 2006 Community Agenda, the city set the goal to support the relocation of state office to Forsyth (pg. 39). In many ways, the progress in the downtown area’s development has been tailored to attract and support patrons from the state offices. The increased number of restaurants and retail opportunities are all meant to improve quality of life for residents and employees of such entities, including the Department of Corrections. This improved quality of life has a ripple effect throughout the city and further advances all community and economic development efforts.

## INDICATOR: LEADERSHIP

**F. We have effective planning staff or another suitable arrangement for handling community planning matters. Please tell us about your staff or suitable arrangement, including, if you wish, any degrees or certifications.**

Janice Hall, City Manager, and Michael Norris, Economic Development Director, are city staff that lead planning matters for the City of Forsyth. Ms. Hall has more than 24 years of experience with the city. She has a clear understanding of the city’s vision for future development and documented record of successful plan implementation efforts. Mr. Norris holds a Master of Public Administration from Valdosta State University and is well versed in planning matters as they relate to the growth of the city. The City of Forsyth’s Police Department supports city staff with code enforcement throughout the community.

The City of Forsyth has implemented the “First Step” program to assist local staff in planning matters. This program requires potential business owners and investors in the community to meet before a panel of city department heads before they can move forward with their establishment. The purpose of this program is to ensure that the city provides optimal customer service to business owners and so that new business developments are in line with planning standards and visions. This directly aids planning and community development because it fosters collaborative relationships between city administrators and the business community, which catalyzes greater investment in the community and encourages further business development. The review may include conversations regarding building standards, the businesses investment in the community, the creation of local jobs, and much more. This is a suitable arrangement that has significantly improved the city’s staff ability to manage relevant planning matters.

In addition to the planning staff, the city utilizes the following boards compiled of local leaders to aid in planning efforts:

Downtown Development Authority	Historic Preservation Commission
Design Review Board	Planning and Zoning Commission
Housing Authority	City Council

**G.** We have an active planning commission or similar body to steer local planning decisions. Please provide information about your commission or similar body; for instance, number of members, meeting schedule, local affiliations, etc.

The City of Forsyth has an active planning commission, which deals with all matters related to property rezoning, conditional use, variances, and conditional approval and disapproval of preliminary plats of major subdivisions. The commission holds public hearings on all planning and zoning matters. Those looking to buy or improve property within the City of Forsyth are encouraged to consult the commission prior to beginning construction of any kind. This is done to ensure compliance and provide high-quality customer service and assistance. After the hearing, recommendations are made to the Mayor and City Council for further review. The commission meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at 5:00 PM at the City Hall Annex. Members of the Planning and Zoning Commission are appointed by the Mayor and City Council and serve three-year staggered terms. Current members of the commission are as follows:

Name	Local Affiliation
Ralph Ogletree	Previous elected official, local business owner
Steve Coleman	Local survey company owner
Jennifer Taylor	Local business owner
Martin Presley	Previous local business owner
Silas Peed	Local landscape architectural firm owner

**H.** We have a regular local plan effectiveness evaluation process (such as annual planning retreats of elected leadership). Please provide information about the most recent.

Each year, elected officials hold annual planning retreats to set priorities for the year and reflect on progress of their previously-set priorities and goals. In January of 2017, the elected officials held their annual retreat and posed three simple questions:

- 1) "What do we want to accomplish in 2017?"
- 2) "What did we want to do in 2016?"
- 3) "Were our 2016 goals accomplished?"

Many of their 2016 goals regarding economic development and housing were accomplished. These goals aligned very closely with the goals set out in the city's comprehensive plan. Local leaders then looked forward and prioritized priorities for the upcoming year, all of which are also included in the comprehensive plan, such as encouraging and supporting downtown business development and encouraging housing development.

**I.** All local officials (both elected and appointed) involved in local planning processes have recently attended training in how to use the plan effectively. Please list who attended, which trainings and the date(s) attended. These trainings may include those from Carl Vinson Institute of Government, the Community Planning Institute, GMA or ACCG land use or planning classes, and similar courses.

Local government officials regularly attend trainings that support the effective implementation of the plan. Please see attachments for documentation of GMA trainings attended by the City Council. Planning and Zoning Commissioners and Michael Norris, Economic Development Director, have also attended *Planning & Zoning 201: Practical Ethics for Planning Officials* to support their ability to implement planning and zoning goals for the community.

**J.** Provide up to ten of your best recent examples where the plan steered a key local decision, with pertinent plan references (attach additional sheets as needed). Please explain the connection between the comprehensive plan and the decision(s) made.

Decision	Explanation	Reference
1. Strict enforcement of existing ordinances in accordance within character areas.	In order to achieve this action item, the city has made the decision to utilize the City of Forsyth Police Department as code enforcement officers. The authority enjoyed by the Police Department yields greater compliance with local ordinances, which, in turn, supports the implementation of the comprehensive plan.	2007-2011 STWP, pg. 33
2. Maintain/improve streetscapes and sidewalks	During the planning process, community stakeholders regularly expressed a need for improved sidewalks and streetscapes. Because of this community input, local officials have made it a budgetary priority to address this community need.	2007-2011 STWP, pg. 35
3. Maintain/improve all city-owned parks and consider building a new swimming pool as one of the improvements	The city chose to expend nearly \$200,000 on renovations to Kynette Park. Parks were identified as a vital asset in encouraging safe communities and supporting the community's vision as fostering a family-friendly environment. The decision was made to invest in this park due to the feedback received in the planning process.	2007-2011 STWP, pg. 34
4. Coordinate with Monroe County to expand services along the I-75 corridor.	The city and county working together recognized the significant opportunities for growth in the northern part of the county throughout the mid-2000s. Among these areas was the Johnstonville Road area, off Exit 193 near the Club at River Forest, a private course that opened in 2004. Recognizing that the City of Forsyth had the greatest capacity to serve this neighborhood, the city and Monroe County partnered to bring necessary water service to a part of the county that had been designated as "developing suburban" in the 2007 Future Development Map for Monroe County.	2007-2011 STWP, pg.37
5. Upgrade existing infrastructure in neighborhoods	The City of Forsyth applied jointly with Monroe County for a 2014 Community Development Block Grant. The successful application resulted in much needed upgrades of critical infrastructure in the Bibb Mill Village. Pre-planning made local leaders aware of their need for improved infrastructure and guided their decision to apply for funding.	2007-2011 STWP, pg. 21)
6. Institute a 'Shop at Home' program	The city partnered with the Main Street Program to implement the 'Shop at Home' program to encourage shopping locally and downtown. This decision was steered by the plan's goals to encourage downtown development.	2013-2017 STWP, pg.1

7. Resume regular meetings of the Forsyth Housing Authority	The Housing Authority was reestablished and met for the first time in January 2017. The Housing Authority is vital to pursuing the goals of the comprehensive plan that relate to improved housing. The need for this board was recognized in the development of the plan and directed the decision for its reestablishment.	2013-2017 STWP, pg. 2
8. Expand and maintain current website and seek interconnectivity	The city's website: <a href="http://www.cityofforsyth.net">www.cityofforsyth.net</a> has been expanded and maintained to ensure citizens have access to all city information. This decision was made to achieve the community's goal to promote community engagement and make citizens aware of community plans and goals.	2013-2017 STWP, pg. 6

## INDICATOR: PARTICIPATION

**K.** Our comprehensive plan was prepared with multiple community input opportunities. Please provide information about these opportunities, including, if available, dates, agendas, other meeting materials.

The City of Forsyth was intentional in creating multiple community input opportunities during the comprehensive planning process. These opportunities included:

Forsythia Festival

The annual Forsythia Festival was held March 10-11, 2007. During the festival, a number of vendors and booths set up in the Forsyth City Square. The Steering Committee used this venue to set up a comprehensive plan booth next to City Hall and the Chamber of Commerce Booth. A Steering Committee or Resource Team member, described in Section M, from each community was on hand throughout the festival to discuss the planning process, answer questions, and obtain public input.

Public Information Outreach

The City of Forsyth made Comprehensive Plan documents and information readily available to the public to ensure community members had the opportunity to share their ideas. The following venues each had a copy of the plan and/or fliers directing those interested where to find a copy: the Forsyth-Monroe County Chamber of Commerce, all major area churches, water bill notices, and the city and county websites. The Monroe County Reporter, Public Service Announcements, and two public hearings were also utilized throughout the process to advertise developments with and opportunities for input into the comprehensive plan.

The Community Agenda Schedule was utilized to keep the public informed and stay on track.

Figure 1. Community Agenda: Schedule of Completion

	2007									
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
Community Assessment & Community Participation Program Finalized										
Community Assessment & Community Participation Program Available for Public Review										
Advertise and Hold 1 <sup>st</sup> Public Hearing (Community Assessment & Community Participation Program)										
Local Governments Adopt Transmittal Resolutions; Submit to RDC for Review; RDC Transmits to DCA										
30-Day DCA Review										
Community Agenda Begins										
Develop Community Vision										
Character Areas & Future Development Map										
Forsythia Festival (CPP Event)										
Kiosks & Public Displays in City Halls/County Building										
Implementation Program: Report of Accomplishments										
Implementation Program STWP (Meetings with City & County Officials)										
Draft Community Agenda Available for Public Review										
Advertise & Hold 2 <sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing (Community Agenda)										
Local Government Officials Review Community Agendas & Adopt Transmittal Resolutions										
RDC Reviews & Transmits to DCA										
120-Day Review by DCA										
Local Governments Sign Adoption Resolutions										

L. The community input received during plan preparation influenced the content of the plan. How?

Community input received through the methods described in Section K was of significant influence during the development of the 2006 comprehensive plan. Local officials were deliberate during a public kickoff meeting to recommend people for the steering committee with broad and diverse knowledge of the community and of important topics to be discussed during the planning process. The selection of this committee was of utmost importance as the steering committee members almost exclusively developed and identified the community issues and opportunities portion of the plan. The city also relied heavily on information received during public hearings and the Forsythia Festival to develop the short-term work program as well as community goals.

M. Our steering committee that guided development of the plan included local leaders and elected officials. Please provide a list of steering committee members and their local affiliations.

<b>Steering Committee Members</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Dr. Vince Skilling	City of Culloden
Matt Perry	City of Forsyth
Dr. Deena Smith	City of Forsyth
Vince Williams	City of Forsyth
George Willis, Jr.	City of Forsyth
Karl Cass	Monroe County
Philip English	Monroe County
Brad Freeman	Monroe County
Greg Tapley	Monroe County
Herbert Gantt	Monroe County

Plan development was guided by the Steering Committee, with the support of a local Resource Team composed of elected officials and staff. The Steering Committee was composed of a diverse group of stakeholders including those who work in law enforcement, business owners, educators, and medical professionals. The Resource Team was established to provide knowledge of the day-to-day operations and current initiatives. The two groups were meant to complement and support one another and to increase the efficiency of the comprehensive planning process. The two committees met jointly at monthly meetings.

<b>Resource Team Members</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
Mr. Bob King	Culloden City Council
Ms. Janice Hall	Forsyth City Clerk
Ms. Barbara Baswell	Monroe County Clerk
Mr. Sid Banks	Monroe County Road Superintendent
Ms. Sandra Dews	Forsyth City Council

**N.** We have an active, ongoing, outreach process for soliciting input on planning matters from a broad spectrum of the community, including non-traditional populations, and the resulting input is listened to by community leaders. Describe this process. How do you engage the stakeholders? Have partnerships been developed because of the planning process? This outreach process includes activities such as:

The City of Forsyth actively engages with the community to receive input on planning matters. Citizens have the opportunity to voice opinions during city council meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month as well as during the Planning and Zoning Commission meetings on the

4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month. Citizens also enjoy easy access to the mayor and city council as their email addresses and phone numbers are posted on the city’s website.

Citizens are also engaged on social media with local decision makers. The city’s Main Street Program, Convention and Visitor’s Bureau, and Downtown Development Authority all utilize Facebook to communicate with the community. These pages give each organization the opportunity to inform citizens of upcoming meetings and events as well as giving concerned citizens a place to provide immediate feedback. These three organizations are all consulted regularly in plan implementation efforts. Therefore, their engagement with the public through this medium has been essential in ensuring continuous outreach for planning matters.

The City of Forsyth has also developed an important connection with the Forsyth-Monroe County Chamber of Commerce to support their planning efforts. The chamber’s Governmental Affairs Committee has been very active in planning efforts. In recent years, this committee has explored topics of intergovernmental coordination, consolidation of services, and preservation of adequate emergency healthcare access in the county. All of these issues tie closely to past plan elements, and committee members have been asked to assist with future plan updates.

**O.** We have active advocates for plan implementation (such as activist citizens, organizations or neighborhood groups) that are listened to by community leaders. These groups include:

The City of Forsyth values the input of active advocates for plan implementation. For example, the city has launched the “See. Click. Fix.” program, which is a work request query system for citizens. This program gives all community members the opportunity to be actively involved in plan implementation efforts to improve community facilities and encourage effective community and economic development. The “See. Click. Fix.” program is an essential tool in engaging citizens to make improvements to the city that will catalyze the success of plan implementation such as the expressed need for sidewalk infill and maintenance.

The city has also made intentional efforts to create and cultivate community groups that advocate for planning efforts. Main Street’s Promotions Committee has worked with the Downtown Merchants’ Association to develop ideas and implement programs that will encourage downtown business development and ease the process for their establishment. This program has been successful through collaborative efforts between the two groups and local officials. The mayor has also created a parking committee to implement a downtown parking improvement plan. The City of Forsyth is committed to addressing community needs and opportunities identified in the comprehensive plan. These partnerships are evidence of their commitment.

## **INDICATOR: IMPLEMENTATION**

**P.** The Work Program section of our comprehensive plan consists primarily of specific action items that make it clear exactly what we intend to do to implement the plan. Please give examples of measureable action items included in your work program(s).

The Work Program includes measurable action items that will improve the City of Forsyth. For example, the city’s past action item to “Construct Old City Hall Park” was an easily measurable action item that has been completed with the construction of a park. The work program also identified the responsibility party, the estimated cost (where known), the funding source(s), and the estimated completion time. This level of detail served as a useful guide to city officials and

administrators when working to achieve this goal. The below excerpts from the 2013-2017 Short-Term Work Program documents numerous clear and measurable implementation action items.

<b>Community Facilities Short-Term Work Program 2013-2017</b>				
<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Funding Source(s)</b>	<b>Estimated Completion Time</b>
1. Make improvements to Lee Street Parking Lot	City of Forsyth, DDA	TBD	Grants	2015
2. Construct Old City Hall Park (adjacent to Welcome Center).	City of Forsyth, BHT, DDA	TBD	Grants	2013-2017
3. Repair and upgrade City Water System, including south interceptor line project and replacement of core water/sewer lines throughout the City.	City of Forsyth	\$3.2 million	SPLOST	2014-2017
4. Purchase new public safety vehicles and upgrade public safety equipment as required to complete the 2013 FCC Narrowbanding mandate.	City of Forsyth	\$470,000	SPLOST	2014-2017
5. Upgrade sewer lines to support the construction of a 79-unit apartment complex in Forsyth.	City of Forsyth	\$1 million	Budget	2013

**Q.** Our Work Program action items clearly address local needs or goals identified in the plan. These local needs or goals are aligned with work program activities. For example:

The City of Forsyth directly uses their action items from the Short-Term Work Program to meet the community’s greatest needs. For example, in 2006, Forsyth identified housing development as a need in order to improve economic development efforts with readily available workforce housing while improving the quality of life of all residents. Below, the excerpt of the Short-Term Work Program identifies planned action items to satisfy this need using a variety of activities, partners, and funding sources. Further, the action items related to housing development are not limited to the “Housing Short-Term Work Program.” In Section P, above, we see that community facilities upgrades were listed as an action item in order to foster the development of apartments in Forsyth. In fact, all components of the Forsyth comprehensive plan tie together behind common goals of continuous community improvement.

<b>Housing Short-Term Work Program 2013-2017</b>				
<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Funding Source(s)</b>	<b>Estimated Completion Time</b>
1. Resume regular meetings of the Forsyth Housing Authority.	City of Forsyth, Forsyth Housing Authority	Staff and Volunteer Time	Budget	2013-2017
2. Consider participation in the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH).	City of Forsyth, Forsyth Housing Authority	Staff and Volunteer Time	Budget	2013-2017

3. Develop alternative housing options in downtown Forsyth (i.e. high quality lofts and apartments)	City of Forsyth, Forsyth Housing Authority, BHT, DA	Staff and Volunteer Time	Budget/Grants/Tax Incentives	2013-2017
4. Promote community involvement through action groups and citizen participation and programs such as Neighborhood Watch and Citizen's Police Academy.	City of Forsyth	Staff and Volunteer Time	Budget	2013-2017
5. Focus public assistance/investment in areas requiring infrastructure and housing stock improvements.	City of Forsyth, Forsyth Housing Authority	TBD	CDBG/CHIP/SPLOST	2013-2017
6. Actively pursue the construction of an upscale apartment complex within City limits.	City of Forsyth/Private entities	Staff Time	Budget/Private Funds	2013-2017

**R.** We have a good track record of accomplishing most of the action items included in past plan Work Programs. Our Report of Accomplishments very specifically shows our level of accomplishment, such as:

The City of Forsyth has a good track record of accomplishing action items included in past Work Programs. The 2012 Report of Accomplishments shows more than 75 percent of the 84 action items either underway or completed. The Report of Accomplishments from the 2002 Work Program shows that of the 39 action items included, more than 85 percent were either underway or completed. As their scheduled update approaches, the City of Forsyth is well on its way to document similar success in its next Report of Accomplishments. Additional examples of Work Program implementation can be found in Section T, below.

**S.** Our local capital budget is consistent with, and is designed to implement, the comprehensive plan. Please explain the connections between your budget and your work program.

The City of Forsyth's budget reflects their priorities and commitment to implement the comprehensive plan. For example, budget allocations are provided to the following items in the 2013-2017 Short-Term Work Program:

- Sponsor seasonal special events in Downtown Forsyth (i.e. summer concert series, holiday celebrations, fall festival);
- Continue to implement the Façade Grant program;
- Continue to hold and promote the Forsyth Farmer's Market;
- Market downtown as a heritage tourism destination;
- Construct Old City Hall Park;
- Repair and upgrade City Water System, including south interceptor line project and replacement of core water/sewer lines throughout the city;
- Purchase new public safety vehicles and upgrade public safety equipment as required to complete the 2013 FCC Narrowbranding mandate;
- Upgrade sewer lines to support the construction of a 79-unit apartment complex in Forsyth;
- Expand and maintain current website and seek interconnectivity opportunities;
- Complete renovations of Kynette Park;
- Maintain/improve streetscapes and sidewalks throughout Forsyth;
- Complete sidewalk/streetscape improvements along E. Johnson from downtown to Tift College Drive;
- Expand current water plan and reservoir on Tobesofkee Creek;

- Refresh and update downtown as needed and address beautification needs;
- Repair and upgrade streets and roads in the City;
- Upgrade sidewalks, curb and gutter and bury utilities along Railroad Avenue; and
- Resurface roads (i.e. Frontage Road between Tift College Drive and Highway 42 and Highway 83 West).

T. Provide up to ten of your best recent examples of important projects carried out as a result of the plan, with the specific plan references (attach additional sheets as needed). Please explain how these activities were a result of the plan or the planning process. Consider including photographs, newspaper articles or other exhibits to elaborate on these projects.

Project	
<p>1. <u>Redevelop Merchants Mall building and establish a local revolving loan fund.</u> (2013-2017 STWP, pg. 1) The city invested in redevelopment of the Merchants Mall building which now houses Bluetick Mercantile. This project was driven by the identified need for expanded downtown development to encourage growth and support the Department of Corrections relocation.</p>	
<p>2. <u>Rehabilitate Rose Theatre</u> (2002 ROA, pg. 23) Through a public-private partnership, the city worked to rehabilitate the Rose Theatre following a tragic fire. The theater is the epicenter of the community's arts scene and vital to attracting downtown traffic. As downtown development is a lead priority for the city, the opportunity to complete this project received wide support from citizens.</p>	
<p>3. <u>Complete renovations of Kynette Park</u> (2013-2017 STWP, pg. 6) The City has invested more than \$200,000 worth of renovations in Kynette Park. The investment in this park directly supports the community's vision to create "a desirable place for families due to our high quality of life enjoyed by all citizens in every neighborhood, community and downtown." Kynette Park is in a predominately low-income neighborhood, and its renovation proves the city's commitment to the entire community, including those who live in poverty..</p>	

4. Construct a Public Safety Complex (2002 ROA, pg. 25). The city constructed the public safety following its identification as a need in the 1992 Comprehensive Plan. This construction was necessary to prepare for planned community growth, which increases demand for housing, local businesses, and industries. This growth requires adequate fire protection and crime prevention services. This complex meets this crucial need.



5. Upgrade existing infrastructure in neighborhoods (2007-2011 STWP, pg. 21) The city completed the replacement of water infrastructure and stormwater infrastructure in the James Street neighborhood and in the Bibb Mill Village neighborhood with assistance from a pair of Community Development Block Grants, received in 2008 and 2014, respectively. Both projects were a result of the city's effort to improve community housing, and the Bibb Mill Village project also served to foster intergovernmental relationships as a joint project with Monroe County Both of these goals were identified as main priorities in the planning process.

**CITY OF FORSYTH —  
MONROE COUNTY**

**WATER INFRASTRUCTURE  
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**



**JOINT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION**

**2014**

**RESIDENT  
COMMENTS:**

"We also are concerned about fire protection because of lack of fire hydrants in our neighborhood."

"Severe water pressure is slow. Won't drink the water. Taste is terrible and discoloration. Mom brings me well water once per week."

"We are happy about this progress, this is a project has been trying to work on long time. Hope it works."

"Water is discolored - sometimes its greenish other times its brownish/teal color. I have to use a water filter to allow my family, including my 7 year old baby to have drinking water. My baby has Spina Bifida and I buy bottled water for the baby, which is an added expense to the major medical costs my family has."

"We're having slow water issues. Our toilet alone takes 20 minutes to refill a flr being flushes."

"We buy gallons of water from Walmart to cook with and drink bottled water also."

6. Renovate Old City Hall to house Chamber of Commerce, Better Hometown, and Development Authority (2007-2011 STWP, pg. 32, pg. 34) Although the city of Forsyth finished moving their offices into their current home on the town square in the early 1990s, they were left with an old city hall property just around the corner. Reuse of this building had long been a top priority for the city. In the 2007 STWP, the city set out as a priority moving the economic development offices of the city and county to this location, which was successfully completed with the building's renovation a few years later. The building is still in use today.



7. Consider alternate travel routes around the City of Forsyth for commercial vehicles (2007-2011 STWP, pg. 37) To encourage a pedestrian friendly atmosphere and to protect roads in the city center, city administrators have worked with GDOT to install signage that encourages large commercial trucks to take routes around the city to reach their destination. This project supports the city's plan to further develop the downtown corridor.





**TRAINING TRANSCRIPT**

Mr. Michael E. Dodd  
City of Forsyth  
PO Box 969  
Forsyth, GA 31029-0969

As Of: 5/15/2017  
Student ID: 51935

Page 1

Certificate Levels	Credits		Completion Date
	Required	Completed	
Certificate of Recognition	42	222	January 25, 1997
Certificate of Achievement	72	222	January 23, 1999
Certificate of Excellence	120	222	January 26, 2008
Certificate Of Distinction	204	222	June 29, 2015
Certificate of Dedication	276	222	

**Completed Courses**

**ELECTIVE**

Downtown Development Authorities	6	1/25/1997
Municipal Authorities	6	10/14/1997
Municipal Services	6	1/23/1999
Environmental Management	6	6/26/1999
Managing Growth	6	1/21/2006
Regional 4 Day Economic Development	12	5/26/2006
Risk Management and Insurance	6	1/26/2008
Circle of Excellence	6	6/20/2009
Housing	6	1/23/2010
Retreats	6	4/9/2010
Recreation and Parks	6	6/25/2011
Technology Solutions for Cities	6	1/21/2012
Law Enforcement Services (formerly Public Safety)	6	6/23/2012

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As Of: 5/15/2017  
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Page 1

Social Media for Local Elected Officials	6	6/21/2014
Economics of Education	3	1/23/2015
Building a Hometown Connection: Lobbying 101	6	1/24/2015
Municipal Electric Systems 101	3	6/27/2015
Critical Issues: Health Care Reform	6	6/22/2013
Water Management	6	1/25/2014

**LEADERSHIP**

Leadership Institute Alumni Seminar	6	1/24/1998
Leadership Institute for Municipal Elected Off.	6	8/10/1996

**NEWELECTED**

Newly Elected Officials Institute	6	3/3/1996
Newly Elected Officials Institute	0	2/18/2006

**REQUIRED**

Planning and Zoning	0	4/7/2006
Excellence in Utilities	6	4/7/2006
Taxation 101 - The Basics	6	6/21/2008
Municipal Finance II	6	6/24/2006
Community and Media Relations	6	1/20/2007
Municipal Law	6	4/25/1996
Municipal Finance	6	6/29/1996
Planning and Zoning	6	10/16/1996

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Page 2

Managing Meetings and Parliamentary Procedures	6	6/27/1998
Economic Development	6	6/28/1997
Roles and Responsibilities of Council and Staff	3	6/29/2015
Economic Development	0	1/23/2016
Public Policy Development & Implementation	0	6/25/2016
Conflict Resolution	6	1/21/2017
Council/Staff Relationships	6	6/26/2012
Open Meetings/Open Records	6	1/26/2013
Emergency Management	6	1/22/2011
Public Policy Development & Implementation	3	6/20/2014
Ethics	6	1/20/1996

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As Of: 5/15/2017  
Student ID: 95183

Page 1

Certificate Levels	Credits		Completion Date
	Required	Completed	
Certificate of Recognition	42	42	
Certificate of Achievement	72	42	
Certificate of Excellence	120	42	
Certificate Of Distinction	204	42	
Certificate of Dedication	276	42	

**Completed Courses**

**ELECTIVE**

Mobile Workshop	6	5/15/2014
Downtown Development Authority Basic Training	6	1/24/2015
Strong Communities - Strong Families	3	6/25/2016
Money, Money, Money	6	1/21/2017

**NEWELECTED**

Newly Elected Officials Institute	6	3/1/2014
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**REQUIRED**

Economic Development	6	1/25/2014
Municipal Finance	6	1/23/2016
Practices for Successful Meetings	3	1/25/2016

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Mr. Chris M. Hewett  
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As Of: 5/15/2017  
Student ID: 76319

Page 1

Certificate Levels	Credits		Completion Date
	Required	Completed	
Certificate of Recognition	42	78	January 21, 2006
Certificate of Achievement	72	78	January 20, 2017
Certificate of Excellence	120	78	
Certificate Of Distinction	204	78	
Certificate of Dedication	276	78	

**Completed Courses**

**ELECTIVE**

Public Safety Issues, Funding and Innovations	6	6/24/2005
City - County Cooperation	6	10/14/2005
Municipal Codes and Courts	6	6/24/2006
Human Resources II	6	1/20/2007
Revitalizing Neighborhoods - Tools for Local Officials	6	1/21/2017

**NEWELECTED**

Newly Elected Officials Institute	0	3/12/2016
Newly Elected Officials Institute	6	2/19/2005

**REQUIRED**

Municipal Finance	6	3/19/2005
Municipal Finance II	6	3/19/2005

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As Of: 5/15/2017  
Student ID: 76319

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Human Resources (formerly Personnel Admin.)	6	1/21/2006
Emergency Management	6	6/23/2007
Economic Development	6	1/23/2016
Public Policy Development & Implementation	3	6/25/2016
Roles and Responsibilities of Council and Staff	3	1/20/2017
Ethics	6	1/22/2005

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Student ID: 99355

Page 1

Certificate Levels	Credits		Completion Date
	Required	Completed	
Certificate of Recognition	42	18	
Certificate of Achievement	72	18	
Certificate of Excellence	120	18	
Certificate Of Distinction	204	18	
Certificate of Dedication	276	18	

**Completed Courses**

**ELECTIVE**

Changing Demographics and Best Practices	3	6/25/2016
Recreation and Parks - Building Communities	3	6/27/2016

**NEWELECTED**

Newly Elected Officials Institute	6	2/26/2016
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**REQUIRED**

Community and Media Relations	6	1/23/2016
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As Of: 5/15/2017  
Student ID:

Page 1

Certificate Levels	Credits		Completion Date
	Required	Completed	
Certificate of Recognition	42	276	June 23, 2001
Certificate of Achievement	72	276	April 25, 2003
Certificate of Excellence	120	276	October 25, 2008
Certificate Of Distinction	204	276	January 26, 2013
Certificate of Dedication	276	276	4/1/2017 3:30:00 PM

**Completed Courses**

**ELECTIVE**

Public Speaking	6	3/23/2000
Municipal Services	6	6/23/2001
City - County Cooperation	6	9/30/2002
Strengthening Communities/Children&Family	6	1/25/2003
Business Diplomacy and Etiquette	6	4/25/2003
Fire and Emergency Medical Services	6	4/9/2008
Regional 4 Day Economic Development	12	5/19/2008
Law Enforcement Services (formerly Public Safety)	6	6/21/2008
Retreats	6	4/9/2010
Municipal Codes and Courts	6	6/26/2010
Critical Issues	6	6/29/2010
Recreation and Parks	6	6/25/2011

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City of Forsyth  
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As Of: 5/15/2017  
Student ID: 66164

Page 1

Critical Issues	6	9/13/2011
Technology Solutions for Cities	6	1/21/2012
Managing Growth	6	1/24/2009
Social Media for Local Elected Officials	6	6/26/2012
Environmental Sustainability	6	11/16/2012
Critical Issues: Retirement Course	3	6/21/2013
Critical Issues: Health Care Reform	6	6/22/2013
Building a Hometown Connection: Lobbying 101	6	1/25/2014
Mobile Workshop	6	6/24/2014
Water Management	6	1/24/2015
Mobile Workshop- Legacy of ADA in Action	3	6/27/2015
Mobile Workshop- Port of Savannah	3	6/27/2015
Effective Practices for Municipal Operations 101	3	6/29/2015
Employee Benefits (Retirement) 101	3	1/22/2016
Mobile Workshop: City Youth Programs	3	6/27/2016
Beyond the Beltway	3	1/20/2017

LEADERSHIP

Governing the Commons: Collective Decision Making in	6	3/31/2017
How Shall We Live? Practical Ethics for Public Life	6	4/11/2017
Leadership Institute for Municipal Elected Off.	6	10/22/2008

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As Of: 5/15/2017  
Student ID: 66164

Page 2

<b>NEWELECTED</b>			
Newly Elected Officials Institute	6		3/16/2000
Newly Elected Officials Institute	0		2/16/2008
<b>REQUIRED</b>			
Public Problems, Democratic Decisions	6		1/21/2017
Public Policy Development & Implementation	3		6/25/2016
Managing Meetings and Parliamentary Procedures	6		1/22/2000
Emergency Management	6		4/25/2003
Community and Media Relations	6		6/21/2003
Excellence in Utilities	6		1/24/2004
Council/Staff Relationships	6		1/26/2008
Economic Development	0		9/30/2001
Open Meetings/Open Records	6		1/26/2002
Planning and Zoning	6		6/22/2002
Economic Development	6		6/23/2000
Ethics	6		9/15/2000
Managing Meetings and Parliamentary Procedures	0		9/15/2000
Municipal Finance	6		1/20/2001
Making Citizen Engagement Work in Our Communities	6		1/22/2011
Municipal Law	6		1/26/2013
Conflict Resolution	6		10/28/2009
Taxation 101 - The Basics	6		1/23/2010

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Page 3

Human Resources (formerly Personnel Admin.)	6	6/23/2012
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As Of: 5/15/2017  
Student ID: 95559

Page 1

Certificate Levels	Credits		Completion Date
	Required	Completed	
Certificate of Recognition	42	51	
Certificate of Achievement	72	51	
Certificate of Excellence	120	51	
Certificate Of Distinction	204	51	
Certificate of Dedication	276	51	

Completed Courses

ELECTIVE

Public Presentations and Meet the Media	6		1/24/2015
Economics of Education	3		6/24/2016
Changing Demographics and Best Practices	3		6/25/2016
Recreation and Parks - Building Communities	3		6/27/2016
Law Enforcement Services- Trends and Best Practices	6		1/21/2017
Critical Issues: Public Safety	3		6/20/2014
Strengthening Your Community / Children & Family	6		6/21/2014

NEWELECTED

Newly Elected Officials Institute	6		3/15/2014
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Page 2

**REQUIRED**

Opening Meetings	3	1/23/2015
Public Policy Development & Implementation	3	6/26/2015
Roles and Responsibilities of Council and Staff	3	8/27/2015
Economic Development	6	1/23/2016

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**TRAINING TRANSCRIPT**

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As Of: 5/15/2017  
Student ID: 86330

Page 1

**Certificate Levels**

	Credits		Completion Date
	Required	Completed	
Certificate of Recognition	42	99	January 22, 2011
Certificate of Achievement	72	99	June 21, 2014
Certificate of Excellence	120	99	
Certificate Of Distinction	204	99	
Certificate of Dedication	276	99	

**Completed Courses**

**ELECTIVE**

Retreats	6	4/9/2010
Law Enforcement Services (formerly Public Safety)	6	1/22/2011
Mobile Workshop	6	6/29/2010
Law Enforcement Services (formerly Public Safety)	0	6/23/2012
Building a Hometown Connection: Lobbying 101	6	1/23/2016
Civics for Local Government	3	6/25/2016
Excellence in Customer Service	3	6/27/2016
Money, Money, Money	6	1/21/2017
Public Presentations and Meet the Media	6	1/24/2015

**NEWELECTED**

Newly Elected Officials Institute	6	2/21/2010
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As Of: 5/15/2017  
Student ID: 86330

Page 2

**REQUIRED**

Municipal Law	6	1/23/2010
Emergency Management	6	6/26/2010
Economic Development	6	6/25/2011
Community and Media Relations	6	6/28/2011
Excellence in Utilities	6	1/21/2012
Planning and Zoning	6	1/25/2014
Human Resources (formerly Personnel Admin.)	6	6/21/2014
Council/Staff Relationships	6	9/15/2010
Practices for Successful Meetings	3	6/27/2015

N/C=No Credit for Class

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