

**PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
LOWNDES COUNTY GEORGIA**

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

LOWNDES COUNTY GEORGIA

Prepared under Contract with the
Georgia Department of Industry and Trade

by

VALDOSTA-LOWNDES COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

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Georgia Department of Industry and Trade

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T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

INTRODUCTION 1

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS 4

 Assessed Valuation of Taxable Property 5

 General Obligation Bonded Indebtedness 7

 Future Bonding Capacity 9

 Revenues and Expenditures 11

 General Conclusions 15

SIX YEAR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM 16

 Project Map 20

 Project Cost 21

 Project Descriptions 24

FUTURE PROGRAM 45

 Fourteen Year Projects 46

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS 48



INTRODUCTION

I N T R O D U C T I O N

The purpose of this report is to establish a long term priority schedule of capital improvements for Lowndes County, Georgia, that will serve as a guide for the governing body in preparing their annual budgets. "Capital improvements", for the purpose of this study will be only those items which will cost the County over \$5,000 and have a lasting use of over ten years. Specific recommendations as to order of priority, approximate costs, and scheduled time of acquisition or construction of capital improvements are made for a six (6) year period; and a general schedule for capital improvements is recommended for the succeeding fourteen (14) year period. It is intended that this document should be revised each year to meet new conditions so that it will remain a useful tool to guide the County's capital expenditures.

There are many reasons why a county should be interested in adopting a sound Public Improvements Program. Among them are the following:

1. To assure both public officials and citizens that future county improvements are planned on the basis of real need and the county's ability to pay.

2. To discourage private interest groups from attempting to force special projects at the expense of more essential improvements.
3. To provide a means for anticipating and scheduling major expenditures so that the county can maintain a sound financial standing and a balanced program of bonded indebtedness.
4. To schedule the timing of capital improvements so the county can make the best and most economical use of available personnel and equipment.
5. To make possible a more stable level of annual expenditures for capital improvements.
6. To assure that recommendations for capital improvements described in the county's comprehensive plan can be attained.

This study is divided into three parts. The first part is an analysis of the county's financial structure. This part projects the future assessed valuation of taxable property in the County, thus determining bonding capacity and available future revenues for the County. The amount of general revenues which will be available for capital improvements for the next six (6) years are illustrated.

The second part sets forth a recommended program of capital expenditures each year for the next six (6) years. The projects of this program were related to the findings of the financial analysis in Part I of this study and were determined from interviews with county officials, from interviews with officials of county service agencies, and from the recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan of Lowndes County, Georgia.

The third part recommends a general schedule for county capital expenditures for the succeeding fourteen (14) years. This part does not recommend an exact schedule of improvements for these fourteen (14) years, but simply lists the improvements which at this time can be expected to be needed during this period. It is expected that this third part will be useful for future updating of the six (6) year program and for anticipating the long range needs of the County.



FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

F I N A N C I A L A N A L Y S I S

The following analysis of the Lowndes County financial structure illustrate's its capability to afford the capital improvements scheduled in the six year program. This analysis, based upon past financial records of the County, examines:(1) the assessed valuation of property in the County, (2) the bonded debt of the County, and (3) the past revenues and expenditures of the County. This examination of the financial structure of the County provides a base for forecasting future revenues and expenditures and shows approximately how much the County will be able to afford for future capital improvements.

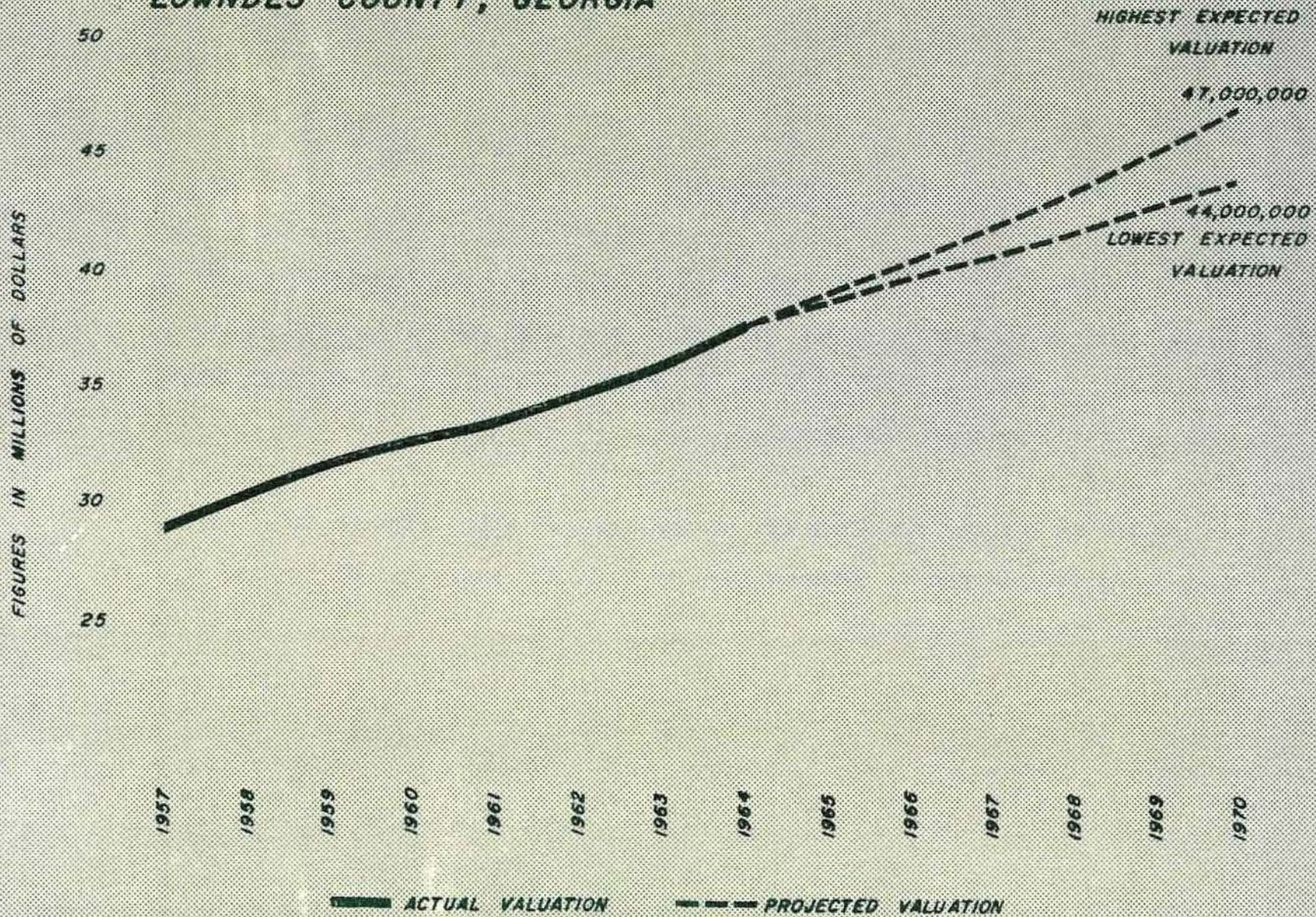
ASSESSED VALUATION OF TAXABLE PROPERTY

The assessed valuation of taxable property in Lowndes County has increased steadily in the last eight years. This increase has averaged about one million dollars a year. In 1962 the rate of increase stepped up, probably due to the influence of the recent opening of Interstate 75. Anticipated increases in the value of this highway should continue to affect the rate of growth of assessed valuation for the next decade.

The graph on the opposite page illustrates the growth in the assessed valuation of property in Lowndes County since 1957, projected to 1970. The projections are based upon the annual rates of growth in the past, taking into consideration the opening of I-75 and its effect on commercial and residential development. It is assumed that this area near I-75 will continue to develop rapidly in the next six (6) years.

Two projections are shown on the graph, one representing a possible high and the other a possible low valuation in 1970. The more conservative estimate is used in revenues forecasted for the six year program in order to assure that the program can be carried out.

ASSESSED VALUATION OF TAXABLE PROPERTY LOWNDES COUNTY, GEORGIA

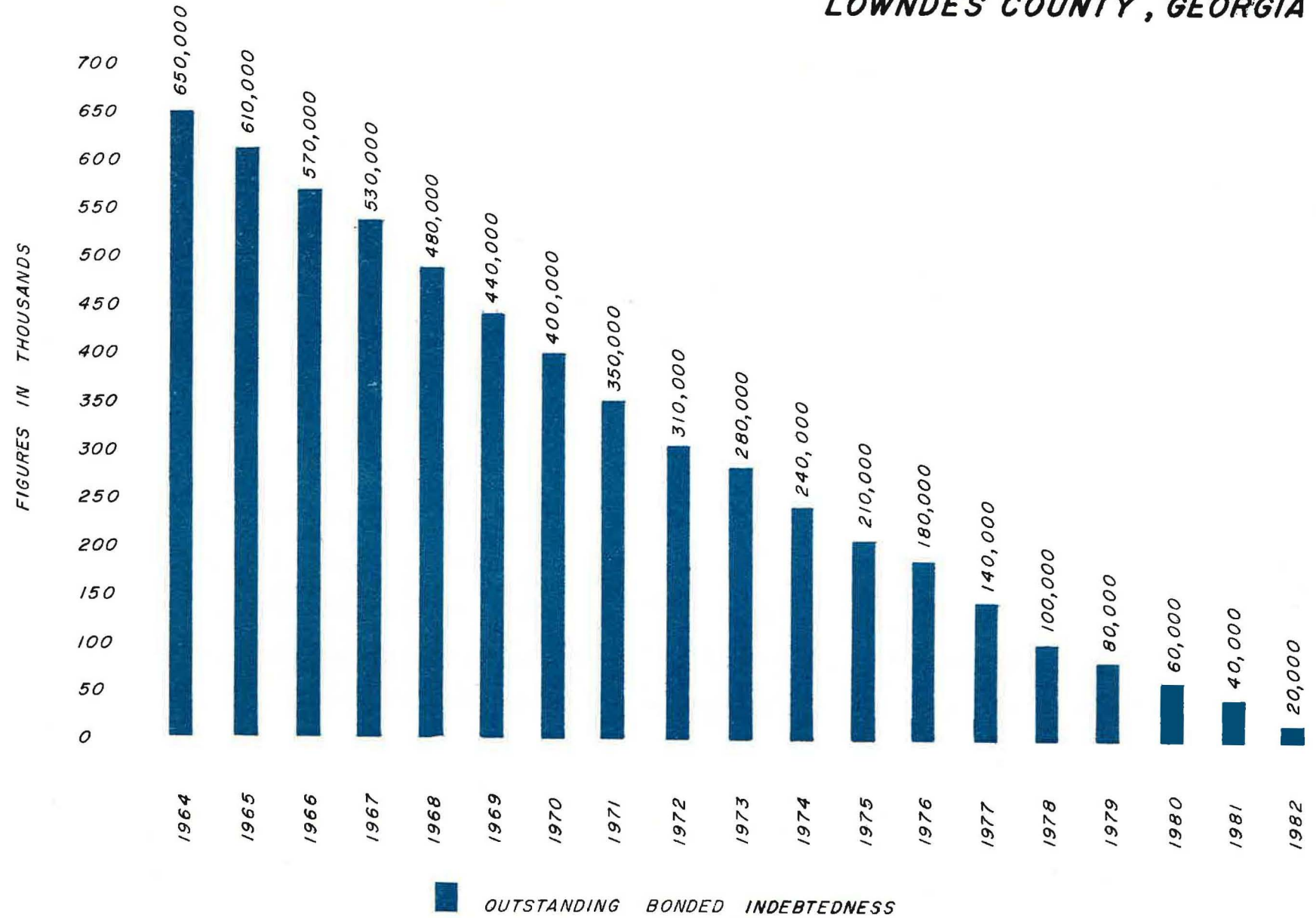


GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDED INDEBTEDNESS

One way to obtain immediate financing of needed capital improvements is to issue general obligation bonds and repay them from annual general revenues. The chart on the right illustrates the amount of current outstanding bonds, and their schedule of repayment.

It should be pointed out that all of the general obligation bonds shown on the chart were issued to finance Lowndes County's share of the cost of Pineview General Hospital.

**GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDED INDEBTEDNESS
LOWNDES COUNTY, GEORGIA**

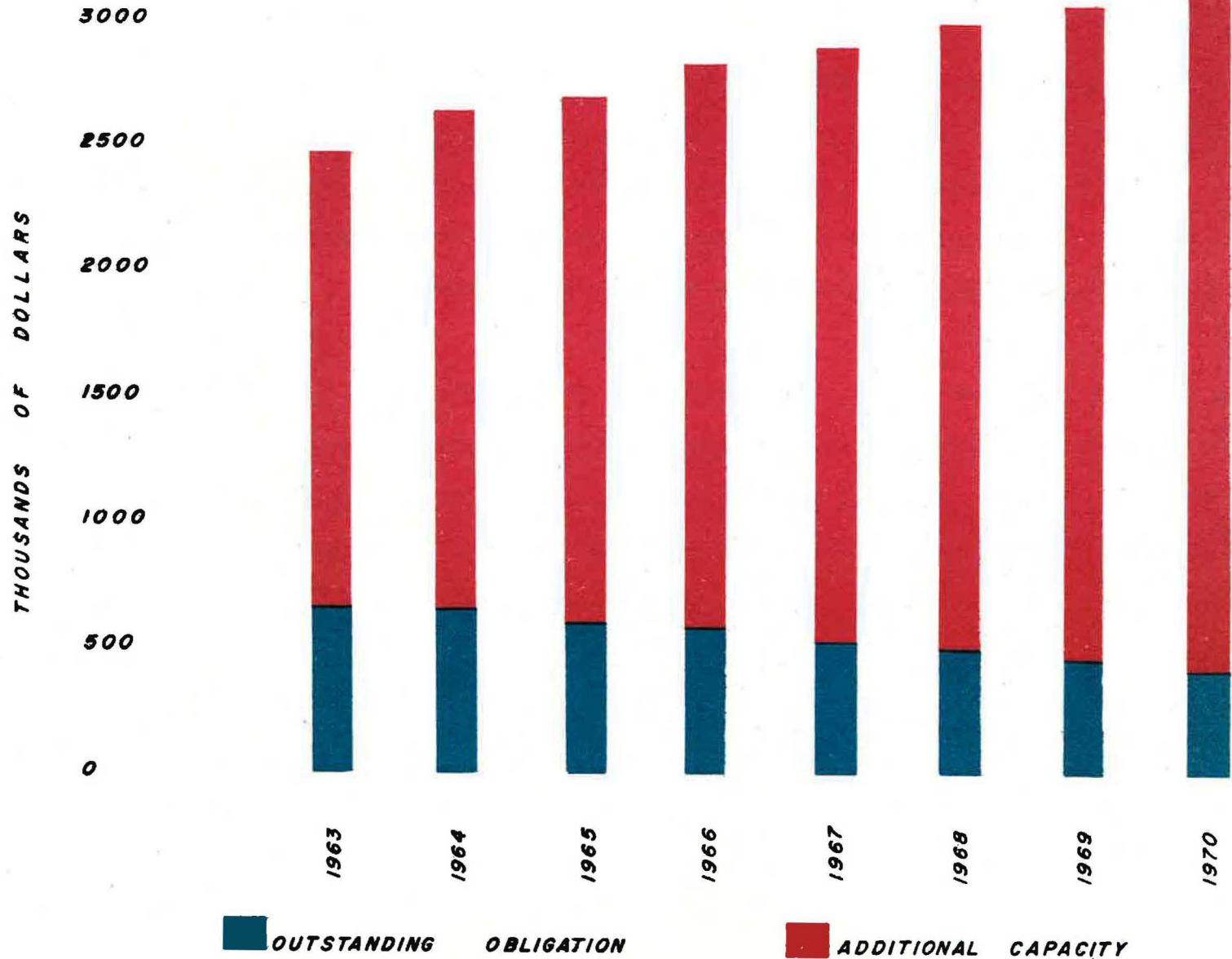


FUTURE BONDING CAPACITY

The graph on the right illustrates the amount of outstanding bond obligation for Lowndes County and the additional bonding capacity of the county with projections to 1970. Comparison of the current outstanding bonded indebtedness (illustrated on the preceeding page) with present and future bonding capacity shows that the county may safely borrow additional money for capital improvements when needed.

Georgia law prohibits a county from issuing bonds to an amount beyond seven percent of its total assessed valuation. This restriction keeps all Georgia's communities well within safe limits of indebtedness since nationally it is generally considered safe to bond in an amount up to ten percent of the total valuation. The reader may notice on the chart that each year the maximum allowable bonding capacity increases. This increase is in proportion to the projected increase in the total assessed valuation of Lowndes County shown on the chart on page 6.

BONDING CAPACITY



REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

The table at the right shows the various sources from which Lowndes County, Georgia, receives its revenue for its general fund (not including school taxes). The table shows the percentage of this total revenue received from each source. These figures were compiled to determine any significant trends toward a change in the County's sources of revenue.

As can be seen from the table, the percentage from each source has remained relatively stable over a four year period and shows no trend toward change. Thus projections made in this study are based upon the assumption that Lowndes County's revenue will continue to be received from the same sources and at about the same proportion.

The percentage of total County expenditures spent on the various County obligations are shown in a like manner. Again, no particular trends are evident to indicate a change in the percentage of the general funds being spent on fulfilling each of the County obligations.

<u>REVENUE SOURCES</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>
Advalorem Tax	87.2%	88.3%	87.3%	87.8%
Intangible Recording Tax	0.6%	1.1%	1.8%	1.6%
Beer and Whiskey Tax	8.1%	8.4%	8.7%	8.5%
Special Licenses	1.3%	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%
Rent	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
Other	2.6%	0.9%	1.0%	1.0%
 <u>EXPENDITURES</u>				
General Administration	22.2%	20.2%	19.0%	21.1%
Build & Repair Public Buildings	0.4%	24.2%	18.3%	5.7%
Courts, Jail and Coroners Expense	10.5%	8.3%	8.3%	7.9%
Build and Maintain Roads and Stockade Expense	33.0%	23.6%	29.6%	35.9%
Public Health	8.6%	3.0%	3.2%	6.7%
County Agricultural Expense	4.5%	4.6%	3.9%	3.5%
Old Age Assistance	12.2%	10.4%	11.3%	13.1%
Forest Fire Protection	1.4%	1.0%	1.3%	0.9%
Medical Care for Indigent	5.8%	3.4%	3.4%	3.9%
Maintain Parks and Library	1.4%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%
Percentage of total Revenue Source and Expenditures				

The graph at the right illustrates past and projected revenues and expenditures of the Lowndes County General Fund for the next six (6) years. The purpose of the projections is to determine what funds will be available in the next six (6) years for, (1) capital improvements, or (2) for retiring future general obligation bonds (that might be issued to finance investments on unusually large capital improvements).

The analysis of County expenditures showed that in 1964 approximately \$660,000 of the general funds were spent on general expenditures (general administration; courts, jails; coroner's expenses; road maintenance; public health; agricultural expense; old age assistance; forest fire protection; medical care for the indigent; and park and library maintenance). Projections of past records and future population showed that by 1970 the cost of these general expenditures will be over \$900,000. After these general expenditures were made there was in 1964 almost \$300,000 available and spent on capital expenditures. Projections of available money for future capital expenditures remains approximately constant, as shown on the graph, at about \$250,000 per year. The six year capital improvements program on the following pages is based upon this projected available source of funds.

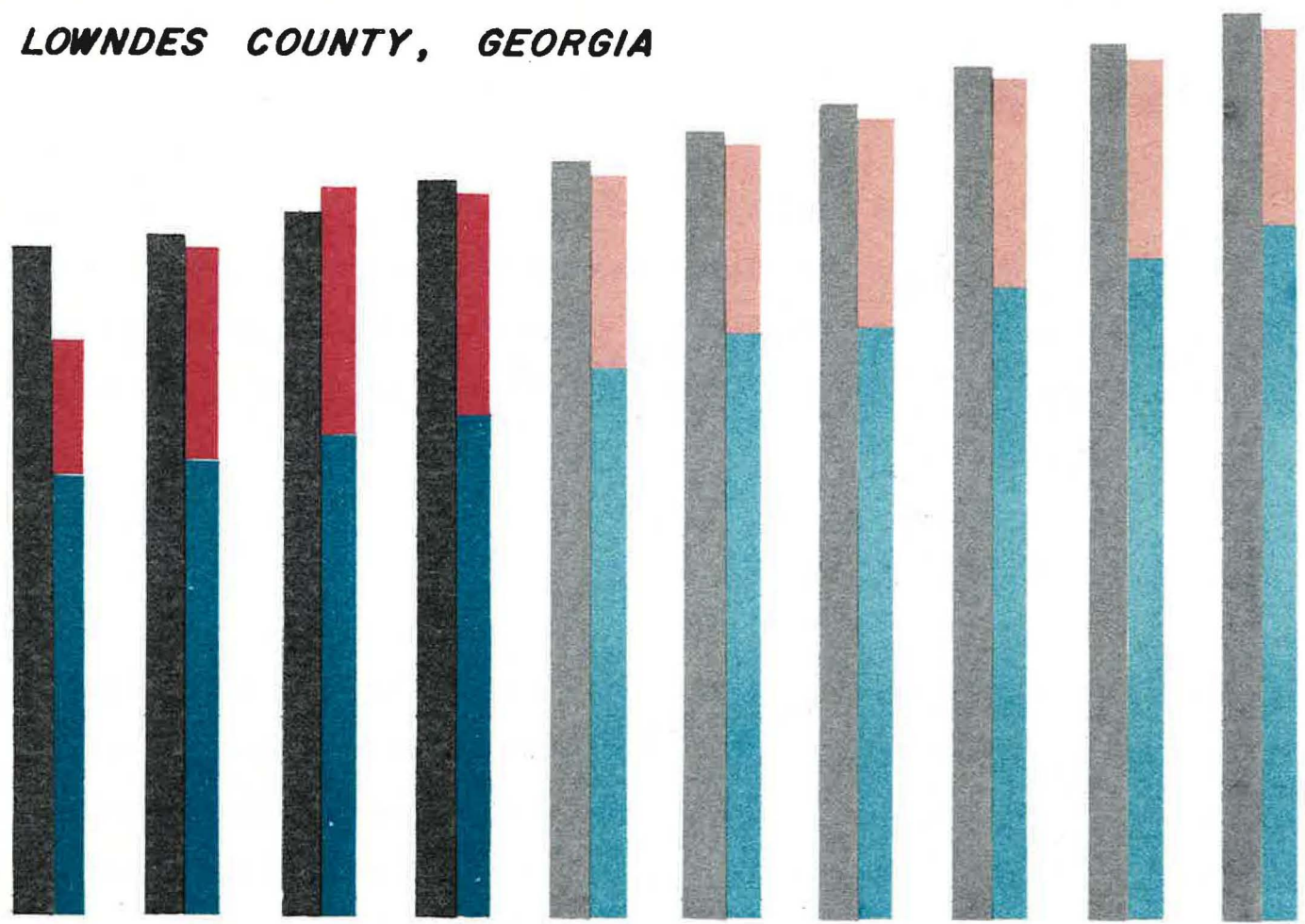
GENERAL FUND

REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

LOWNDES COUNTY, GEORGIA

FIGURES IN HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS

12
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0



REVENUE PAST PROJECTED

GENERAL EXPENDITURES PAST PROJECTED

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES PAST PROJECTED

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

FINANCIAL CONDITION

The overall financial condition of Lowndes County is basically sound. Projected revenues should enable the County to carry out its current operations and still have the necessary funds to fulfill needed public improvements without placing any added tax burden upon the residents of the County.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF REVENUE

The County should be constantly on the lookout for new sources of income such as the recently effected county business license tax and other possible sources which would not place any additional property tax burden upon the general taxpayer. To anticipate rising cost of education and fulfill the responsibilities of the County to its residents, the County may also consider the necessity of property re-evaluation.



**SIX YEAR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM 1965-1971**

SIX YEAR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The following section of this report presents a detailed list of public improvement projects which should be started or carried out within the years of 1965 through 1970. These projects, including road paving projects, recreation projects, additions to present public facilities, and the initiation of county fire protection services are presented with descriptions showing locations, general costs and the year in which the project should be started. The need for these projects and the order in which they are recommended has been based upon such factors as recommendations of the Valdosta-Lowndes County Comprehensive Plan, quantitative need for road improvements and upon recommendations from the various County officials.

Included in the six year program are the following projects:

1. County Road Improvement Projects: In the past four years the county has had an accelerated program for providing paved roads which will serve all parts of the county. In 1962 the Valdosta-Lowndes County Planning Commission prepared a Street and Road Classification Plan included in their Comprehensive plan. They set forth recommendations for roads in the county

which should be widened and paved. This report has included these recommendations into its road improvement priority list. These roads were analyzed as to the amount of traffic using them, school bus routes and other factors that could be used to determine the order by which they would be paved. Each unpaved road in the county was assigned points according to the following three broad factors: (1) Land use factor including number of residences per mile, commercial establishments per mile, schools and churches located along the road, industrial activity along the road and other uses which would generate traffic; (2) School Bus Factor, which is made up of the number of school buses using the road each day and a proposed school bus express route; (3) Future Use Factors including recommendations of the Lowndes County Major Thoroughfare Plan, the expected future volume of traffic, and the immediate critical need for the road.

According to the total number of points assigned to any one complete segment of road, a priority schedule for road paving was developed. The road projects on this schedule which were shown to be most needed were inserted into the Six Year Program in the order of their priority.

2. Recreation Projects: Lowndes County has no improved public recreation areas. There is, however, an abundance of open land, fishing and hunting areas, and other land and water areas which could be used for public recreational purposes if improved. As one public official aptly puts it, there is not even a place for a boy to "wet a hook". The Planning Commission has scheduled in its program of activities for the coming year a Parks and Recreation Study of Valdosta and Lowndes County which will make recommendations as to the exact need of recreational facilities in the order of their priority. This Public Improvements Program, while not specifying all needed facilities and projects and their individual costs, will nevertheless set aside, in anticipation of the findings of the Parks and Recreation Study, funds which can be used for these projects and programs in the coming years.

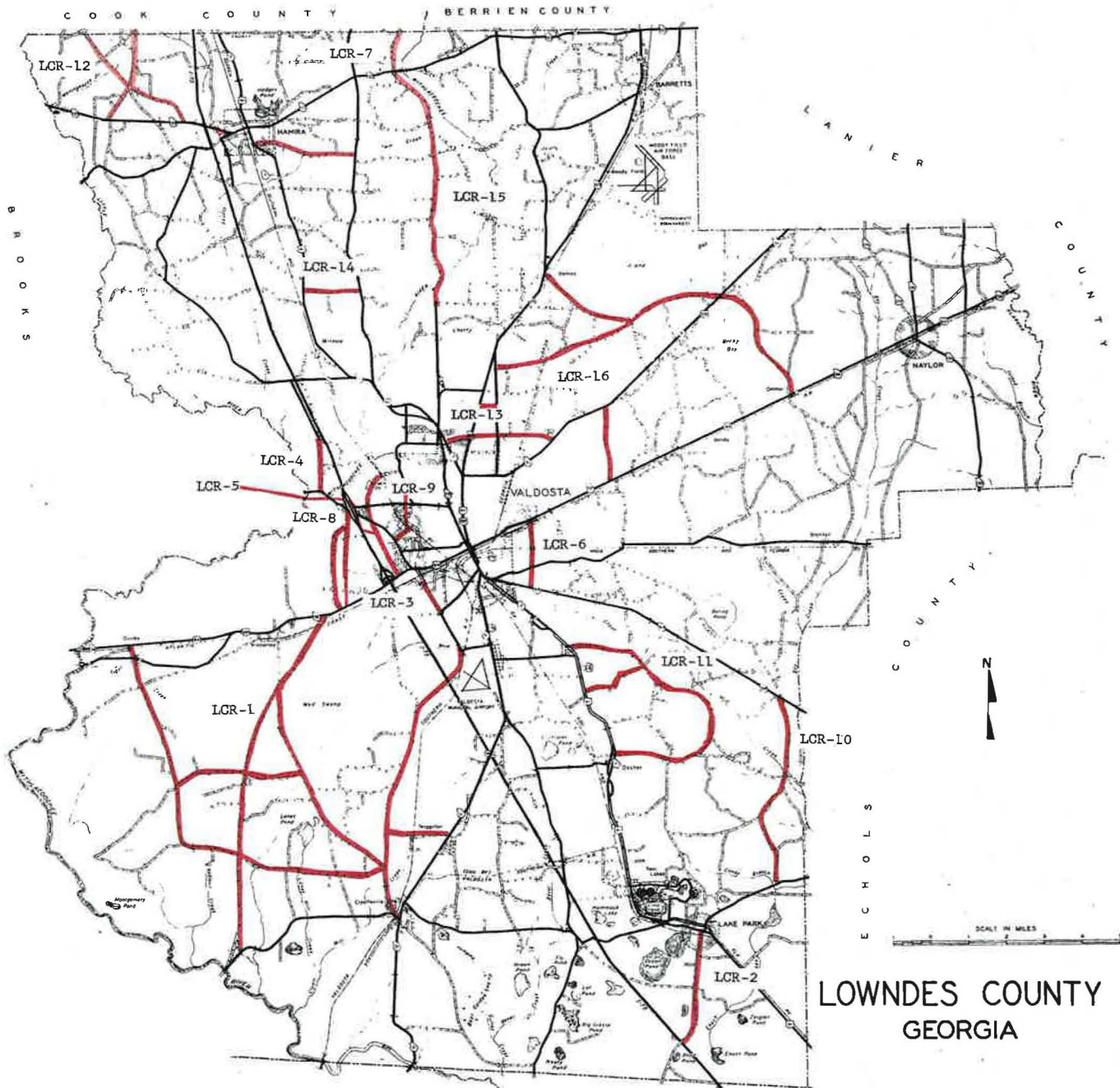
3. County Fire Protection: Due to the rapid population growth of Lowndes County and the areas surrounding Valdosta, an increased need is being felt for adequate fire protection for homes and businesses. Fire protection not only reduces damage to buildings and property but is responsible for saving lives and preventing personal tragedy. Through the assistance of the Valdosta Fire Department, a plan has been developed to provide the County with much needed fire protection. Funds for this have been included

in the six year program.

4. Additions and Improvements for Existing Public Facilities: It has been determined that by 1970 Pineview General Hospital will need an additional eighty beds as well as improved facilities to assure adequate medical service for the area. The County Courthouse, jail and County Office Building will also need some improvements by 1970. The exact cost of these improvements is not available but some funds can be programmed on a basis of past requirements. One current need that has been programmed is parking space for the users of the County Courthouse.

Project Map

The map on the following page has been included in this report for the purpose of identifying the location of the various road projects in the six and the fourteen year public improvements program. The projects of the six year program are numbered in their order of priority. Detailed project maps and descriptions are included in the following pages.



LOWNDES COUNTY
GEORGIA

Project Cost

The tables on the following two pages list the capital improvements projects recommended for the coming six years in the order of their priority as recommended by this study. These tables show the estimated amount of funds required to finance the various projects and the year in which they should be expended. These amounts are only estimates because the exact costs of the various projects depend upon many factors which cannot be determined at this time. The table also shows an estimation of the amount of money which the project would cost the County after the estimated State matching funds have been subtracted. The estimated amount of State matching funds is based upon the amount of State participation in past Lowndes County projects. The table indicates when the financing of a project will require issuance of general obligation bonds.

PROJECT COST

Road Improvements Projects	Miles	Total* Project Cost	Total** Cost To County	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
LCR-1 Rocky Ford Road	7.0	59,500	47,390	47,390					
LCR-2 Lake Park Road	2.9	24,700	19,670	19,670					
LCR-3 Stanley Street	1.4	29,800	24,620	24,620					
LCR-4 Troupville I-75	1.8	38,100	32,770	32,770					
LCR-5 High School Access Road	0.6	25,420	25,420		25,420				
LCR-6 County Road	1.7	36,000	32,200		32,200				
LCR-7 Ga. 122 Cook County Connector	1.0	38,700	29,800		29,800				
LCR-8 James Road	2.8	59,500	59,500		59,500				
LCR-9 Lankford Street	0.6	12,710	12,710		12,710				
LCR-10 Grand Bay Creek Road	2.6	56,700	56,700			56,700			
LCR-11 Hickory Grove Road	9.0	190,000	169,600			102,600	67,000		
LCR-12 Salem Road	3.8	80,700	69,270				69,270		
LCR-13 North Side Drive	2.5	53,000	53,000				31,900	21,100	
LCR-14 North Road	1.5	31,900	31,900					31,900	
LCR-15 Old River Road	1.3	181,100	148,790					99,390	49,400
LCR-16 Naylor Knights Academy Road	5.0	131,750	113,119						113,119
				124,450	159,630	159,300	168,170	152,390	162,519

* Cost figures are only estimated and are subject to change because they do not consider individual features of the specific road project (such as unusual topography, drainage features, right-of-way acquisition and other features which might change the cost.

**The cost figures in this column represent the cost of the project to the County after the estimated State matching funds are subtracted.

PROJECT COST*

Other Projects	Type of Financing	Recommended Six Year County Cost Program					
		1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
County Fire Protection	\$225,000 of General Obligation Bonds	Issued	Repayment 30,000	Repayment 30,000	Repayment 30,000	Repayment 30,000	Repayment 30,000
Southside Recreation Center	General Revenue	20,000					
Public Buildings & Equipment	General Revenue	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Mud Swamp Project	General Revenue	40,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
County High School Parking	General Revenue		11,000				
General Recreation**	General Revenue		10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Valdosta G-B-D Plan Implementation	General Revenue		20,000				
Court House Parking	General Revenue			20,000	28,000		
Civil Defense Emergency Operation Center	General Revenue			20,000			
Pineview Hospital	\$50,000 of General Obligation Bonds						Issued
Totals		70,000	111,000	120,000	108,000	80,000	80,000

* Project costs and State participation are based upon averages and may vary depending upon unforeseeable variations in topography, drainage, and other cost factors. Bond repayment is also estimated based upon average service costs.

**The amount of money set up for General Recreation for the next six years is based upon an estimate of cost needs, in anticipation of the findings of the forthcoming Parks and Recreation Study.

Rocky Ford Road

The Rocky Ford Road paving project is 7.0 miles long. It was begun in 1964. This is a State Aid project (County funds for the project being supplemented with State funds). This road is located on an eighty foot right-of-way with twenty-one feet being paved. Surfacing of this road was delayed in 1964 due to the exceedingly wet conditions, however it is expected that the project will be completed in 1965. This road is part of the County Major Thoroughfare Plan and will be part of the school bus express route.

Lake Park - Bellville Interchange Road

This much needed paving project, connecting the City of Lake Park with Interstate 75, was started in 1964. Much of the grading and draining has been completed. This road, 2.9 miles long has an eighty foot right-of-way and will have a twenty-one foot width of bituminous surface. The Lake Park Road qualifies as a Georgia Secondary System road and State funds are available on a matching basis for this project.

PROJECT NAME

Rocky Ford Road

MILES YEAR PROJECT NO.

7.0 1965 LCR-1

COST DATA

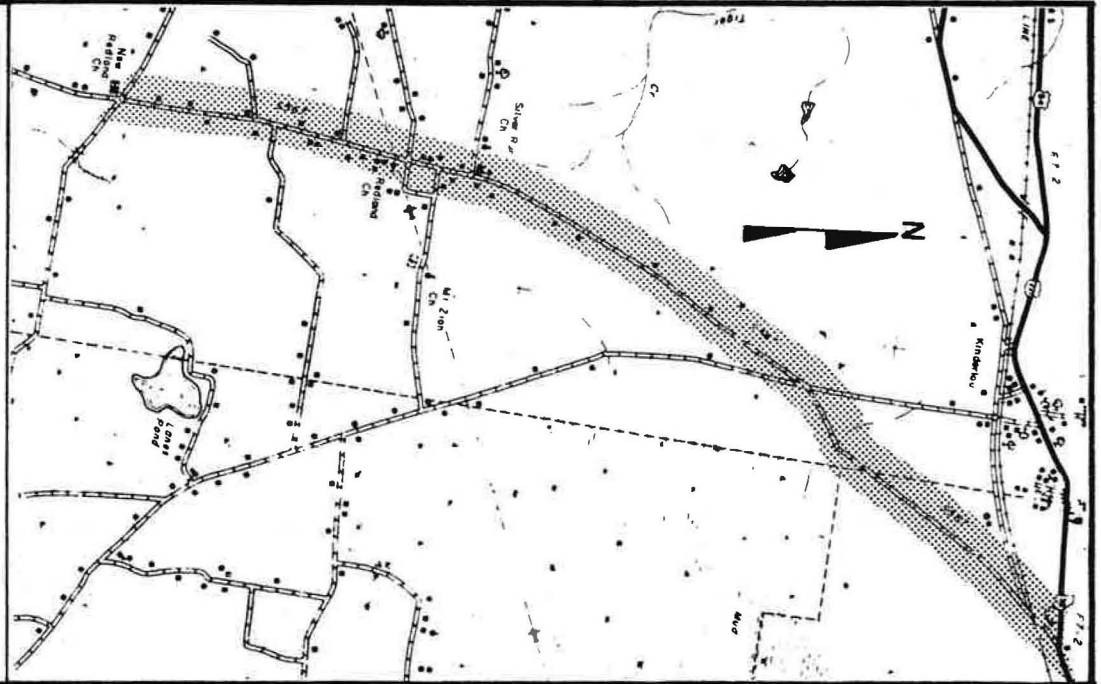
DESCRIPTION TOTAL COUNTY COST

Grading,
Draining &
Grassing Funds expended prior to 1965

Basing 51,800 46,620

Paving 7,700 770

TOTAL 59,500 47,390



PROJECT NAME

Lake Park Road

MILES YEAR PROJECT NO.

2.9 1965 LCR-2

COST DATA

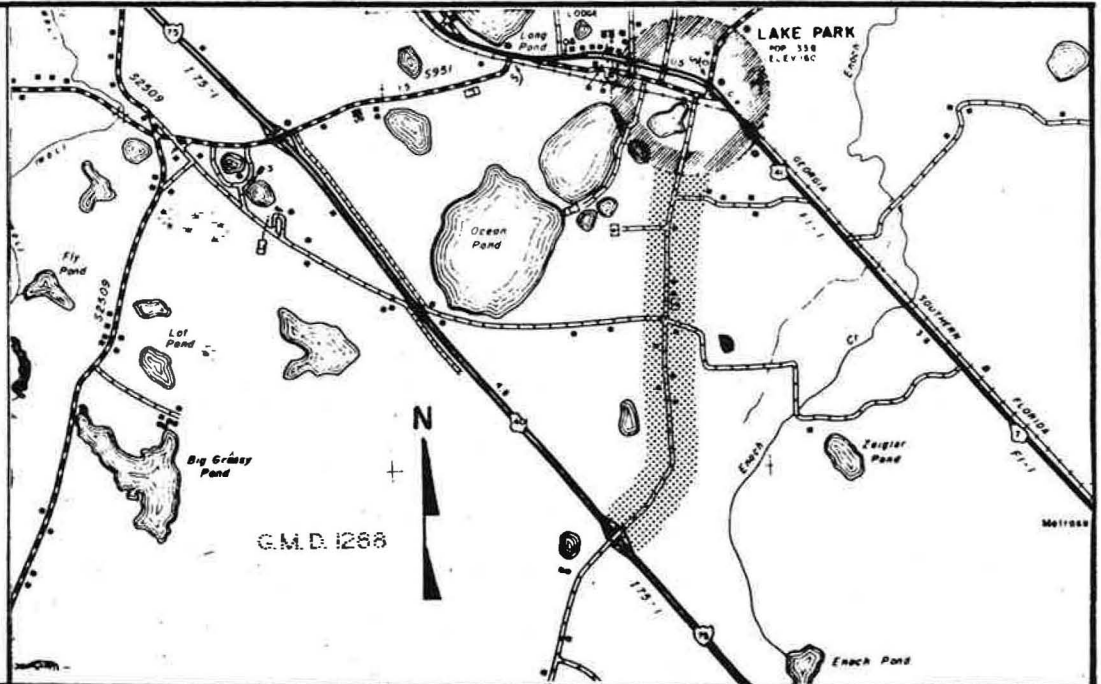
DESCRIPTION TOTAL COST COUNTY COST

Grading,
Draining &
Grassing Funds Expended Prior to 1965

Basing 21,500 19,350

Paving 3,200 320

TOTAL 24,700 19,670



Stanley Street

This 1.4 mile stretch of Stanley Street will connect Georgia 84 and Old Clyatteville Road. It will provide convenient access from I-75 to one of Lowndes County's major industrial parks, to the Valdosta airport, and to the southern part of Valdosta. This project is eligible for State participation and is scheduled for construction in 1965.

Troupville - I-75

This project, 1.8 miles long, will connect the paved portion of the Troupville - I-75 Road running along the I-75 right-of-way, to Georgia Highway 94. This road is eligible for State matching funds to help finance the cost of the project. It will provide access to the Valdosta Area Vocational School and serve as a school bus route from the northwestern section of the County.

PROJECT NAME

Stanley Street

MILES YEAR PROJECT NO.

1.4 1965 LCR-3

COST DATA

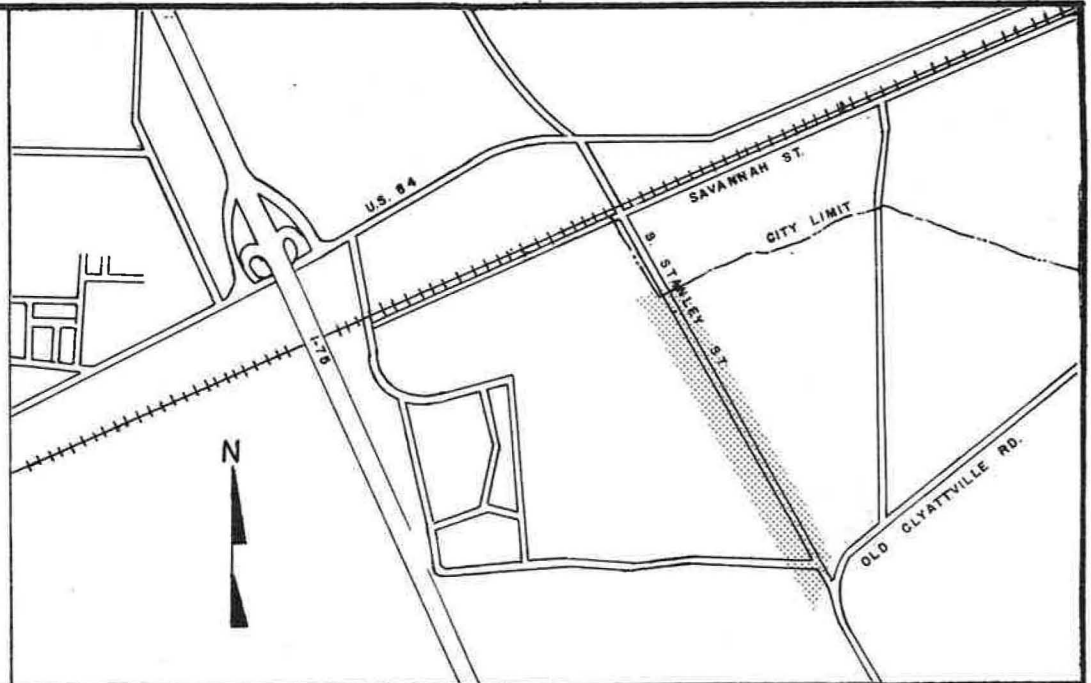
DESCRIPTION TOTAL COST COUNTY COST

Grading,
Draining &
Grassing 17,900 16,110

Basing 10,400 8,360

Paving 1,500 150

TOTAL 29,800 24,620



PROJECT NAME

Troupville - I-75 Road

MILES YEAR PROJECT NO.

1.8 1965 LCR-4

COST DATA

DESCRIPTION TOTAL COST COUNTY COST

Grading,
Draining &
Grassing 22,900 20,610

Basing 13,300 11,970

Paving 1,900 190

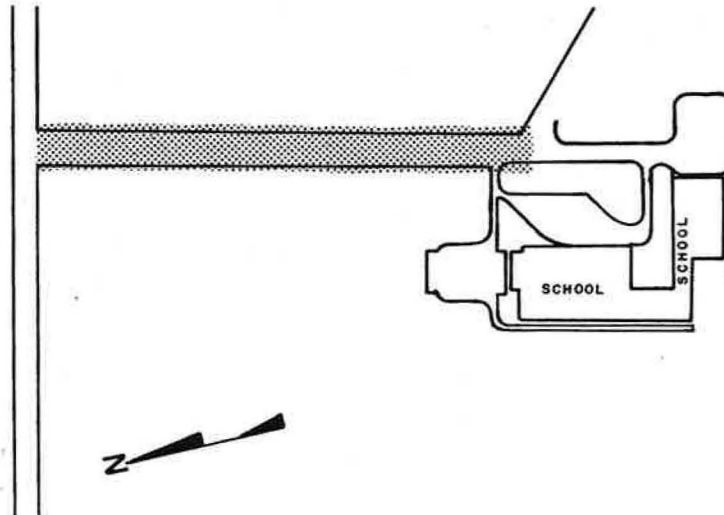
TOTAL 38,100 32,770



PROJECT NAME

School Access Road

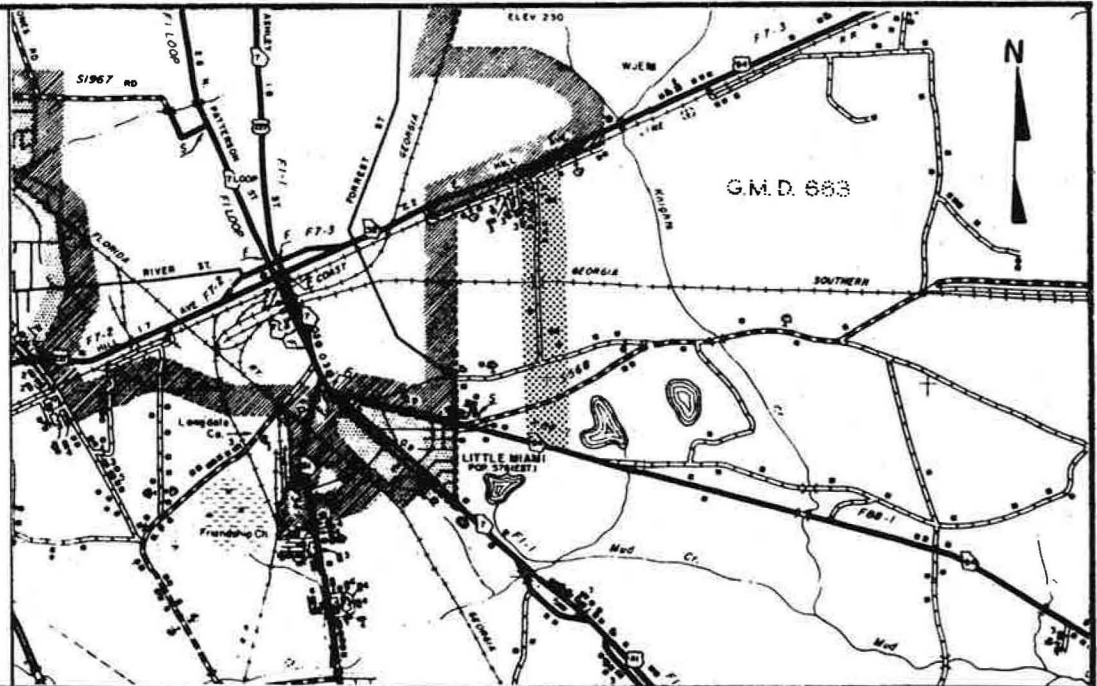
MILES	YEAR	PROJECT NO.
0.6	1966	LCR-5
COST DATA		
DESCRIPTION	TOTAL COST	COUNTY COST
Grading, Draining & Grassing	15,300	15,300
Basing	8,800	8,800
Paving	1,320	1,320
TOATL	25,420	25,420



PROJECT NAME

County Road

MILES	YEAR	PROJECT NO.
1.7	1966	LCR-6
COST DATA		
DESCRIPTION	TOTAL COST	COUNTY COST
Grading, Draining & Grassing	21,700	19,500
Basing	12,500	12,500
Paving	1,800	200
TOTAL	36,000	32,200



Ga. 122 - Cook County Connector

This project, only one mile in length, contains two bridges and will connect Georgia Highway 122 with a paved road in Cook County leading to Adel. This road connects to Old River Road, thus providing a direct route into Valdosta.

James Road

The paving of this road will provide a much improved access to West Side High School and a needed route between Georgia 94 and U.S. 84. The right-of-way should be eighty feet wide with a twenty-two foot wide bituminous surface. It will also serve as part of the County Major Thoroughfare System.

PROJECT NAME

Georgia 122 - Cook County Connector

MILES YEAR PROJECT NO.

1.0 1966 LCR-7

COST DATA

DESCRIPTION TOTAL COST COUNTY COST

Grading,
Draining &

Grassing 13,800 12,400

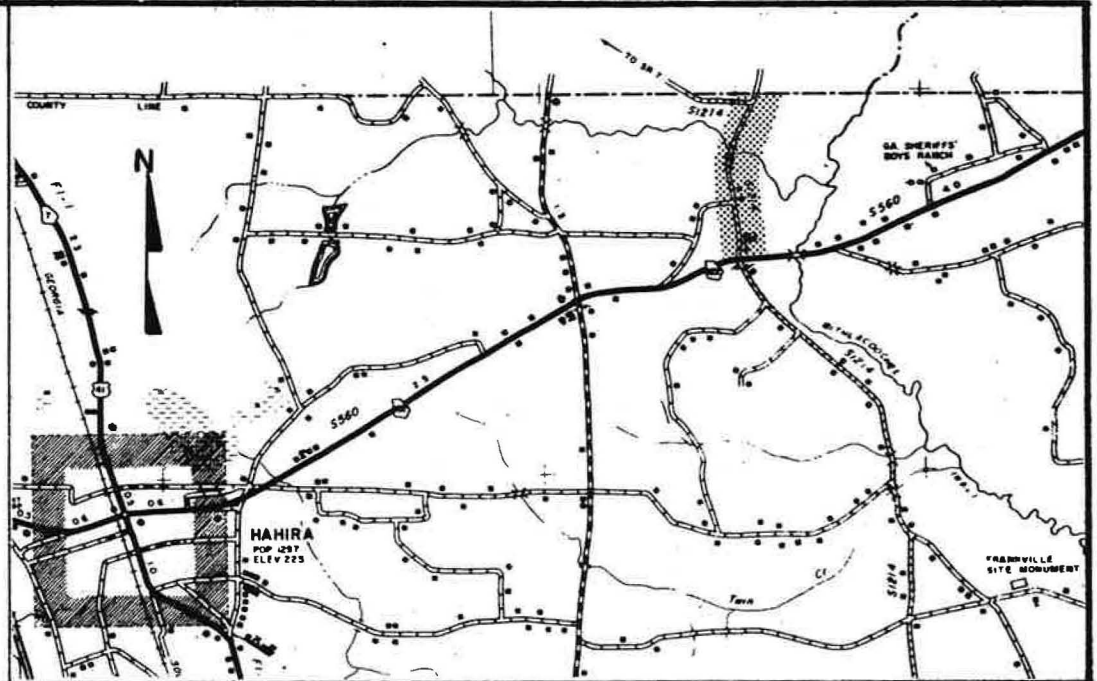
Basing 7,300 7,300

Paving 1,100 200

Bridge 9,000 5,400

7,500 4,500

TOTAL 38,700 29,800



PROJECT NAME

James Road

MILES YEAR PROJECT NO.

2.8 1966 LCR- 8

COST DATA

DESCRIPTION TOTAL COST COUNTY COST

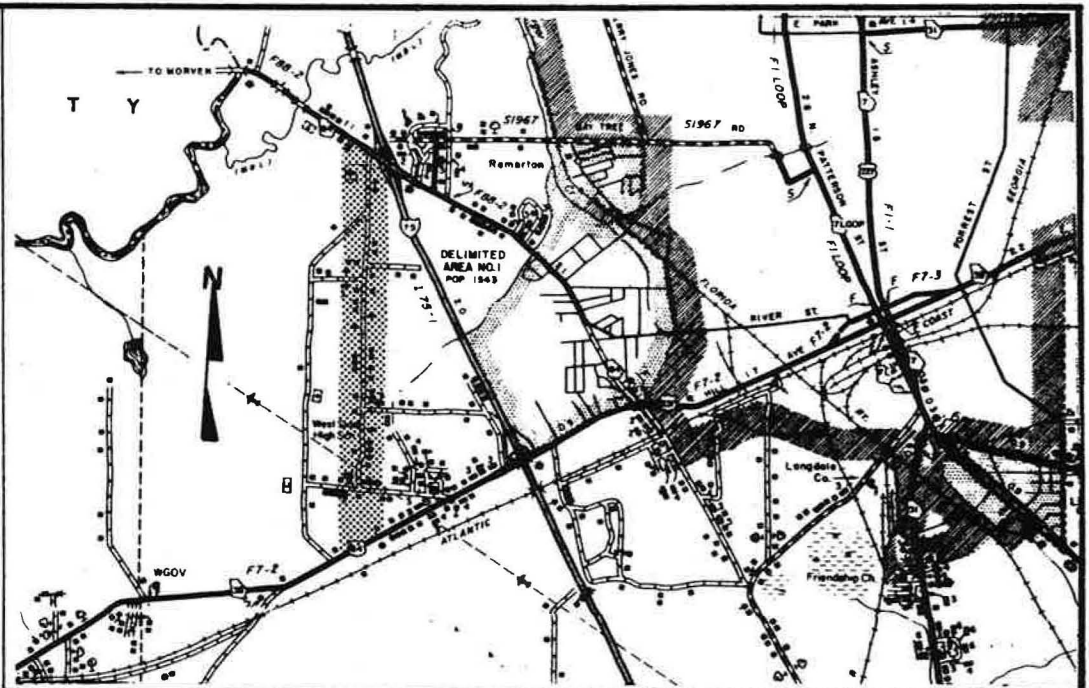
Grading,
Draining &

Grassing 35,700 35,700

Basing 20,700 20,700

Paving 3,100 3,100

TOTAL 59,500 59,500



Lankford Street

The Lankford Street project, six tenths of a mile long, will provide the Parker Mathis School with a paved access route and will also provide a connector from St. Augustine Street, (Georgia 94), to Gordon Street in the City of Valdosta. This street is designated as a secondary street in the Major Thoroughfare Plan.

Grand Bay Creek Road

Surfacing this 2.2 mile stretch of the Grand Bay Creek Road will be the first step towards paving this route between Lake Park and Georgia 94. It will provide a needed connector route on this side of the County, as called for in the Major Thoroughfare Plan. This road should have an eighty foot right-of-way and a twenty-one foot wide bituminous surface.

PROJECT NAME

Lankford Street

MILES YEAR PROJECT NO.

0.6 1966 LCR-9

COST DATA

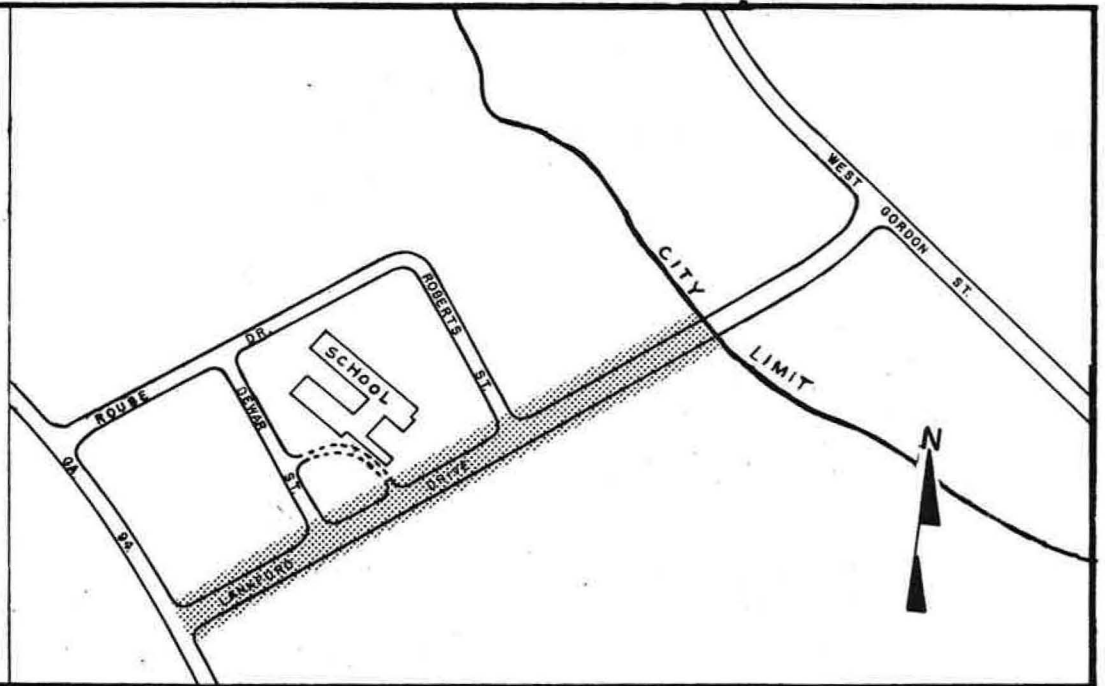
DESCRIPTION TOTAL COST COUNTY COST

Grading,
Draining &
Grassing 7,650 7,650

Basing 4,400 4,400

Paving 660 660

TOTAL 12,710 12,710



PROJECT NAME

Grand Bay Creek Road

MILES YEAR PROJECT NO.

2.2 1967 LCR-10

COST DATA

DESCRIPTION TOTAL COST COUNTY COST

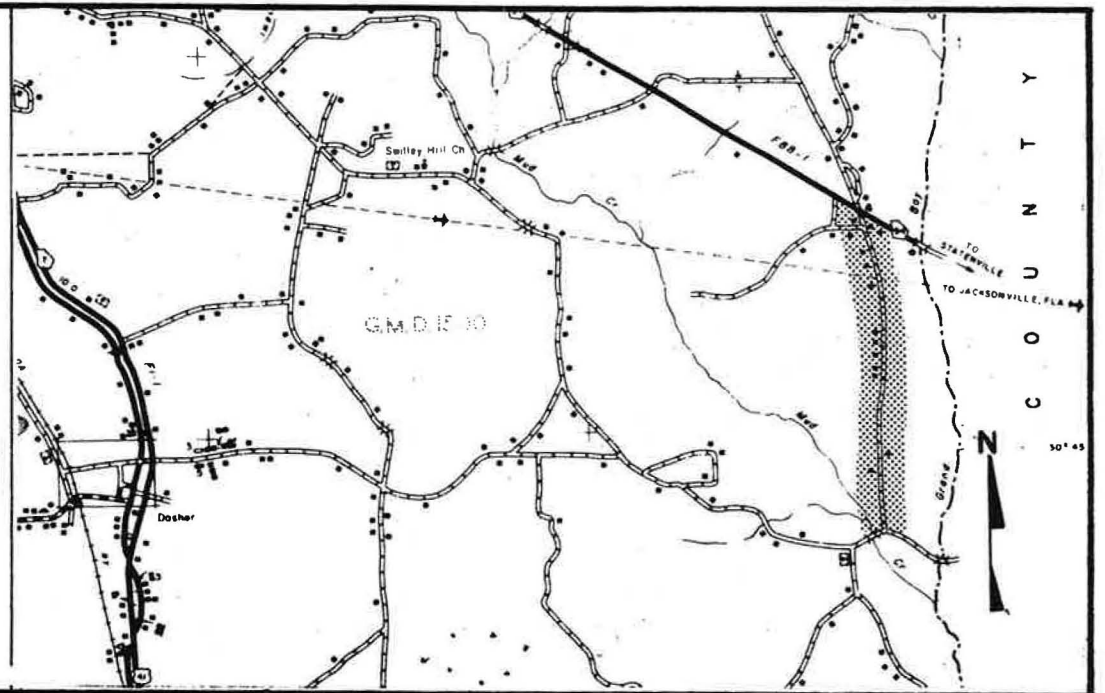
Grading,
Draining &
Grassing 28,000 28,000

Basing 16,300 16,300

Paving 2,400 2,400

Bridge 10,000 10,000

TOTAL 56,700 56,700



Hickory Grove Road

This road serves a highly populated area in the southwestern part of the County. It also serves as a main school bus route for this area. The project calls for twenty-one feet of paving and eighty feet of right-of-way.

Salem Road

This project, part of the Georgia Secondary System, is 3.8 miles long. It will have an eighty foot right-of-way and a twenty-one foot wide bituminous surface. It will serve the heavily populated northwestern corner of the County. This road will be surfaced from the Cook-Lowndes County line to Georgia 22, just outside of Hahira.

PROJECT NAME

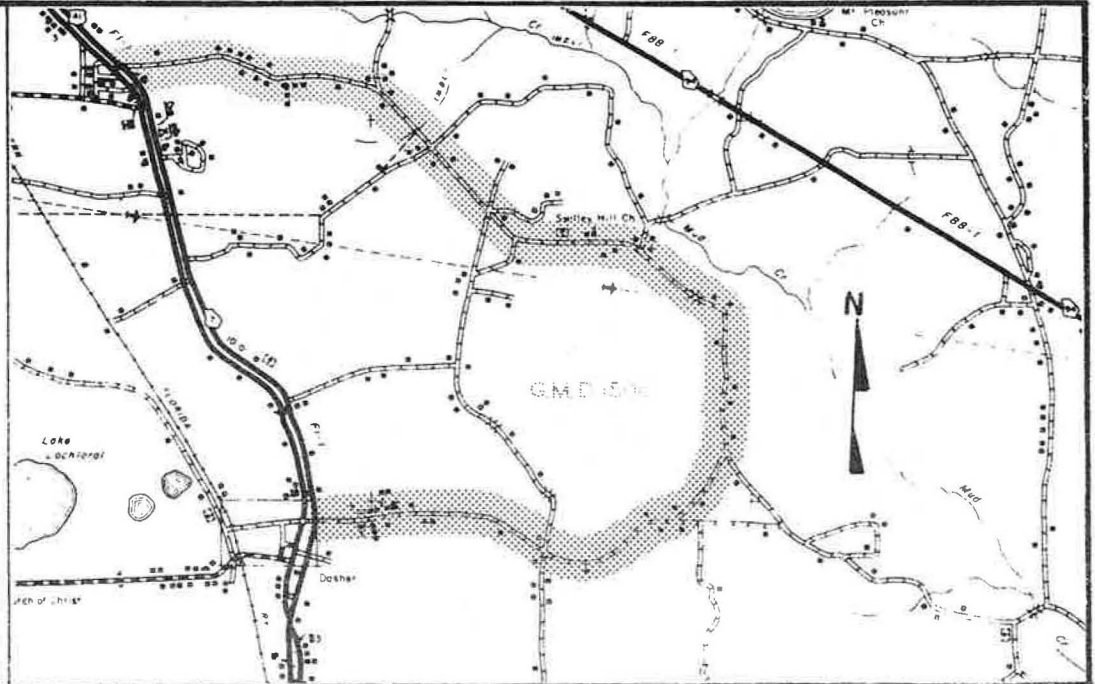
Hickory Grove Road

MILES YEAR PROJECT NO.

9.0 1967-68 LCR-11

COST DATA

DESCRIPTION	TOTAL COST	COUNTY COST
Grading, Draining & Grassing	11,400	102,600
Basing	66,100	66,100
Paving	9,900	900
TOTAL	190,000	169,600



PROJECT NAME

Salem Road

MILES YEAR PROJECT NO.

3.8 1968 LCR-12

COST DATA

DESCRIPTION	TOTAL COST	COUNTY COST
Grading, Draining & Grassing	48,500	43,650
Basing	28,000	25,200
Paving	4,200	420
TOTAL	80,700	69,270



Northside Drive Extension

This 1.9 mile extension of Northside Drive (Eager Road) will complete the Major Thoroughfare Plan's proposed northern circumferential route around Valdosta. The right-of-way for this route should be wide enough to allow for future expansion of driving lanes because of anticipated heavy traffic. The surface width at this time should be at least twenty-one feet.

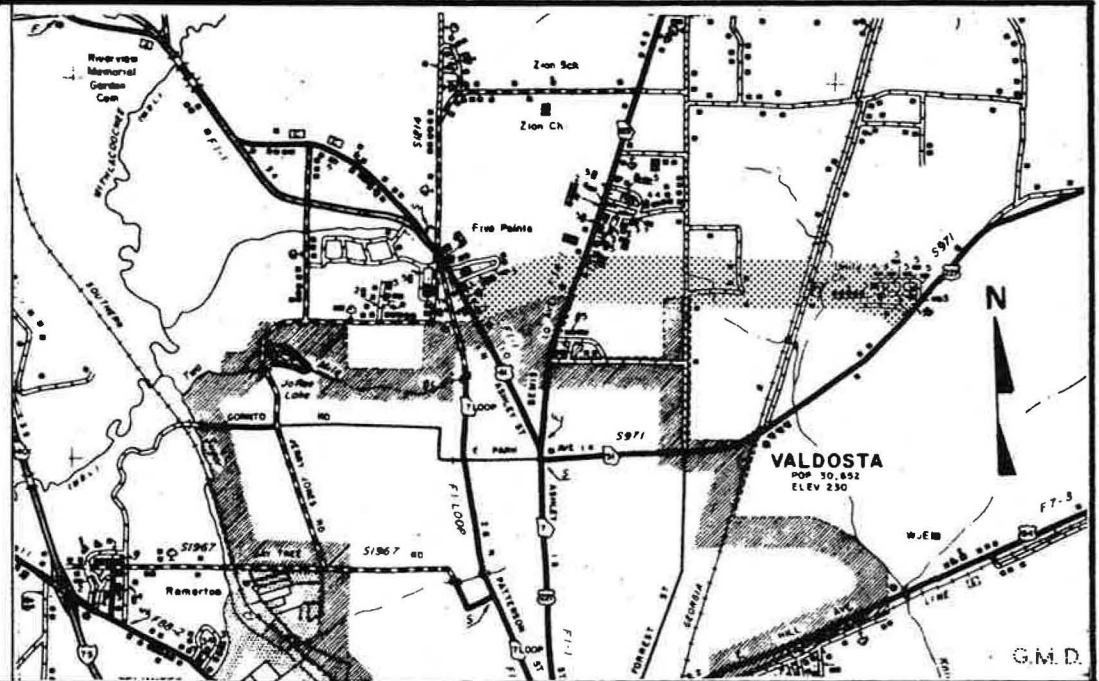
North Road

The surfacing of this road will provide school buses with a dependable year round route. The paving length is 1.5 miles long, needing an eighty foot right-of-way and a twenty-one foot bituminous surface. The paving of this road will be a part of the County Major Thoroughfare Plan.

PROJECT NAME

Northside Drive

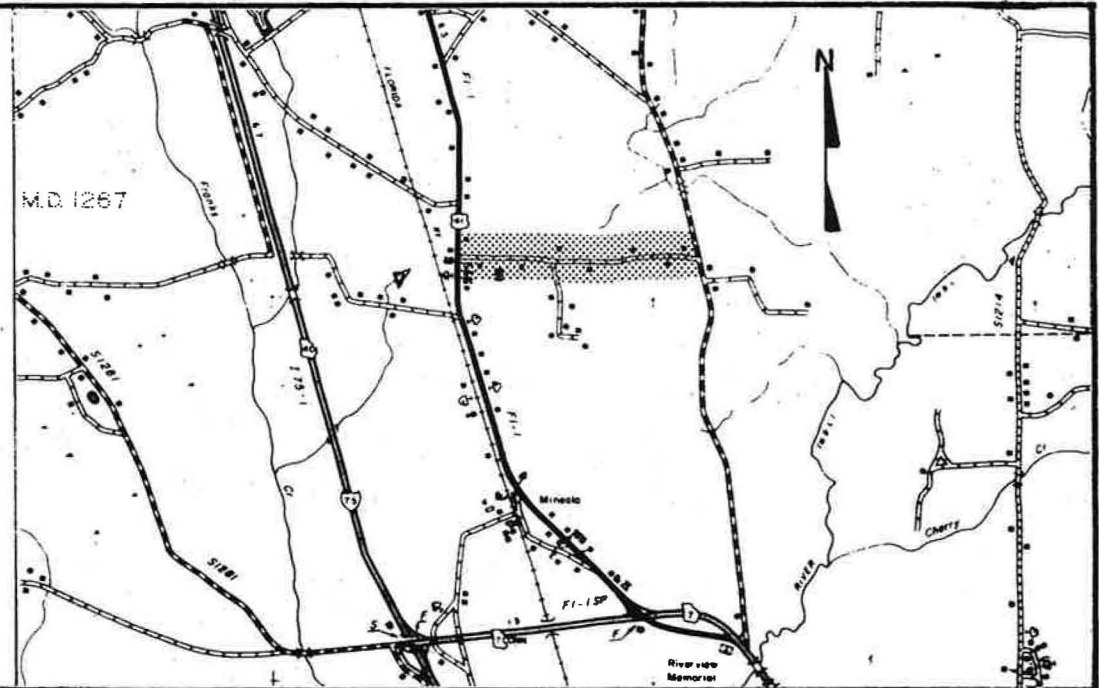
MILES	YEAR	PROJECT NO.
2.5	1969	LCR-13
COST DATA		
DESCRIPTION	TOTAL COST	COUNTY COST
Grading, Draining & Grassing	31,900	31,900
Basing	18,400	18,400
Paving	2,700	2,700
TOTAL	53,000	53,000



PROJECT NAME

North Road

MILES	YEAR	PROJECT NO.
1.5	1969	LCR-14
COST DATA		
DESCRIPTION	TOTAL COST	COUNTY COST
Grading, Draining & Grassing	19,100	19,100
Basing	11,100	11,100
Paving	1,700	1,700
TOTAL	31,900	31,900



Old River Road

This 7.3 mile project will extend Oak Street northward to Georgia 122 and will provide direct access to a paved road in Cook County. Qualifying as a State Aid Road, this road should have an eighty foot right-of-way and a twenty-one foot wide bituminous surface. The cost of this project will be shared between the County and the State.

Naylor - Knights Academy Road

This project will provide a much needed connector road between Georgia 125 and U.S. 221, as proposed in the Major Thoroughfare Plan. It is also a major school bus route. The right-of-way will be eighty feet wide with a twenty-one foot wide bituminous surface.

PROJECT NAME

Old River Road

MILES YEAR PROJECT NO.

7.3 1969 LCR-15

COST DATA

DESCRIPTION TOTAL COST COUNTY COST

Grading,
Draining &
Grassing 93,100 83,790

Basing 54,000 48,600

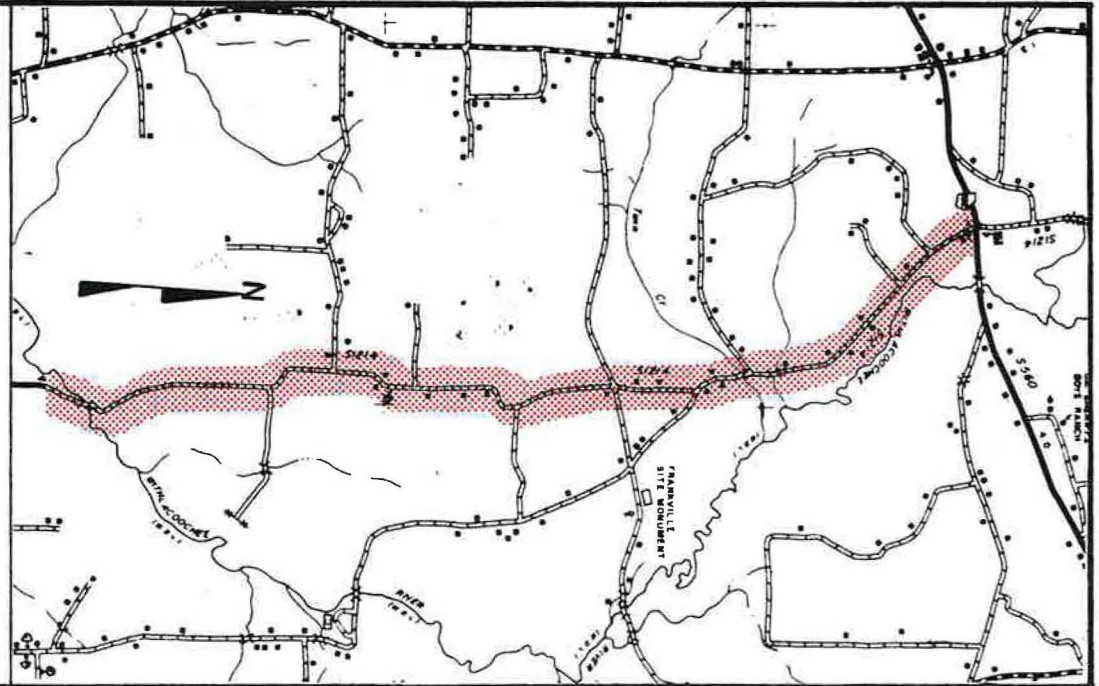
Paving 8,000 800

Bridges 17,000 15,600

4,500

4,500

TOTAL 181,100 148,790



PROJECT NAME

Naylor-Knights Academy Road

MILES YEAR PROJECT NO.

6.2 1970 LCR-16

COST DATA

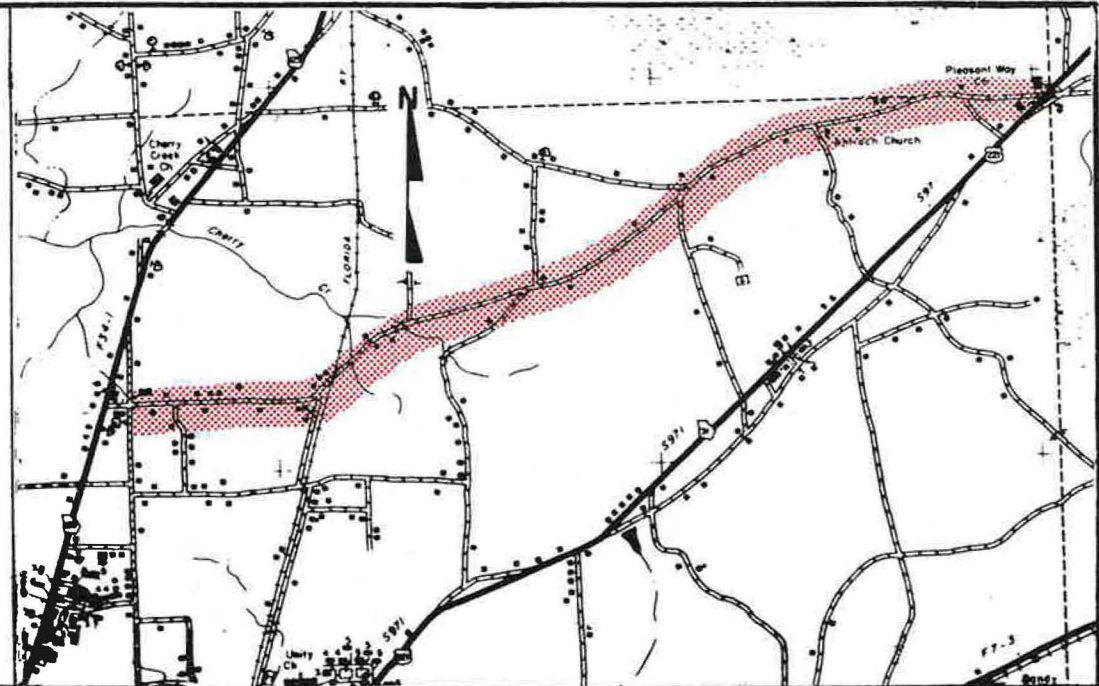
DESCRIPTION TOTAL COST COUNTY COST

Grading,
Draining &
Grassing 79,050 71,145

Basing 45,880 41,292

Paving 6,820 682

TOTAL 131,750 113,119



County Fire Protection

Due to the County's rapid rate of urbanization, the need for County fire protection is becoming increasingly more urgent. The County Commissioners and the Chief of the Valdosta Fire Department have developed a plan for cooperative City-County fire protection. Special State enabling legislation will be necessary to allow implementation of this plan. The plan would utilize volunteer as well as professional firemen and proposes five new County fire stations. Funds for this project would be obtained from a special tax levy. Immediate capital outlay would be financed by general obligation bonds and re-paid from this special tax. Savings in fire insurance rates would off-set additional taxes paid by the County residents.

Southside Recreation Center

The residents of the southern section of the City of Valdosta have developed a program to build a recreation center including a swimming pool for its youth. The County and the City have agreed to pay for part of the cost of this project, matching their funds with funds raised by citizen groups. Besides the swimming pool this center will provide space for indoor recreation.

Public Buildings and Equipment

Each year the County has to replace some expensive equipment necessary to carry out its functions. Also, Public buildings will need some major repairs or additions during the coming six years. The amount shown in the Project Cost Schedule has been set up to pay for this type of expenditure.

Mud Swamp Project

The Mud Swamp Project recommended in the Southeast River Basin Study will provide Lowndes County with a much needed recreation area. This project, through water level control of the Mud Swamp, will provide fishing, picnicking, and the enjoyment of wildlife in its natural habitat much like the Okefenokee Swamp Park area. It will be a valuable tourist attraction and will bring more tourist revenues into the County. The Federal government would share greatly in the cost of this project. However, Lowndes County will have to initiate action towards the implementation of this project.

County High School Parking

The County has the responsibility for surfacing a parking area at the new County High School presently under construction. This area will provide parking space for faculty, school buses, students, and other users of the school.

General Recreation

Lowndes County is presently deficient in public recreation facilities. The County has had a rapid population growth in the past fifteen years and can expect even more growth in the near future. In anticipation of this increase, the Planning Commission believes that the County should be prepared to meet the recreation demands of the future. Funds have been set up in this program for this purpose.

Valdosta Central Business District Implementation

The Valdosta-Lowndes County Planning Commission prepared a plan for the Central Business District (C-B-D) of the City of Valdosta in 1964. This plan calls for the improvement of downtown Valdosta through improved traffic and pedestrian circulation, more parking, and better utilization of structures. The Valdosta-Lowndes County Planning Commission recommends that the County participate in the cost of implementing this plan. A fund has been set up in this program for this purpose.

Courthouse Parking

A serious parking problem exists around the Lowndes County Courthouse. Due to its location in Valdosta's central business district, shoppers compete with the users of the Courthouse for available street parking spaces. The Sheriff's Department also needs additional parking and loading space. Enough off-street parking to adequately serve this need should be provided within one block of the Courthouse to be used solely by Courthouse visitors and employees.

Civil Defence Emergency Operating Center

The Lowndes County Civil Defence Office recommends an Emergency Operating Center for Lowndes County and the City of Valdosta. In time of National Emergency, this facility would provide space for the continuation of County and City government. Built to Federal specifications it would house at least 50 people during time of emergency. This space could also be used as the headquarters for daily Civil Defence office work. The Federal government will furnish 50% of the cost of this project.

Pineview Hospital Addition

By 1970 the demand for additional hospital facilities will create the need for expanding Pineview Hospital. When the recently completed addition was constructed, the foundation and supporting structure was designed so as to allow the addition of two more stories at minimum cost. These additional stories will provide approximately eighty new beds at a cost of around \$500,000. Funds for this project would best be obtained from general revenue bonds.



FUTURE PROGRAM

14 YEAR PROGRAM

1971 - 1984

Public improvements programing is a continuing process. This section of the report presents general recommendations for capital improvements projects for the 14 year period following the primary six year program. The purpose of this 14 year program is to present projects which, after review, can be added according to their priority to the current Public Improvements Program, which should be updated each year.

The program includes road projects, recreation projects and public buildings. The projects, recommended in this section, cannot be described exactly in relationship to their need, cost, location, or recommended time of construction. This 14 year program should be reviewed every year when the six year program is updated.

FOURTEEN YEAR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

ROAD PROJECTS

<u>Description</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Approx. Cost</u>
Ousley Road	7.3	167,900
Rocky Ford Road Extension	2.5	57,500
Old Clyattville Road	8.0	184,000
Highland Heights Road	0.6	13,800
Benovalence Church Road	1.7	39,100
Kinderloo Clyattville Road	6.1	140,300
Gornto Road	1.1	24,900
Ousley Road Extension	3.0	69,000
Still Road	2.8	64,400
Newsom Road	2.1	48,300
Union Road	2.7	62,100
Crestwood Road	3.5	80,500
Cherry Creek	3.5	80,500
Bemiss-Knights Academy	2.5	57,500
U.S. 221 - U.S. 84 Connector	2.0	46,000
Delmar Knights Academy	3.8	87,400
Grand Bay Creek Extension	3.7	85,100
Riverside Road	3.0	69,000
St. Augustine - U.S. 84 Connector	2.0	46,000

RECREATION PROJECTS

<u>Description</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Franks Creek Project	4,447,000

PUBLIC BUILDINGS, FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

County Office Building Addition	Undetermined
County Courthouse Renovation	Undetermined
Road Maintenance Equipment	Undetermined
Public Health Building Expansion	Undetermined
Prison Stockade Addition	Undetermined

SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS

This Public Improvements Program was prepared to provide a comprehensive picture of all major needs of the County for the coming six and subsequent fourteen year periods and to serve as a guide for the County governing body in making decisions regarding necessary capital expenditure in Lowndes County. The report projects the County's tax base and revenues for the coming six year period and in turn analyzes the County's ability to pay for needed capital expenditures. On the basis of this analysis, a six year program of public improvements is then set forth.

It is not expected that the program should necessarily be followed as a rigid schedule. Many factors may require that certain projects in the County be carried out earlier or later than indicated in the plan. Unexpected changes in County needs or in County expenses, or unanticipated expenses not estimated in a scheduled project's cost, may require a shift in a project position. However, it is expected that the plan will guide the governing body in estimating, (1) the amount of capital improvements which can be carried out in Lowndes County during the coming six and subsequent fourteen year periods and, (2) the approximate year during which any given project in the first six years can be expected to be accomplished.

The success of this program depends upon its being re-examined and updated each year hereafter. The financial analysis of the County should be re-examined and projections extended. New developments in the County each year such as new homes, businesses, or industries, new school bus routes, and the like may require yearly adjustments in the road paving priority schedule as well as re-evaluation of the need of the other capital improvements. New projects, the need of which cannot be seen at this time, will also need to be added when the program is updated. All of the various departments in the County will be responsible for seeing that changing conditions are brought to the attention of parties responsible for updating this study and to assure that these factors will be realized in the process of updating the program.

