


## 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 Jesup
Mailing address	P.O. Box 427, Jesup, Georgia 31598
Telephone	912-427-1313
Email	<a href="mailto:mdeal@jesupga.gov">mdeal@jesupga.gov</a>
Contact person; title	City Manager
Application prepared by	Maika Weathers, DDA Executive Director with Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission assistance
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	Mayor David Earl Keith
Date	5/14/17
Signature	

## 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:  yes  no  
Local government reports:  yes  no

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

yes  no

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?

Since its first of four comprehensive plans, adopted in 1992, community support and involvement in plan development and implementation have been very strong in Jesup/Wayne County. This was the case even more so with preparation and support for the most recent joint comprehensive plan, *Once and Future Frontier* (2015). We organized a broad based steering committee representing all segments of the community to provide input into plan preparation. The meetings and public hearings were well publicized in the local media (newspaper and radio), resulting in outstanding attendance and participation, ranging from about 35 to 60 people at the steering committee meetings and 30 and 15, respectively, at the two public hearings. The local governments were delighted with both the community involvement/input and the resulting plan.

The vision of our plans has been for Jesup and Wayne County to be a rural leader and growth center for quality growth in rural Georgia. Our plan expressed local desires to utilize our location, transportation resources, abundant natural resources and vast pine forests, rich history, and excellent community facilities to continue to build upon past successes, address needs, and improve our future.

The enthusiasm, interest, and support shown by the community in developing our bold vision have not waned. The community and its leadership have utilized the plan and its ideas as a catalyst and guide to action. The plan enjoys the support of the local governments, the Chamber of Commerce, the Industrial Development Authority, the Jesup Downtown Development Authority, the Wayne County Board of Tourism, Leadership Wayne, and other groups. The plan has caused these groups to team up to work on common causes, and to take up individual action items which help implement expressed needs and opportunities of the plan. The resulting improvement of the community has been clearly evident in strides forward and successes even to outsiders. Most of the community work items identified in the 2015 plan have already been accomplished.

**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.**

In developing the Goals for our comprehensive plan, we identified both ambitious and achievable projects important to the community and which enhance its position as a rural leader and growth center. We built upon our excellent record of plan achievement in the past and are already realizing much progress toward achieving the goals and vision expressed in our current 2015 plan. Most of the action items listed in the Community Work Program have already been accomplished.

Many of the goals identified by our plan were quite ambitious and wide ranging – downtown revitalization with a vibrant, thriving economy; improvement of the downtown rail corridor and increased tourism capture; addressing public perception of the drug issue and need for greater law enforcement attention; improvement of youth activities and the local Boys and Girls Club; attraction of a new grocery store; and improvement of water/sewer infrastructure were just some of the difficult issues addressed by our plan goals. Yet much progress has been achieved in every one of these areas. Downtown Jesup has been a resounding revitalization success through the Whaley Center Rebuild after a devastating, block destroying fire and an active Downtown Development Authority. A new railfan platform has been completed along the rail corridor through Leadership Wayne. A new joint drug task force as a cooperative effort has enjoyed much success in cleaning up drug activity centers. The Boys and Girls Club has been relocated to an old elementary school, as well as the Jesup Police Department, resulting in both renovation and reuse of existing community facilities and investment for modern use. A new Piggly Wiggly grocery store has been successfully recruited to open downtown through a multi-pronged and cooperative effort. Additionally important community infrastructure, the Jesup Wastewater Treatment plant has undergone significant modernization and capacity upgrades. The plan has truly been a significant catalyst in moving the community to realize major improvement in a number of areas.

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

The City of Jesup's elected officials and staff, as well as concerned local residents, utilize our comprehensive plan as a guide for planned growth and development to improve the quality of life for our community. It is also used as a tool to evaluate our success in accomplishing and implementing our goals and vision. As a direct result of the comprehensive planning process, the City of Jesup and Wayne County created a joint roundtable of elected and appointed officials to evaluate areas where the local governments could consolidate efforts and achieve greater efficiency in realizing the plan's vision, goals and improving the community. The City and County administration now meet regularly to evaluate cooperation and areas where the Roundtable could work together for the betterment of the community and to the benefit of taxpayers. The vision and the goals of the plan do steer these processes of evaluation. Other means of plan guidance in community decision-making include use of retreats by each individual government, as well as jointly, and with even greater community involvement through a Chamber of Commerce retreat with local government participation. The plan vision and goals are also guides to action and discussion in City and County department head meetings held regularly by the local administrators. The results of this focus on cooperation and plan achievement are clearly evident in the successful accomplishment of plan items previously mentioned. Governmental cooperation and collaboration are especially witnessed by the newly created Combined Drug Task Force and Investigative Law Enforcement unit and the development of a Consolidated Maintenance Shop and Fuel Purchase Depot. Both of these efforts have been hugely successful resulting in better drug enforcement, more regular and efficient public safety vehicle maintenance, more effective streets and roads maintenance, and all at lower costs.

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

Consistent progress is being made at achieving our plan's vision and goals. We are continuing to improve our community, enhance our reputation as a rural leader in quality rural growth and development, and elevate our quality of life. The community has made significant advancements and achievements in downtown revitalization, tourism and economic development marketing, public safety improvements, intergovernmental cooperation and efficiency, infrastructure upgrades and expansion, support of agriculture, youth facilities development, streetscape enhancements, improvement of housing choices, and retail/service sector expansion, among others. Over 80 percent of action items in our current and previous work programs have already been accomplished, along with many others. Some of the many examples of these achievements: Whaley Center Rebuild downtown; Historic Strand Theater renovation downtown; Loft apartments downtown; Retail/Hospitality sector improvements and expansion, including a new Piggly Wiggly grocery store; New Farmer's Market development; New Railfan Platform construction; Street and gateway improvements; Creation of a new Combined Drug Task Force; New wastewater treatment plant and water infrastructure improvements; Fire station upgrades; New community marketing/economic development video; New downtown marketing slogan and campaign; and Renovation of the Boys and Girls Club. Our successes are being recognized statewide. Leadership Georgia visited our community in March, 2017 as a training example for others, and UGA/GMA has selected our downtown development effort as one of three for assistance in development of further detailed strategies in the RSVP program.

## **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.**

We have a very effective mechanism and structure for planning in Jesup. The City Manager is responsible for the day-to-day planning activities under the guidance of the Mayor and City Commission. The City Manager further works with the City Engineer, the Downtown Development Authority Director, and other staff, as well as the Planning and Zoning Board, to ensure that proper planning takes place for all projects. The City holds an annual retreat each March with its elected officials, staff department heads, and Planning and Zoning Board to discuss immediate and long-term needs and goals. In addition, the City of Jesup has a number of volunteer committees and citizen groups that provide input on a regular basis. Further ongoing planning coordination occurs among the City, County, Chamber of Commerce, and other boards.

**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 Jesup's Planning and Zoning Board consists of seven (7) members appointed by the Mayor, City Manager, and City Commissioners. The Board meets regularly on the second Tuesday of the month or as needed. The City recently reorganized the Board by removing inactive members and replacing them with new, active members. Lately, the Board has been meeting twice a month to handle requests and its business.

The Jesup Downtown Development Authority (DDA) also deals with local planning issues, but exclusively within the formally designated downtown area. The City Commissioners appoint its seven (7) member board, while the Mayor and City manager serve as active, ex-officio members. The DDA has a full-time Executive Director, who manages and oversees Downtown Jesup's economic development, historic preservation, and beautification efforts. There are 30 to 40 active Downtown Development Association volunteers. The City also participates in and appoints members to, other joint bodies, including the Board of Tourism, the Industrial Development Authority, and others.

**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.**

We have a regular local comprehensive plan effectiveness evaluation process through the City Manager, who sets the agenda and activities needed to implement the goals and projects envisioned in the plan and policies set by the Mayor and Commission. The City Manager meets regularly with City department heads to plan and review each department's activities and reports their progress to elected officials both informally and formally at monthly Commission meetings and regular work sessions. In addition, the City holds a planning retreat each March with its elected officials and department heads and participates in an annual retreat with Wayne County, also in March, at which the status and implementation of current projects is evaluated and future project plans and activities are discussed. The City also attends a planning retreat each fall with the local Chamber of Commerce.

**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.**

The Mayor and City Commissioners attend the GMA Conference twice each year where they receive training in a wide variety of subjects which help them understand how to use their local plan effectively. Sessions in 2016 and 2017 have included Planning and Zoning, Economic Development, Municipal Finance, Downtown Development Authority Basic Training, Revitalizing Neighborhoods – Tools for Local Officials, Public Policy Development and Implementation, and others. City staff consistently goes to training offered by GMA and other organizations to ensure that everyone is up-to-date on laws, current practices, and other important issues. The City Manager has semi-annually attended all GMA training classes offered since 1994. The DDA Director regularly attends GMA conferences, Georgia Cities Foundation training, and attended the National Main Street Conference held in Atlanta. All DDA Board members have attended the required DDA training and some the advanced training, while the DDA Director has attended both.

**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.**

The following are ten goals identified in our most recent comprehensive plan (*Once and Future Frontier*, 2015) with notation to page references for the overall goal or the particular action items. For each goal, several implementation items undertaken to address that particular issue and realize our vision are listed. All of these items received guidance or attention from our planning process and were carried out as a result.

1. Enhance economic development marketing – p. 36, p. 40, pp. 43-44, p. 55, p. 58  

New marketing video, new downtown marketing campaign with “Way to Go” slogan and brochure developed, Facebook
2. Support/target downtown revitalization – p. 36, pp. 42-44, pp. 66-67  

Whaley Center Rebuild, Strand Theater renovation, DDA Façade and Sign Grant Program developed, New Railfan Platform construction
3. Expand retail/service/hospitality sectors – p. 36, pp. 40-41, pp. 55-56  

Piggly Wiggly Grocery recruitment/location; Marco’s Pizza, Hog-n-Bones developments; Baymont Inn upgrade; Trowel House business inn
4. Improve/promote transportation access/quality – p. 36, pp. 38-39, p. 42, pp. 45-46, pp. 61-62, pp. 96-97  

Local street resurfacing (\$500,000+); Plum, Cherry, & Walnut streets streetscape improvements; Georgia Highway 169 Overpass; Connector street paving near Walmart; Gateway improvements at U.S. 301/84 intersection
5. Maintain/upgrade water/sewer facilities and services – p. 36, p. 39, pp. 60-61, p. 95  

New wastewater treatment plant, Water infrastructure (S. Macon, elsewhere), Solar development at wastewater treatment plant, New vacuum truck for water department
6. Maintain viability/support/enhance agriculture/forest uses – pp. 36-38, pp. 63-64, pp. 73-74  

Farmer’s Market renovation, Farmer’s Market promotion, Georgia Grown U.S. 301 Trail, Leadership Georgia visit
7. Continue to upgrade public safety service – p. 79, pp. 98-99, p. 107  

Jesup Fire Station #2 Upgrade, New Police Department development, Police vehicle purchase, Combined Drug Task Force/Joint Law Enforcement Investigative Unit establishment
8. Encourage diverse housing mix/Support loft apartment development – p. 38, p. 81  

Habitat for Humanity Pine Street house, Whaley Center loft apartments
9. Enhance local quality of life – p. 39, pp. 105-106  

Downtown planning/revitalization; Strand Theater renovation; Piggly Wiggly, etc.; Boys and Girls Club facility improvements; Combined Drug Task Force

10. Seek sharing/cooperation/consolidation in service delivery – p. 39, pp. 107-108

Combined Drug Task Force/Joint Law Enforcement Investigative Unit establishment, Joint City/County Maintenance Service facility, Joint City/County Fuel Depot, Joint planning retreat, Roundtable creation

## 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.**

As noted previously, the City of Jesup and Wayne County have a history of strong community support and involvement in local comprehensive plan preparation. This tradition was carried on, and even exceeded, during preparation of the current plan in 2015. The Wayne County local governments organized a broad-based steering committee representing both the public and private sectors of the community, which became the Wayne County Joint Comprehensive Plan Coordination Committee. These local stakeholders included members from the governing authorities, local economic development practitioners, local government elected officials and staff, major industries, and others concerned with community and economic development throughout the entire community. There was outstanding participation with members actively involved in plan development, review, and revision throughout the entire process, including a total of five (5) committee meetings held over a five (5) month period in 2015 (3/12, 4/2, 4/16, 5/14, 8/19). The initial meeting, which had a record setting attendance of about 60 persons, included formal identification of community strengths and weaknesses, as well as opportunities and threats, through a SWOT analysis. The input gathered during this exercise was used to help develop all plan components. At subsequent meetings, the first order of business was to review any revisions to previously drafted elements based on committee comments, as well as chances to return to and further modify earlier elements, if desired. Copies of all meeting agendas are included in the Community Involvement Appendix in the current plan, *Once and Future Frontier*, while copies of all meeting packets/materials are available, if needed, from the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission. The general public had the opportunity to participate at the two (2) required public hearings held on 3/24 and 8/24/15 (and with the Coordination Committee, if desired, after the initial public hearing). Another attendance record was broken with 30 people attending the first public hearing. The local governments involved the local media and their websites to help publicize the planning effort and generate community interest and participation. The local newspaper, *The Press-Sentinel*, provided front page coverage prior to both the first Coordination Committee meeting and the initial public hearing, inviting all to attend and participate. In addition, the local radio station, WIFO-FM, made development of the new comprehensive plan a major story, including interviews with the Jesup City Manager, on its extensive local news broadcast for over two (2) weeks before the first meeting and public hearing. Again, all were invited to participate. Similar publicity took place prior to the final committee meeting and public hearing before the draft plan was finalized and formally submitted for review. This extensive publicity was in addition to the required public hearing ads. Anyone who wanted to participate in the planning process had multiple opportunities to express their opinion and provide meaningful input.

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

The community input received during plan preparation from members of the Plan Coordination Committee and general public is reflected throughout the current Wayne County Joint Comprehensive Plan, ranging from the plan's title, *Once and Future Frontier*, to its Community Vision and municipal descriptions, Community Goals, Long Term Policies, Needs and Opportunities, Economic Development and Land Use elements, and even the local governments' Community Work Programs. The Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission facilitated the planning process; however, the locally adopted plan is truly a joint plan for all of Wayne County and its municipalities, including Jesup. Community input influenced the plan's content throughout, including the strongly expressed public desire for another grocery store in Jesup, which was specifically addressed as an economic development need on page 55 of the plan. This has become reality with the new Piggly Wiggly located in a former Winn Dixie shopping center strip in downtown Jesup. The need for local law enforcement to focus on cleaning up known drug sales areas was another common issue expressed by Coordination Committee members and the general public alike. As a result, a Combined Drug Task Force and Joint Law Enforcement Investigative Unit (Jesup Police and Wayne County Sheriff's Department) were created, which has made great strides in reducing the problem. This action implemented both the services sharing/cooperation goal of Intergovernmental Coordination and upgrading public safety service. These are only two of numerous examples throughout the comprehensive plan where community input is directly reflected.

**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.**

The Wayne County Joint Comprehensive Plan Coordination Committee was an active and engaged group of stakeholders based on DCA's recommended list, which reflected a broad cross-section of the Jesup-Wayne County community and included both local leaders and elected officials.

The list of stakeholders (by affiliation) is included in the Community Involvement Appendix of our comprehensive plan, and a more detailed list will be provided upon request.

**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 Jesup has an active, ongoing outreach for soliciting input on planning issues from throughout the community. The City of Jesup in Action group, also known as the A Team, is a group of 25-30 volunteers founded by a first term Jesup City Commissioner in her predominantly African-American district, which is actively engaged in various community events and provides input on local planning related and other issues. The A Team has been involved in district clean-up efforts, the Boys and Girls Club, Downtown Jesup events, and even provided traffic directions to guests downtown during the recent Leadership Georgia visit. The Downtown Development Authority Director maintains an email list of Downtown Merchants with whom she actively communicates concerning downtown issues and activities. The City hosts town hall type meetings, as needed, to provide information and gather input from local citizens on various subjects. Most recently a meeting was held at the Farmers Market to discuss litter, trash pick-up, and related issues. When the City developed its new website several years



ago, a complaint form was included to give the public the chance to comment on its concerns, such as stray dogs, illegal drugs, or whatever. The Mayor, City Manager, and City Commissioners continue to reach out to our local citizens to listen to their ideas and suggestions on an ongoing basis. The City is very responsive to the public, and values its input.

**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 Jesup has a number of active advocates for plan implementation beyond the Mayor, City Manager, and City Commissioners. These include the Jesup DDA Board, Leadership Wayne, the Chamber of Commerce Ambassador's Group, Tourism Board, and civic clubs, such as Rotary, the Exchange Club, and Kiwanis. Within the Kiwanis Club, there is an active Kiwanis 3-2-1 group of younger members, who engage in a minimum of 3 community service hours, 2 social hours, and 1 meeting per month in addition to their regular Kiwanis activities.

## **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 measurable action items included in your work program(s).**

The City's Community Work Program (CWP) does consist of very specific activities and measurable action items designed to address needs and implement the community goals and vision identified in our comprehensive plan. Because of past State concerns about including policy statements and ongoing activities where they should not appear in work programs, we probably went too far to the other extreme, and were too limiting in the specific, concrete items listed. We have already accomplished 11 of the 14 activities listed in our new Community Work Program, including the first 10, and are working on the remainder. As noted earlier, we have accomplished almost all of the previous work program as well. As documented, we have accomplished many activities, noted in the plan as needs or opportunities, to carry out our expressed goals and vision, beyond those listed in the CWP.

**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:**

All of the items in our Community Work Program are important in clearly addressing our local needs and goals to implement our Community Vision as identified in the plan. The items all help improve our infrastructure and quality of life which promote and prepare for enhanced development as a rural leader and growth center respective of our environment and heritage. One or more of the items in our current Community Work Program address the following goals in our comprehensive plan: Public Safety Improvements, Water Infrastructure/Service, Transportation Access/Quality, Quality of Life, Service Sharing/Consolidation, and Industrial Park Improvements.

**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:**

As noted elsewhere, we have already accomplished all but three of the items currently listed on our Community Work Program. This is approximately 80 percent of the total items. Our Report of Accomplishments, which reported on the activities in the previous work program, also showed that we had accomplished the majority of those items, or had them underway. All of the underway items listed in the old Community Work Program have now been accomplished, except the two related to a new industrial park and the Certified Literate Community. These are in progress. Our community does have an excellent track record of accomplishment, and we are not stopping now!

**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 Jesup's capital budget is consistent with, and is designed to implement, our comprehensive plan. The City Manager assures that items contained in the Community Work Program are contained in the appropriate City budget whether funded by general funds, SPLOST, TIA, or grant sources. The City of Jesup's budget process includes department consultation/requests on 1, 5, and 10 year timeframes. These are evaluated both on a staff level and with elected officials during regular work sessions and through the annual retreats. The projects identified in the Community Work Program have been vetted through these processes.

**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.**

The following are ten examples of the plan implementation items identified and carried out to realize comprehensive plan goals/vision delineated under the PlanFirst Application – Section J.

1. Economic development marketing – The plan noted the need to enhance/support/coordinate economic development marketing efforts. As a result, the community has developed a marketing video and campaign titled “Wayne County – Where It All Comes Together.” This video can be seen on YouTube. The Jesup Downtown Development Authority also recently developed a new campaign “Downtown Jesup – The Way to Go” which is utilized in a brochure, street banners, and other marketing efforts. This can be seen on the Jesup DDA Facebook page.
2. Downtown revitalization – The plan focused on the need to revitalize downtown and to maintain it as a functioning economic, social, and governmental center. The City of Jesup supported its Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and the hiring of a full-time DDA executive director. The DDA has been very active and realized much success. Several projects specifically mentioned as needed in the plan, as well as others, have resulted. These include the Whaley Center Rebuild (a DCA Planning Success Story), the Historic Strand Theater, which is now commercially open (see Facebook: “The Historic Strand”), and the Railfan Platform construction. Downtown Jesup is thriving and vibrant as a result, and is continuing to move forward to an even brighter future.

3. New Piggly Wiggly Grocery Store – A common voice of concern both through the public community input and the local plan coordination (steering) committee was the need for another grocery store within the community (only Walmart and Harvey’s were available). This was specifically listed as an economic development need on page 55 of the plan. Because of this, the local governments and the Chamber of Commerce formed a working group and made a concerted effort to make this happen. As a result, a private investor was convinced to open a Piggly Wiggly Grocery Store in late 2016. Better yet, the Piggly Wiggly located in and remodeled a vacant former Winn-Dixie shopping center strip in downtown Jesup. (See Facebook: “Piggly Wiggly of Jesup, GA”)
4. Farmers Market – The re-establishment of a local farmers market to support agriculture in Wayne County and to improve the quality of life was an expressed plan need/opportunity. As a result, the City of Jesup was able to convince the Georgia Department of Agriculture to deed the long abandoned state farmers market to the community. Jesup was able to obtain USDA grants to replace the market’s roof, install ceiling fans, and otherwise improve the facility, and one for marketing promotion. The Wayne County Farmers Market is now open. (See Facebook: “Wayne County Farmers Market”)
5. New Jesup Wastewater Treatment Plant – The continued improvement of wastewater and water infrastructure and services is a continuing goal of our current and previous plans. As a result, the City of Jesup was able to invest in a new 2.5 mgd wastewater treatment plant, and receive community support for SPLOST funding to reduce the amount of utility bill increases necessary to afford the \$12 million facility. During 2016-2017, the City of Jesup was able to invest another \$1.5 million to provide the electricity needs of the new wastewater treatment plant through solar power.
6. Street/Streetscape Improvements – The community was clear in its plan-expressed goals to continue to improve transportation infrastructure and access. The community has been able to make significant progress on TSPLOST projects, particularly the long identified need for a Georgia Hwy 169 Overpass because of the railroad separating much of the growing development areas north and west of Jesup from schools, the hospital, public safety services, and commercial areas within the city. This project (a Regional TIA one), other TIA local projects, gateway improvements (specifically identified in the plan’s CWP), and additional resurfacing and other improvements have been accomplished.
7. Rehabilitate Fire Station 2 – This item is one of a number of public safety improvements accomplished, and is a specific item listed in the new CWP. This station is located on the east side of Jesup along Pine Street. It has four lane highway access and close access to the important railroad overpass on U.S. 301, all especially important for emergency services and public safety until the Georgia Highway 169 Overpass is complete. Although not scheduled to be complete until 2018, it has already been accomplished.
8. Renovate the Boys and Girls Club – This item to renovate the building housing the Boys and Girls Club of the Altamaha Area was a specific need identified under “local quality of life enhancement” goal, and a specific item listed in the new CWP. The Boys and Girls Club enjoys widespread community support, and has been relocated to the old Jesup Elementary campus now owned by the City of Jesup. The community was able to obtain a Community Development Block Grant from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs to complete the renovations and accomplish this project.

9. Combined Drug Task Force Establishment – A common issue brought up by citizens on the Local Plan Coordination (Steering) Committee, and at the well-attended initial public hearing, was the perception that the community had known drug sales areas which were being ignored by law enforcement. The City Manager instructed his police department to not take offense, but rather to take action, and to work together with the Sheriff's Department. The Combined Drug Task Force and Joint Law Enforcement Investigative Unit resulted, and has met with much success in reducing the problem. This item implements the service sharing/cooperation goal of Intergovernmental Coordination identified in the plan, as well as upgrading public safety services.
10. Consolidation of Maintenance Shop/Fuel Depot with County – These are actually two separate items specifically identified in the plan under Intergovernmental Coordination services sharing/consolidation, and in the new CWP. Both of the items have been accomplished as endeavors between the City of Jesup and Wayne County (the Board of Education did not participate). Significant cost savings for maintenance, better and more regular maintenance of vehicles, and greater overall efficiency have resulted. The project has generated much goodwill for further cooperation.

Please attach additional sheets as needed to tell your story. Application should not exceed 20 pages. Application may be electronically transmitted or printed, scanned and emailed to [adriane.wood@dca.ga.gov](mailto:adriane.wood@dca.ga.gov) . For more information, contact Adriane Wood.



New Jesup Wastewater Treatment Plant



Joint City/County Maintenance Service Facility and Joint Fuel Depot



New Vacuum Truck for Jesup Water Department



Georgia Highway 169 Overpass (Regional TIA Project) under construction



Newly renovated Jesup Fire Station #2



Joint City-County Combined Criminal and Drug Task Force Training



New Whaley Center Building,  
Downtown Jesup



Historic Strand Theater,  
Downtown Jesup



New Railfan Platform (Project of Leadership  
Wayne) with Jesup Train Depot in Background



Leadership Georgia Visit (March, 2017) in  
Downtown Jesup



West Cherry Street, Downtown Jesup



New Piggly Wiggly, Cherry Street City Center,  
Downtown Jesup



Jesup Farmers Market with New Roof



School Kids Visit, Jesup Farmers Market



Boys and Girls Club of the Altamaha Area, Old Jesup Elementary



Boys and Girls Club Office (Top) and Greenhouse Constructed as part of CDBG



City of Jesup Train Depot



Jesup Downtown Development Authority New Branding Banquet



*The way to go!*

**Jennifer Reeder, Chairman**  
*Murphy Builders Supply*

**Jerilyn Bennett**  
*Bennett's Jewelry*

**Joe Ierardi**  
*Wayne Memorial Hospital*

**Linda Lockley- Kelly**  
*Retired Educator*

**Rick Peel**  
*Edward Jones Financial Advisor*

**Kim Rozier**  
*Kimberly Anderson Rozier, CPA, PC*

**Debi Smith**  
*United Way of South Georgia*

**Tracy Smith, Secretary/ Treasurer**  
*City of Jesup*

**Maika Kicklighter**  
*Executive Director*

May 10, 2017

Georgia Department of Community Affairs  
PlanFirst Program  
60 Executive Park S  
Atlanta, GA 30329

To Whom it May Concern,

The Jesup Downtown Development Authority (DDA) fully supports the City of Jesup's PlanFirst application.

The DDA has a wonderful working relationship with the City of Jesup and has been able to partner and collaborate on downtown revitalization projects. During the development of the Comprehensive Plan, downtown streetscape, beautification and revitalization projects were stressed in moving our historic district forward.

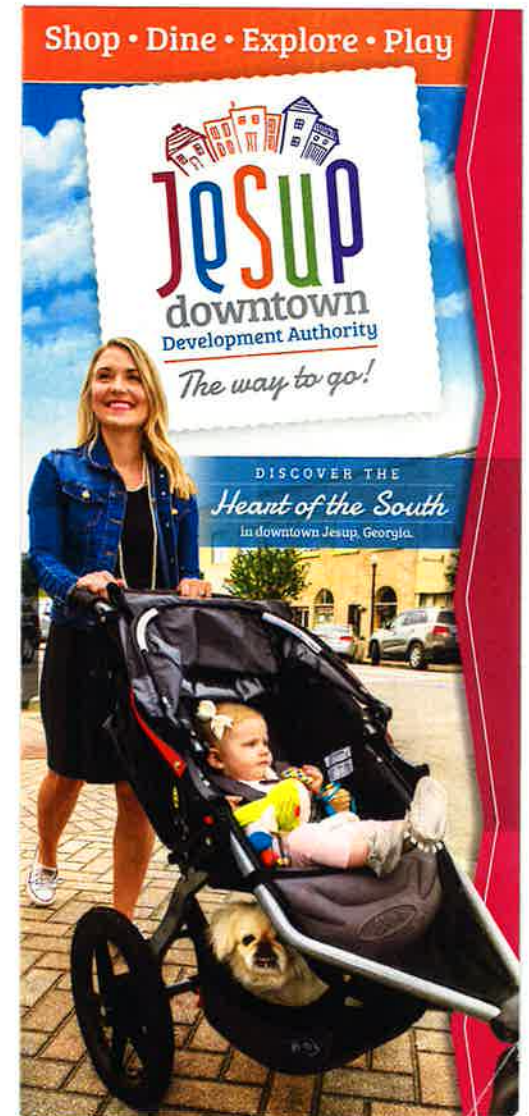
Since the devastating fire in 2014 that burned a block of downtown Jesup, the DDA and City of Jesup have been able to work with the business owners and building owner to develop a two story, 43,000 habitable square foot building that currently houses three doctor's offices, a computer shop, fitness center and pharmacy. The second story has five, top of the line loft apartments available for rent.

The City of Jesup works hard to grow and evolve the community and we are eager to continue working with them as a partner to continue to make Jesup the best place to live, work and play!

Please give the City of Jesup serious consideration when reviewing the PlanFirst applications.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Reeder, Chairman  
Jesup Downtown Development Authority







May 9, 2017

Georgia Department of Community Affairs  
60 Executive Park South, N.E.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30329-2231

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to endorse the request from the City of Jesup for the PlanFirst Designation. In 2015, the Cities of Jesup, Odum, Screven and Wayne County formed a comprehensive plan and since that time, Jesup has completed over 25 projects outlined in the plan.

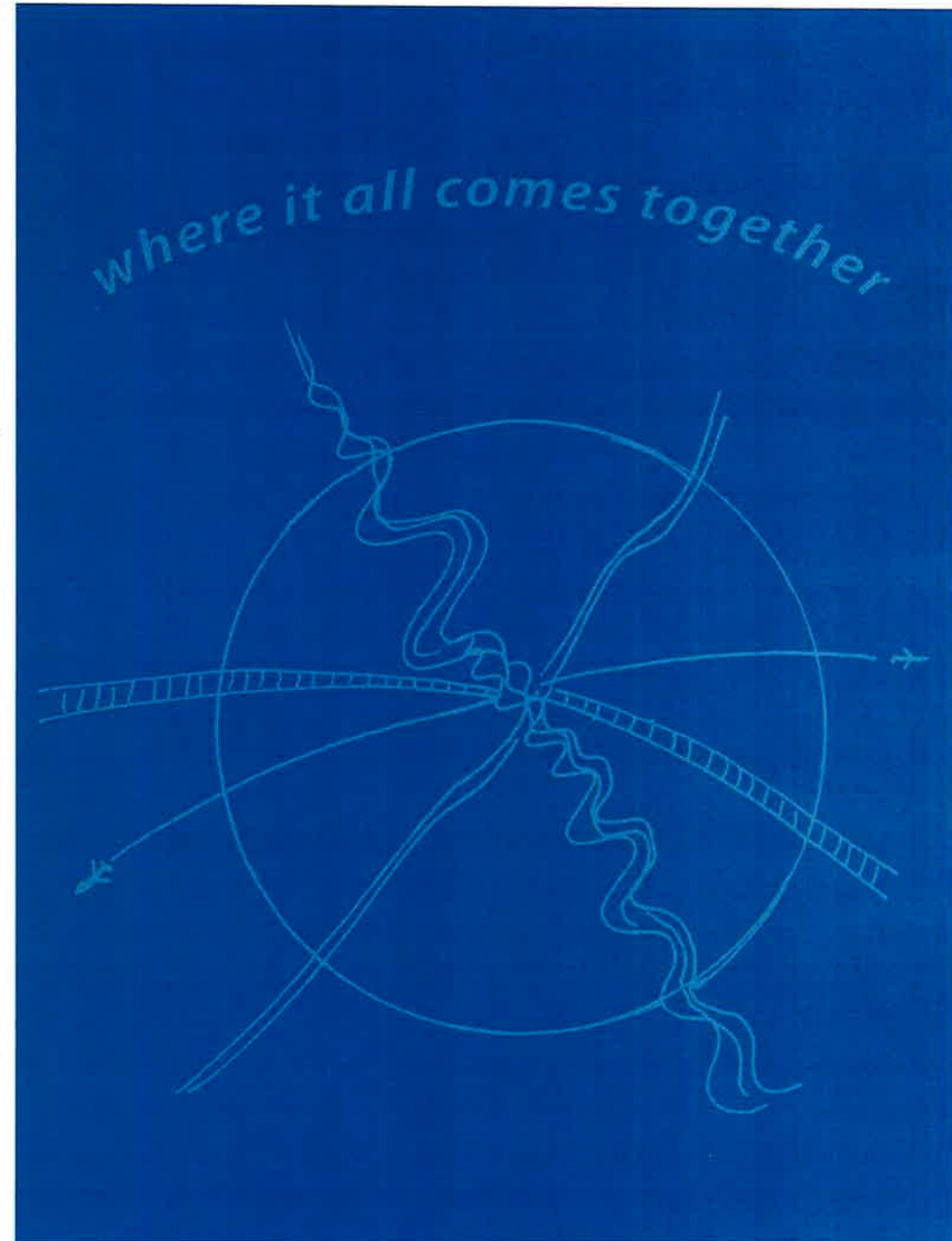
The City of Jesup understands the need for a vision and plans for improvements for our city. We proudly support them and respectfully ask that you give the City of Jesup thorough consideration when selecting the next PlanFirst community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christy Carter".

Christy Carter  
Executive Director  
Wayne County Chamber of Commerce





May 9, 2017

Department of Community Affairs  
60 Executive Park South NE  
Atlanta GA 30329-2231

Re: PlanFirst Program

To whom it may concern:

Wayne County Industrial Development Authority fully supports City of Jesup for the PlanFirst program.

The City of Jesup has an excellent track record for making plans for the future of the city and following up to ensure those plans are carried out. To date, City of Jesup has completed over 25 projects outlined in the county's 2015 comprehensive plan, developed with the Cities of Odum and Screven as well as Wayne County, far surpassing PlanFirst's requirement for only 10 projects.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

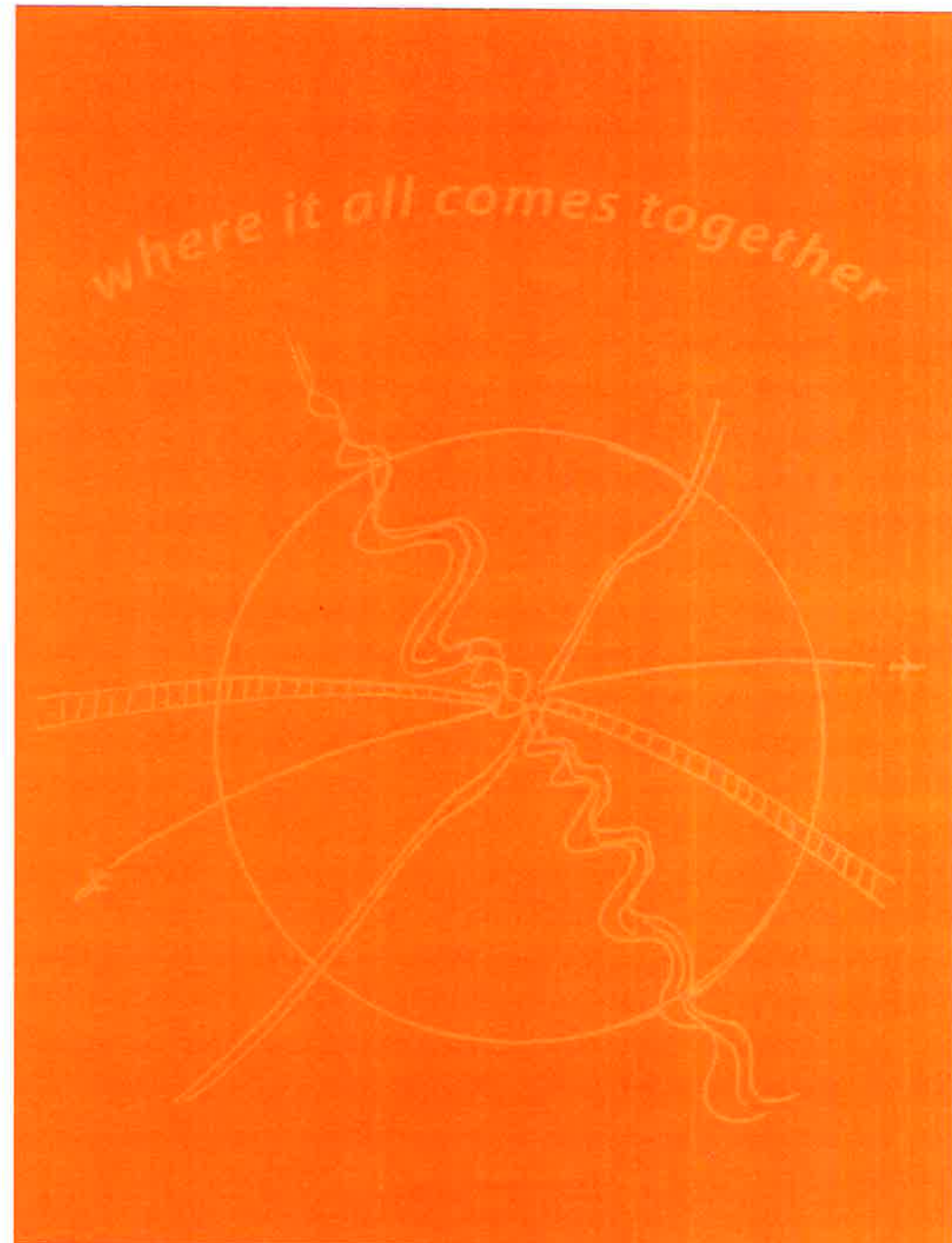
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dell Keith/cbh".

Dell Keith  
Executive Director

JOK/cbh

Wayne County Industrial Development Authority

Post Office Box 513 | Jesup, Georgia 31598 | 912-415-8080 | [connectinwayne.com](http://connectinwayne.com)



County Administrator  
Luther Smart  
County Attorney  
Andy R. Beaver  
County Clerk  
Amanda Hannah



Board of Commissioners  
Herschell Hires  
Jerry Wright  
Mike Roberts  
James Thomas  
Ralph Hickox



May 8, 2017

Georgia Department of Community Affairs  
PlanFirst Program

60 Executive Park S  
Atlanta, GA 30329

To Whom It May Concern:

Following the Joint Comprehensive Plan planning process, Wayne County and the City of Jesup immediately began the consolidation process of combining fuel services and maintenance shops as a cost savings tool for the city and county.

Through constant communication and partnership with the City of Jesup, Wayne County has saved a substantial amount of money through collaboration efforts.

In closing, I would like to express that Wayne County and the City of Jesup have embraced the comprehensive plan and we look forward to continued consolidation and collaboration efforts in years to come. We fully support the City of Jesup's application to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs PlanFirst Program.

Sincerely,

Mike Roberts  
Chairman, Wayne County Commission

May 5, 2017

Georgia Department of Community Affairs  
PlanFirst Program  
60 Executive Park S  
Atlanta, GA 30329

To Whom It May Concern:

During the process of forming the County and City Joint Comprehensive Plan, the City of Jesup and Wayne County law enforcement departments expressed the importance of forming a joint task force to collaborate resources when facing both criminal and drug issues.

Upon completion of the Joint Comprehensive Plan, the two departments immediately began the process of forming a criminal task force and drug task force fully equipped and staffed with the brightest investigators and deputies in the City and County.

In the past six months, the Jesup-Wayne County Task Force have been able to communicate more effectively, streamline man power, and reduced the amount of overtime hours. The task force has opened 463 cases (40 cases were unfounded), closed 274 cases; obtained 228 arrest warrants.

I would like to express that The Wayne County Sheriff's Department and City of Jesup Police Department have incorporated the comprehensive plan into future department plans and we look forward to continued consolidation and collaboration efforts in years to come. We fully support the City of Jesup's application to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs PlanFirst Program.

Sincerely,

Doug Lewis  
Chief Deputy, Jesup-Wayne County Task Force

**MAVAMA, INC.  
P. O. BOX 1073  
JESUP, GA 31598**

BENNETT'S JEWELRY, INC  
PCA PROPERTIES, LLC  
106 SOUTH MACON STREET  
JESUP, GEORGIA 31545

TO: TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN  
FROM: JERILYN BENNETT

May 8, 2017

Georgia Department of Community Affairs  
PlanFirst Program  
60 Executive Park S  
Atlanta, GA 30329

To Whom It May Concern:

During the past three years, the City of Jesup and the Downtown Development Authority have taken the necessary steps following their Joint Comprehensive Plan planning process to move forward with the beautification, promotion and development of the historic downtown area.

After a tragic fire in August 2014, the City of Jesup has worked hand and hand with us during the development and construction of a new 43,000 square foot habitable building. With encouragement and assistance from the City of Jesup and the Downtown Authority, the new building was build with an early 1900's style facade. The new building includes three doctors' offices, a computer shop, a fitness center, a pharmacy and multiple upscale apartments on the second floor.

Through a continued relationship with the City of Jesup and Downtown Authority, we have been able to not only finish the new building, but we have also been able to begin work on the facade of an adjacent building.

In closing, I would like to express that the City of Jesup and Downtown Development Authority have embraced the comprehensive plan to beautify and develop downtown and we look forward to continued collaboration and relationship efforts in years to come. We fully support the City of Jesup's application to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs PlanFirst Program.

Sincerely,

  
Van Williamson, Jr., President

MAVAMA Inc. and Williamson Development Company, Inc.

My husband and I are the owners of 2 businesses in Jesup. We opened our jewelry business in 1999 and we have been buying real estate in Jesup since approximately 2003. Our vision regarding our real estate adventures has always been to buy the buildings in need of work and totally remodel them from top to bottom. We are proud to be business owners in Jesup. The City of Jesup and the Downtown Development Authority are very supportive of business owners in this town. Our downtown is very viable because of this support. There have been so many upgrades in Jesup in the past several years. The downtown businesses had been told that these upgrades were going to be done and the City stood by their promises. Our sidewalks have been redone, some additional parking has been added on one side of our downtown and the beautification of our downtown draws customer support. We also have a beautiful train depot, which draws people from all over surrounding counties.

