

Atkinson County Transit Development Plan

2007

**Developed by the
Southeast Georgia Development Center**



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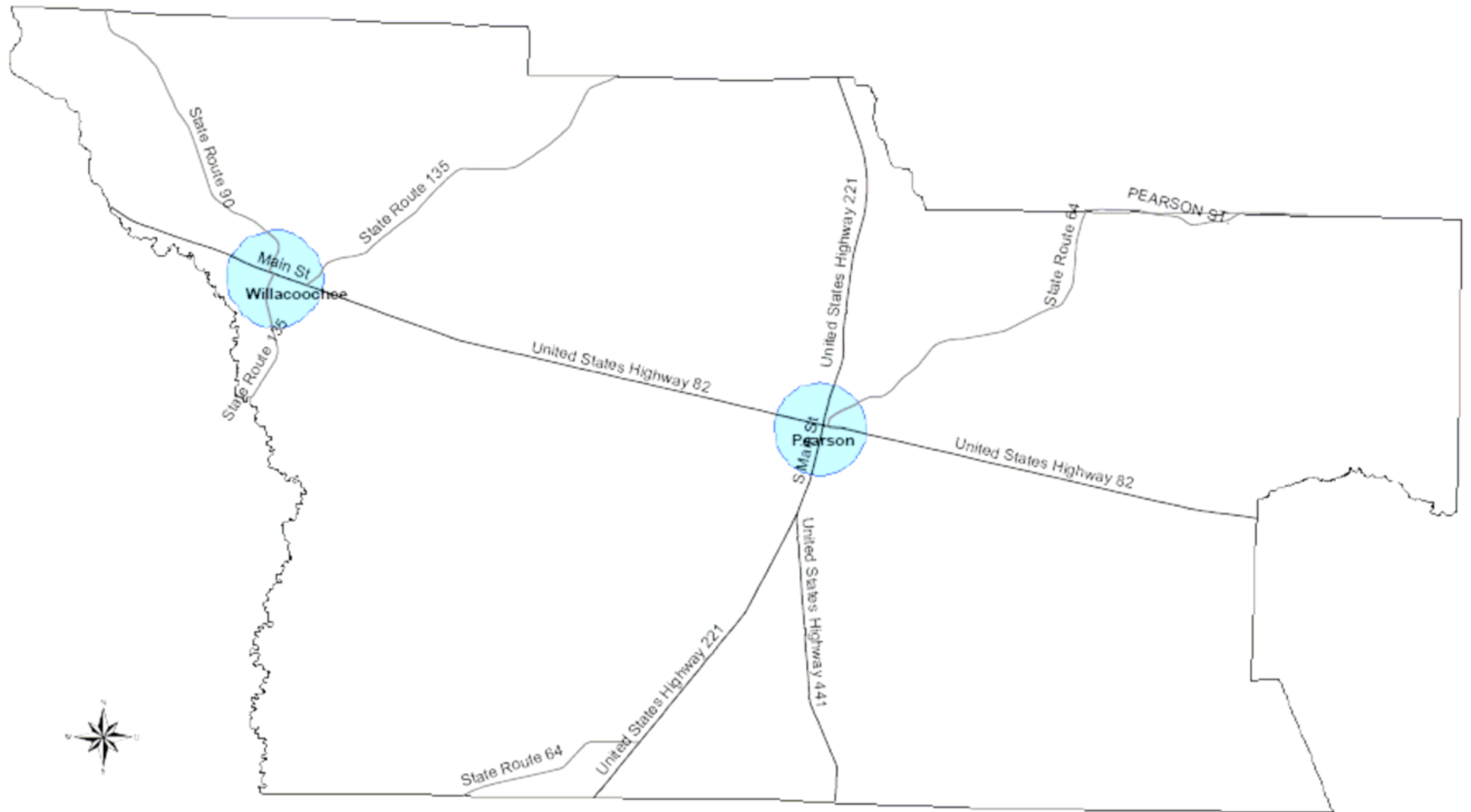
Table of Contents

- Introduction.....1**
- County Description2**
- Socio-Economic Characteristics2**
 - Population3**
 - Employment.....4**
 - Income.....8**
- Existing Transit Services.....11**
- Developing a Transit System12**
 - Recommendations12**
 - Goals and Objectives14**
 - Proposed Five-Year Budget (Funded)16**
 - Proposed Five-Year Budget (Unfunded)22**
- Conclusion27**

List of Tables

Table 1: Atkinson County Population by Age 1990-2020	3
Table 2: Projected Population by Age 1990-2000	3
Table 3: Employment by Industry 1990-2000	4
Table 4: Employment by Industry (%) 1990-2000	4
Table 5: Projected Employment by Industry 1990-2020.....	5
Table 6: Atkinson County Employment Status	6
Table 7: Georgia’s Employment Status	6
Table 8: Employed Residents of Atkinson County	7
Table 9: Persons Working in Atkinson County	7
Table 10: Per Capita Income (Atkinson County)	8
Table 11: Per Capita Income (Georgia).....	8
Table 12: Projected Atkinson County Per Capita Income.....	8
Table 13: Atkinson County Median Household Income	8
Table 14: Georgia Median Household Income.....	8
Table 15: Regional Median Household Income	8
Table 16: Percentage of Persons below Poverty (Regional).....	9
Table 17: Commute to Work (Atkinson County)	9
Table 18: Number of Vehicles per Occupied Household (Atkinson County)	10
Table 19: Proposed Five-Year Administrative and Operating Budget (2010).....	16
Table 20: Proposed Five-Year Administrative and Operating Budget (2011).....	17
Table 21: Proposed Five-Year Administrative and Operating Budget (2012).....	18
Table 22: Proposed Five-Year Administrative and Operating Budget (2013).....	19
Table 23: Proposed Five-Year Administrative and Operating Budget (2014).....	20
Table 24: Capital Budget	21
Table 25: Unfunded Proposed Five-Year Admin. and Operating Budget (2010)	22
Table 26: Unfunded Proposed Five-Year Admin. and Operating Budget (2011)	23
Table 27: Unfunded Proposed Five-Year Admin. and Operating Budget (2012)	24
Table 28: Unfunded Proposed Five-Year Admin. and Operating Budget (2013)	25
Table 29: Unfunded Proposed Five-Year Admin. and Operating Budget (2014)	26
Table 30: Unfunded Capital Budget	27

Atkinson County



Legend

- US Hwy
- State Roads
- City Limit
- County Boundary

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles

SLG

MAP CREATED FOR PUBLIC USE
AND GENERAL PLANNING PURPOSES
ONLY. PLEASE ALL QUESTIONS OF DATA
ACCURACY AND AVAILABILITY TO: SDC TRUST
GEORGIA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Introduction

Public transportation is often viewed as metropolitan option. Although uncommon in many rural areas, public transportation is becoming a popular alternative. Rural public transportation would benefit many residents in Atkinson County. These residents include low income citizens, seniors who no longer drive, students, and the disabled. Public transportation is a reliable and inexpensive transportation option.

This study examines existing transportation services within the county, provides information on the Section 5311 Rural Public Transportation, and a proposed five-year budget. The goal of this plan is to provide reliable and cost-effective public transportation for the citizens of Atkinson County that will allow greater access to medical facilities, shopping, jobs and educational opportunities.

County Description

Atkinson County is primarily rural and covered with farms and timber. The county has two incorporated cities, Pearson and Willacoochee. Atkinson County has experienced slow to moderate growth in the last 10 years. According to the 1990 U.S. Census, Atkinson County had a total population of 6,213. Due to a 22.5% increase, the total county population for 2000 was 7,609. The 2005 Labor Force Activity report reveals that Atkinson County had a total labor force of 3,571 of which 202 were unemployed. The unemployment rate for 2005 was 5.7%, which was comparable to the state's unemployment rate 5.3%. Manufacturing employs 43.9% of the county's labor force. The county's per capita income has increased by 54.1% since the 1990 U.S. Census. The 2000 per capita income was \$12,178, well below the state's per capita income of \$23,982. Although, the county's per capita income has increased, 22.9% of the county's population lives below the poverty level.

Socio-Economic Characteristics

Population

Atkinson County and the Cities of Pearson and Willacoochee have experienced a moderate growth rate during the last 10 year period. The County's total 1990 population was 6,213, whereas by 2000, the population increased by 22.5% to a total of 7,609. This growth is due to several factors which include low land cost, ideal commuting distance to larger regional cities, and available housing.

The largest population growth occurred in the 18-20 years old bracket. During a 10 year period this age group increased by 35.3%. As illustrated in the table below, the majority of the age groups has slightly increased from 1990 to 2000. A slight decrease occurred in the 65 years old and over bracket. Table 1 illustrates the County's population by age. Table 2 illustrates the projected population by age.

Table 1: Population by Age

Category	1990	2000	% Change
0 – 4 Years Old	496	720	45.2%
5 – 13 Years Old	1,054	1,228	16.5%
14 – 17 Years Old	312	360	15.4%
18 – 20 Years Old	278	376	35.3%
21 – 24 Years Old	402	455	13.2%
25 – 34 Years Old	939	1,157	23.2%
35 – 44 Years Old	824	1,096	33%
45 – 54 Years Old	681	856	25.7%
55 – 64 Years Old	489	656	34.2%
65 and over	738	705	-4.5%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census (SF1)

Table 2: Projected Population by Age

Category	1990	2000	% Changed (1990-2000)	2010	% Changed (2000-2010)	2020	% Changed (2010-2020)
0 – 4 Years Old	496	720	45.2%	812	12.8%	904	11.3%
5 – 13 Years Old	1,054	1,228	16.5%	1,351	10%	1,473	9%
14 – 17 Years Old	312	360	15.4%	245	-31.9%	130	-46.9%
18 – 20 Years Old	278	376	35.3%	400	6.4%	424	6%
21 – 24 Years Old	402	455	13.2%	493	8.4%	531	7.7%
25 – 34 Years Old	939	1,157	23.2%	1,311	13.3%	1,464	11.7%
35 – 44 Years Old	824	1,096	33%	1,288	17.5%	1,480	14.9%
45 – 54 Years Old	681	856	25.7%	1,018	18.9%	1,180	15.9%
55 – 64 Years Old	489	656	34.2%	705	7.5%	754	7%
65 and over	738	705	-4.5%	721	2.3%	737	2.2%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census (SF1)

During 1990-2000, the 0-4 years old bracket experienced the largest amount of growth. It is projected that the 65 and over bracket will experience an increase during the 2000-2010 decade. Projections for 2010-2020 expect the 65 and over bracket to remain relatively unchanged. By the year 2020, the 35-44 years old bracket is projected to be the largest segment of the total population in Atkinson County.

Employment

Table 3: Employment by Industry

Category	1990	2000
Total Employed Civilian Population	2,523	3,193
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, hunting & mining	304	420
Construction	136	177
Manufacturing	900	1,084
Wholesale Trade	42	90
Retail Trade	319	399
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	141	118
Information	NA	9
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	39	76
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services	67	108
Educational, health and social services	350	390
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	0	111
Other Services	138	81
Public Administration	87	130

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census (SF3)

Table 4: Employment by Industry (%)

Category	1990	2000
Total Employed Civilian Population	100.0%	100.0%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, hunting & mining	12.0%	13.2%
Construction	5.4%	5.5%
Manufacturing	35.7%	33.9%
Wholesale Trade	1.7%	2.8%
Retail Trade	12.6%	12.5%
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	5.6%	3.7%
Information	NA	0.3%
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1.5%	2.4%
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services	2.7%	3.4%
Educational, health and social services	13.9%	12.2%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	0.0%	3.5%

Other Services	5.5%	2.5%
Public Administration	3.4%	4.1%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census (SF3)

Table 5: Projected Employment by Industry

Category	1990	% Employed	2000	% Employed	2010	% Employed	2020	% Employed
Total Employed Civilian Population	2,523	100%	3,193	100%	3,749	100%	4,304	100%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, hunting & mining	304	12.04%	420	13.15%	443	11.82%	465	10.80%
Construction	136	5.39%	177	5.54%	214	5.71%	251	5.83%
Manufacturing	900	35.67%	1,084	33.94%	1,234	32.92%	1,384	32.16%
Wholesale Trade	42	1.66%	90	2.82%	116	3.09%	141	3.28%
Retail Trade	319	12.64%	399	12.50%	506	13.50%	613	14.24%
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	141	5.59	118	3.70%	115	3.07%	112	2.60%
Information	NA	NA	9	0.28%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	39	1.55%	76	2.38%	92	2.45%	108	2.51%
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services	67	2.66%	108	3.38%	140	3.73%	171	3.97%
Educational, health and social services	350	13.87%	390	12.21%	470	12.54%	550	12.78%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation	0	0%	111	3.48%	153	4.08%	195	4.53%

and food services								
Other Services	138	5.47%	81	2.54%	103	2.75%	124	2.88%
Public Administration	87	3.45%	130	4.07%	151	4.03%	172	4%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census (SF3)

As illustrated in Tables 3 and 4, manufacturing has remained the leading employment sector in Atkinson County. As of 2000, the manufacturing sector employed 33.9% of the county's labor force. Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining is the second leading employment sector in the County and employed 13.2% of the county's labor force during 2000. According to the 2005 Georgia Area Labor Profile, the five largest employers within Atkinson County were Fleetwood Homes of Georgia, Harvey's Supermarket, JVHJ International, L.L.C., TLC Moldings, and Willacoochee Industrial Fabrics, Inc.

According to projected figures shown in Table 5, manufacturing will remain the largest employment sector in Atkinson County during 2010 and 2020. Projected figures for the years 2010 and 2020 estimate 32.92% and 32.16% of the County's labor force will work in manufacturing. In addition, during this period (2010-2020) retail trade, educational, health and social services are projected to increase. Estimated figures reveal an expected 14% of the labor force will work within the retail trade sector. An approximate 13% of the labor force will be employed within the educational, health and social services sector during 2010 and 2020.

Unemployment

Table 6: Atkinson County Employment Status

	1990	1995	2000	2005
Total Labor Force	2,766	3,207	3,542	3,571
Employed	2,568	2,992	3,338	3,369
Unemployed	198 (7.2%)	215 (6.7%)	204 (5.8%)	202 (5.7%)

Georgia Department of Labor

Table 7: Georgia Employment Status

	1990	1995	2000	2005
Total Labor Force	3,300,136	3,699,727	4,242,889	4,588,023
Employed	3,129,389	3,522,905	4,095,362	4,346,289
Unemployed	170,747 (5.2%)	176,822 (4.8%)	147,527 (3.5%)	241,734 (5.3%)

Georgia Department of Labor

According to statistics obtained from the Georgia Department of Labor, the unemployment rate in Atkinson County has declined over the past 15 years, although the rate has remained slightly higher than the Georgia unemployment rate.

Area Employment and Commuting Patterns

The 2005 Georgia Area Labor Profile reveals that 57.1% of the county's labor force works within Atkinson County. Nearly 30% of the county's residents work in Coffee County. The ten largest employers within the Atkinson County area include Chaparral Boats, Inc. of Berrien County, Propex Fibers, Inc. of Berrien County, Bway Corporation, Inc. of Atkinson County, Wal-Mart Associates, Inc. of Coffee County, Gold Kist, Inc. of Coffee County, Wheeler Correctional Facility of Coffee County, Coffee Regional Medical Center, Inc. of Coffee County, PCC Airfoils, Inc. of Coffee County, Douglas Asphalt, Co. of Coffee County, and Satilla Health Services, Inc. of Ware County.

Table 8: Employed Residents of Atkinson County

County Where Employed	Number	Percent of Total
Atkinson County	1,796	57.1
Coffee County	872	27.7
Atkinson County	139	4.4
Ware County	100	3.2
Berrien	64	2.0
Ben Hill	48	1.5
Irwin	28	0.9
Lowndes	16	0.5
Other	81	2.6

Georgia Department of Labor

Table 9: Persons Working in Atkinson County

County of Residence	Number	Percent of Total
Atkinson	1,796	64.5
Coffee	429	15.4
Ware	153	5.5
Berrien	100	3.6
Atkinson	78	2.8
Lanier	73	2.6
Tift	35	1.3
Ben Hill	23	0.8
Other	96	3.4

Georgia Department of Labor

Income

Table 10: Atkinson County Per Capita Income

Category	1990	2000
Per Capita Income	7,902	12,178

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census (SF3)

Table 11: Georgia Per Capita Income

Category	1990	2000
Per Capita Income	13,631	21,154

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census (SF3)

Table 12: Projected Atkinson County Per Capital Income

Category	1990	2000	2010	2020
Per Capita Income	7,902	12,178	16,285	20,391

Source: DCA Data Views

The per capita income for Atkinson County increased from \$7,902 in 1990 to \$12,178 in 2000, a 54.1% increase. From 1990 to 2000, Georgia's per capita income increased by 55.2%. Atkinson County's per capita income remains well below the state's average per capita income. Projected figures for the County predict the per capita income will continue to slowly increase.

Table 13: Atkinson County Median Household Income

Category	1990	2000
Median Household Income	17,685	26,470

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census (SF3)

Table 14: Georgia Median Household Income

Category	1990	2000
Median Household Income	29,021	42,433

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census (SF3)

According to statistics obtained from the U.S. Bureau of Census, the median household income for Atkinson County increased by 49.7%. During this same time frame, 1990-2000, the median household income for Georgia increased by 46.2%. Although, Atkinson County's median household income has increased, it still remains below the state's average.

Table 15: Regional Median Household Income

Rank	County	Median Household Income
1	Coffee	\$ 30,710
2	Brantley	30,361
3	Berrien	30,044

4	Pierce	29,895
5	Ware	28,360
6	Charlton	27,869
7	Bacon	26,910
8	Atkinson	26,755
9	Atkinson	26,470

Georgia County Guide

Within the nine counties served by Southeast Georgia Regional Development Center, Atkinson County has the lowest median household income.

Table 16: Percentage of Person below Poverty

County	Total	White	African-American	Hispanic
Atkinson	23.0	17.6	30.6	43.8
Bacon	23.7	18.9	47.2	27.5
Berrien	17.7	14.3	36.8	38.2
Brantley	15.6	14.6	31.2	35.9
Charlton	20.9	15.1	38.2	40.0
Atkinson	23.4	18.9	35.4	14.3
Coffee	19.1	14.9	30.8	22.8
Pierce	18.4	15.4	38.7	48.3
Ware	20.5	13.4	39.6	33.6

Georgia County Guide

Atkinson County has the third highest total rate of persons below poverty within the nine county Southeast Georgia RDC area.

Transportation

The majority (70.3%) of the Atkinson County labor force drove to work alone as shown in Table 17. The mean travel time to work was 23.9 minutes. Although, the census reported an approximate 25 or 0.8% of the labor force utilizing public transportation to travel to work, Atkinson County does not have a recognized form of public transportation, such as buses or taxi services.

Table 17: Commute Time

Workers 16 years and over	3,146	100.0
Car, truck, or van -- drove alone	2,212	70.3
Car, truck, or van -- carpooled	662	21.0
Public transportation (including taxicab)	25	0.8
Walked	53	1.7
Other means	115	3.7
Worked at home	79	2.5
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	23.9	(X)

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census (SF3)

Table 18: Number of Vehicles Per Household, 2000 (Atkinson County)

# of Households	None	%	One	%	Two	%	Three +	%
2,712	199	7.3%	988	36.4%	1,002	36.9%	528	19.4%

Georgia County Guide

Data obtained from the Georgia County Guide reveals only 199 or 7.3% of households in Atkinson County do not own a vehicle. The majority of households own two vehicles.

Existing Transit Services

Taxicab

There are no existing taxicab services within Atkinson County.

City Provided Transportation—Pearson

The City of Pearson recently purchased a 15-passenger van to be used by the Pearson Senior Center and the recreation department.

City Provided Transportation—Willacoochee

The City of Willacoochee owns a 15-passenger van that is used by the senior center to take seniors on monthly trips and a yearly three-day trip.

Senior Transportation

The Southeast Georgia RDC's Area Agency on Aging contracts with MIDS to transport seniors in Willacoochee and Pearson to the Willacoochee Senior Center. In addition, MIDS is contracted to deliver meals to homebound seniors. Non-emergency transportation is provided through Logistic Care, which transports Medicaid clients to medical appointments.

Atkinson County 4-H

Currently the Atkinson County 4-H does not own a van to transport members to various events. Many children walk to the 4-H office to attend meetings and rely on parents to transport them to competitions and other events. Due to a limited budget, the 4-H service is unable to purchase a van and provide adequate insurance coverage for the van.

Developing a Public Transit System

Potential Patrons

Surveys were developed by the Southeast Georgia Regional Development Center to assess possible transit patrons. Surveys were delivered to the Atkinson County Health Department, Pearson City Hall, Atkinson County Solid Waste Management Authority, and Willacoochee City Hall. Questions on the survey included:

1. Do you believe public transportation is needed in Atkinson County?
2. Who would most benefit from public transportation in Atkinson County?
3. If you used public transportation, what would be your destination?
4. What would be the purpose of your trips?
5. Comments.

One hundred (100) surveys were distributed, of which 17 were returned to the RDC. All of the completed surveys stated that public transportation is needed in Atkinson County and many believed the elderly would benefit the most from this service. Participants stated medical appointments and facilities as the primary destination of public transportation trips. Other destinations included trips to the pharmacy and grocery store, trips to visit family, and transportation to work. A general public transit service would provide transportation for anyone and could possibly attract employers to the area.

Some of the citizens surveyed included comments. These comments included:

“I believe that public transportation would greatly enhance the lives of a lot of Atkinson County citizens. It would give them the independence that so many of our residents desire.”

“Public transportation needs to be affordable, with good schedules.”

“If there was public transportation, it would give seniors a chance to leave home and it would be safer for a majority of them as far as driving.”

“I think that it’s a good idea for our citizens in Atkinson County.”

Recommendations

The Section 5311 program can be operated in one of two ways. One option is a county operated transit system, for example, the Pierce County Transit. Pierce County Transit is funded in part by the Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 Program. This is a cost match program, which means the federal government provides 50% of the funds and the county provides a 50% match. The transit system does not have a set route;

patrons call at least 3 days ahead and schedule a ride. Rates are based on the mileage of each trip. Within a 10 mile radius, a one-way trip is \$4. One-way trips over 10 miles cost \$6. Patrons 60 years old or over pay \$2 for a one-way trip. Medical rates are higher and are reimbursed by Medicaid. Pierce County Transit currently has 9 employees (1 full time employee and 8 part time employees). All drivers and employees must have PASS (passenger assistance) training, defensive driving, first aid, and CPR. All drivers must pass a drug and alcohol screening. The vehicles are regularly inspected by GDOT and Medicaid. Vans are replaced when they have 100,000 miles on them or are 5 years old. Maintenance and repairs are performed by an outside vendor selected by the county.

The second option is a third party operator, such as the Berrien County Transit. The Berrien County Transit System is operated by a third part operator, Mids, from Valdosta. Berrien County applies for the funds, provides vehicle insurance, and monitors the transit system but Mids operates the daily transit. Currently, Berrien County has two vans that are maintained by Mids. In addition, Mids employees and pays the drivers and any additional staff. Mids also ensures that the drivers and employees have the proper training, such as PASS, defensive driving, first aid, etc. As in Pierce County, patrons call to schedule a ride and pay \$3 one-way for a trip within a three-mile radius.

To effectively operate a public transit system, Atkinson County would need to evaluate the pros and cons of both methods of operation. A transit system like Pierce County would enable Atkinson County to be responsible for every aspect of the system, whereas, having a third party operator, would ease the responsibilities of the County but the local government would still have to monitor the system and the operator.

It is recommended that future transportation should be available Monday-Friday and should begin operating around 5:30 or 6:00 AM and end around 6:00 PM. The County can choose to provide one part-time driver for a night shift if the occasion should arise.

If the County chooses to develop a future public transit system, goals and objectives for a proposed Section 5311 program are listed below. In addition to the goals and objectives, sample funded and unfunded five-year administrative, operating, and capital budgets are included in tables 19-30.

Goals and Objectives

Although, many citizens in Atkinson County have access to private transportation, it has been determined that citizens, such as the elderly, disabled, and low income individuals and families would greatly benefit from public transportation. Public transportation, as stated on one survey “. . .*would give them the independence that so many of our residents desire.*” Public transportation would allow residents to keep medical appointments, make trips to the grocery store, allow citizens to look for jobs out of county, and have a reliable means of transportation to jobs.

Goal 1: Provide reliable, cost effective public transportation for the citizens of Atkinson County and the Cities of Pearson and Willacoochee that will allow greater access to various shopping centers, medical facilities, jobs, and educational facilities.

Objective: Assess the transportation needs of seniors, disabled citizens, the labor force, and students (traditional and non-traditional).

Strategy 1: Meet with local agencies that provide services to seniors and the disabled.

Strategy 2: Meet with local educational providers (South Georgia College, Okefenokee Technical College, East Central Technical College, etc.) to assess the needs of students.

Timeline: February 2008

Goal 2: Increase labor force in Atkinson County by using public transportation to transport employees to and from work and as a marketing tool for prospective industries and employers.

Objective: Form a transportation committee.

Strategy 1: Survey local employers and employees to determine who would use public transportation, hours public transit should be available, and area traveled. Information would also be obtained from the Department of Labor.

Timeline: March-April 2008

Goal 3: Review survey results and use findings to determine if a Section 5311 Rural Transportation Program is warranted. If so, begin necessary steps to develop a Section 5311 program.

Objective: Create a budget.

Strategy 1: Prepare a Section 5311 application for FHWA and GDOT.

Objective 2: Decide if the County or a third party operator would operate the transit system.

Strategy: Meet with third party operators to discuss the possibility of operating the county's transit system.

Objective 3: Secure a location within the County to house the 5311 vans and transit office.

Strategy: Public transportation committee members actively seek location by assessing sites within the county. Encourage members to use existing structures.

Timeline: June-December 2008

Goal 4: If program is funded, the County or third party operator begins process to hire employees.

Objective: Hire competent staff.

Strategy: Work with the Department of Labor to find and interview prospective employees.

Objective 2: Provide required training to employees.

Strategy: Apply for Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) funds to be used for training costs and training materials.

Strategy: Work with Coffee Regional Medical Center to provide first aid and CPR training to all employees.

Timeline: February-July 2009

Goal 5: Begin a public service campaign.

Objective: Create community awareness of transit system.

Strategy: Hold a contest to develop a system name, logo, etc.

Strategy: Distribute flyers.

Strategy: Publish announcements in the local newspaper and advertise on local radio stations.

Timeline: September-December 2009

January 2010 begin operation of public transit system.

Proposed Five Year (2010-2014) Administrative, Operating, and Capital Budget

Table 19:

Grantee: Atkinson County

Reporting Period: 2010

Administrative Budget

Director Salary	\$0.00
Supervisor Salary	\$20,000
Bookkeeper Salary	\$0.00
Secretary Salary	\$0.00
Training/Travel	\$600.00
Marketing Expenses	\$600.00
Telephone Expenses	\$900.00
Office Supplies	\$600.00
Rental Expenses	\$2,000.00
Standard Overhead	\$0.00
Computer Software	\$500.00
Audit	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
Subtotal Administrative	\$25,200.00

Operating Budget

Driver Salary	\$40,000.00
Dispatcher Salary	\$7,000.00
Mechanic Salary	\$0.00
Fuel	\$15,000.00
Maintenance and Repair	\$2,000.00
Vehicle Insurance	\$5,000.00
Drug/Alcohol Testing	\$550.00
License	\$0.00
Uniforms	\$500.00
Communications (Radios)	\$5,000.00
Other	\$0.00
Subtotal Operations	\$75,050.00

Total Expenses **\$100,250.00**

Purchase of Service Revenue **\$0.00**

Farebox Revenue **\$10,025.00**

Net Expenses (Less Farebox Revenue) **\$90,225.00**

Purchase of Service Local Funds **\$0.00**

Excess POS (Above Local Match) **\$0.00**

Section 5311 Federal Share **\$50,125.00**

Local Share (Includes Any Excess POS)

\$50,125.00

Table 20:

Grantee: Atkinson County

Reporting Period: 2011

Administrative Budget

Director Salary	\$0.00
Supervisor Salary	\$21,000
Bookkeeper Salary	\$0.00
Secretary Salary	\$0.00
Training/Travel	\$630.00
Marketing Expenses	\$630.00
Telephone Expenses	\$945.00
Office Supplies	\$630.00
Rental Expenses	\$2,100.00
Standard Overhead	\$0.00
Computer Software	\$525.00
Audit	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
Subtotal Administrative	\$21,460.00

Operating Budget

Driver Salary	\$42,000.00
Dispatcher Salary	\$7,350.00
Mechanic Salary	\$0.00
Fuel	\$15,750.00
Maintenance and Repair	\$2,100.00
Vehicle Insurance	\$5,250.00
Drug/Alcohol Testing	\$577.50
License	\$0.00
Uniforms	\$525.00
Communications (Radios)	\$5,250.00
Other	\$0.00
Subtotal Operations	\$78,802.50

Total Expenses \$105,262.50

Purchase of Service Revenue \$0.00

Farebox Revenue \$10,526.65

Net Expenses (Less Farebox Revenue) \$94,8735.85

Purchase of Service Local Funds \$0.00

Excess POS (Above Local Match) \$0.00

Section 5311 Federal Share \$52,631.25

Local Share (Includes Any Excess POS) \$52,631.25

Table 21:

Grantee: Atkinson County

Reporting Period: 2012

Administrative Budget

Director Salary	\$0.00
Supervisor Salary	\$22,050
Bookkeeper Salary	\$0.00
Secretary Salary	\$0.00
Training/Travel	\$661.50
Marketing Expenses	\$661.50
Telephone Expenses	\$992.26
Office Supplies	\$661.50
Rental Expenses	\$2,205.00
Standard Overhead	\$0.00
Computer Software	\$551.25
Audit	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
Subtotal Administrative	\$27,783.01

Operating Budget

Driver Salary	\$44,100.00
Dispatcher Salary	\$7,717.50
Mechanic Salary	\$0.00
Fuel	\$16,537.50
Maintenance and Repair	\$2,205.00
Vehicle Insurance	\$5,512.50
Drug/Alcohol Testing	\$606.38
License	\$0.00
Uniforms	\$551.25
Communications (Radios)	\$5,512.50
Other	\$0.00
Subtotal Operations	\$82,742.63

Total Expenses \$110,525.64

Purchase of Service Revenue \$0.00

Farebox Revenue \$11,052.64

Net Expenses (Less Farebox Revenue) \$99,473.08

Purchase of Service Local Funds \$0.00

Excess POS (Above Local Match) \$0.00

Section 5311 Federal Share \$55,262.82

Local Share (Includes Any Excess POS) \$55,262.82

Table 22:**Grantee:** Atkinson County**Reporting Period:** 2013**Administrative Budget**

Director Salary	\$0.00
Supervisor Salary	\$23,152.50
Bookkeeper Salary	\$0.00
Secretary Salary	\$0.00
Training/Travel	\$694.58
Marketing Expenses	\$694.58
Telephone Expenses	\$1,041.87
Office Supplies	\$694.58
Rental Expenses	\$2,315.25
Standard Overhead	\$0.00
Computer Software	\$578.81
Audit	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
Subtotal Administrative	\$29,172.17

Operating Budget

Driver Salary	\$46,306.00
Dispatcher Salary	\$8,103.38
Mechanic Salary	\$0.00
Fuel	\$17,364.38
Maintenance and Repair	\$2,315.25
Vehicle Insurance	\$5,788.13
Drug/Alcohol Testing	\$636.70
License	\$0.00
Uniforms	\$578.81
Communications (Radios)	\$5,788.13
Other	\$0.00
Subtotal Operations	\$86,880.78

Total Expenses	\$116,052.95
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Purchase of Service Revenue	\$0.00
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Farebox Revenue	\$11,605.30
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Net Expenses (Less Farebox Revenue)	\$104,447.66
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Purchase of Service Local Funds	\$0.00
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Excess POS (Above Local Match)	\$0.00
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Section 5311 Federal Share	\$58,026.48
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Local Share (Includes Any Excess POS)	\$58,026.48
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Table 23:**Grantee:** Atkinson County**Reporting Period:** 2014**Administrative Budget**

Director Salary	\$0.00
Supervisor Salary	\$24,301.13
Bookkeeper Salary	\$0.00
Secretary Salary	\$0.00
Training/Travel	\$729.31
Marketing Expenses	\$729.31
Telephone Expenses	\$1,093.96
Office Supplies	\$729.31
Rental Expenses	\$2,431.01
Standard Overhead	\$0.00
Computer Software	\$607.75
Audit	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
Subtotal Administrative	\$30,630.78

Operating Budget

Driver Salary	\$48,620.25
Dispatcher Salary	\$8,508.55
Mechanic Salary	\$0.00
Fuel	\$18,232.60
Maintenance and Repair	\$2,431.01
Vehicle Insurance	\$6,077.54
Drug/Alcohol Testing	\$668.54
License	\$0.00
Uniforms	\$607.75
Communications (Radios)	\$6,077.54
Other	\$0.00
Subtotal Operations	\$91,223.78

Total Expenses	\$121,854.56
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Purchase of Service Revenue	\$0.00
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Farebox Revenue	\$12,186.46
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Net Expenses (Less Farebox Revenue)	\$109,669.10
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Purchase of Service Local Funds	\$0.00
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Excess POS (Above Local Match)	\$0.00
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Section 5311 Federal Share	\$60,927.28
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Local Share (Includes Any Excess POS)

\$60,927.28

Capital Budget	Quantity	Cost
Standard Van	0	\$0.00
Modified Van	0	\$0.00
Conversion Van	0	\$0.00
Conversion Van/Lift	0	\$0.00
Shuttle Van	1	\$33,500.00
Shuttle Van/Lift	1	\$37,500.00
Shuttle Bus	0	\$0.00
Shuttle Bus/Lift	0	\$0.00
Computer Hardware	1	\$4,000.00
Subtotal Capital		\$75,000.00

Table 24:

Federal Funds (80%): \$60,000.00
State Funds (15%): \$11,250.00
Local Funds (5%): \$ 3,750.00
Total: \$75,000.00

Tables 19-24 illustrate proposed public transportation funding by the federal 5311 program. For the first year, 2010, the estimated total cost is \$100,250, which means the local county would receive \$50,125 from the federal government and match this by 50%. Projected estimates were created by increasing the proposed budget by 5%.

Table 24 illustrates the proposed capital budget. The local government is required to provide 5% of the total capital budget, federal funds provide 80% of the budget, and state funds provide 15% of the budget.

In addition to start up funds, the County can also receive funds to assist in the training of public transit employees. The Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) funds are provided by the state and can be used by all entities eligible to apply for 5310 and 5311 funds. RTAP funds are used for driver training, grants management, vehicle maintenance, individual training needs reimbursement, registration fees, seminars, etc.

**Unfunded Proposed Five Year (2010-2014) Administrative, Operating,
and Capital Budget**

Table 25:

Grantee: Atkinson County

Reporting Period: 2010

Administrative Budget

Director Salary	\$0.00
Supervisor Salary	\$20,000
Bookkeeper Salary	\$0.00
Secretary Salary	\$0.00
Training/Travel	\$600.00
Marketing Expenses	\$600.00
Telephone Expenses	\$900.00
Office Supplies	\$600.00
Rental Expenses	\$2,000.00
Standard Overhead	\$0.00
Computer Software	\$500.00
Audit	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
Subtotal Administrative	\$25,200.00

Operating Budget

Driver Salary	\$40,000.00
Dispatcher Salary	\$7,000.00
Mechanic Salary	\$0.00
Fuel	\$15,000.00
Maintenance and Repair	\$2,000.00
Vehicle Insurance	\$5,000.00
Drug/Alcohol Testing	\$550.00
License	\$0.00
Uniforms	\$500.00
Communications (Radios)	\$5,000.00
Other	\$0.00
Subtotal Operations	\$75,050.00

Total Expenses **\$100,250.00**

Farebox Revenue **\$10,025.00**

Net Expenses (Less Farebox Revenue) **\$90,225.00**

Table 26:
Grantee: Atkinson County

Reporting Period: 2011

Administrative Budget

Director Salary	\$0.00
Supervisor Salary	\$21,000
Bookkeeper Salary	\$0.00
Secretary Salary	\$0.00
Training/Travel	\$630.00
Marketing Expenses	\$630.00
Telephone Expenses	\$945.00
Office Supplies	\$630.00
Rental Expenses	\$2,100.00
Standard Overhead	\$0.00
Computer Software	\$525.00
Audit	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
Subtotal Administrative	\$26,460.00

Operating Budget

Driver Salary	\$42,000.00
Dispatcher Salary	\$7,350.00
Mechanic Salary	\$0.00
Fuel	\$15,750.00
Maintenance and Repair	\$2,100.00
Vehicle Insurance	\$5,250.00
Drug/Alcohol Testing	\$577.50
License	\$0.00
Uniforms	\$525.00
Communications (Radios)	\$5,250.00
Other	\$0.00
Subtotal Operations	\$78,802.50

Total Expenses **\$105,262.50**

Purchase of Service Revenue **\$0.00**

Farebox Revenue **\$10,526.65**

Net Expenses (Less Farebox Revenue) **\$94,735.85**

Table 27:
Grantee: Atkinson County

Reporting Period: 2012

Administrative Budget

Director Salary	\$0.00
Supervisor Salary	\$22,050
Bookkeeper Salary	\$0.00
Secretary Salary	\$0.00
Training/Travel	\$661.50
Marketing Expenses	\$661.50
Telephone Expenses	\$992.26
Office Supplies	\$661.50
Rental Expenses	\$2,205.00
Standard Overhead	\$0.00
Computer Software	\$551.25
Audit	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
Subtotal Administrative	\$27,783.01

Operating Budget

Driver Salary	\$44,100.00
Dispatcher Salary	\$7,717.50
Mechanic Salary	\$0.00
Fuel	\$16,537.50
Maintenance and Repair	\$2,205.00
Vehicle Insurance	\$5,512.50
Drug/Alcohol Testing	\$606.38
License	\$0.00
Uniforms	\$551.25
Communications (Radios)	\$5,512.50
Other	\$0.00
Subtotal Operations	\$82,742.63

Total Expenses **\$110,525.64**

Purchase of Service Revenue **\$0.00**

Farebox Revenue **\$11,052.64**

Table 28:
Grantee: Atkinson County

Reporting Period: 2013

Administrative Budget

Director Salary	\$0.00
Supervisor Salary	\$23,152.50
Bookkeeper Salary	\$0.00
Secretary Salary	\$0.00
Training/Travel	\$694.58
Marketing Expenses	\$694.58
Telephone Expenses	\$1,041.87
Office Supplies	\$694.58
Rental Expenses	\$2,315.25
Standard Overhead	\$0.00
Computer Software	\$578.81
Audit	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
Subtotal Administrative	\$29,172.17

Operating Budget

Driver Salary	\$46,306.00
Dispatcher Salary	\$8,103.38
Mechanic Salary	\$0.00
Fuel	\$17,364.38
Maintenance and Repair	\$2,315.25
Vehicle Insurance	\$5,788.13
Drug/Alcohol Testing	\$636.70
License	\$0.00
Uniforms	\$578.81
Communications (Radios)	\$5,788.13
Other	\$0.00
Subtotal Operations	\$86,880.78

Total Expenses **\$116,052.95**

Purchase of Service Revenue **\$0.00**

Farebox Revenue **\$11,605.30**

Net Expenses (Less Farebox Revenue) **\$104,447.66**

Table 29:
Grantee: Atkinson County

Reporting Period: 2014

Administrative Budget

Director Salary	\$0.00
Supervisor Salary	\$24,310.13
Bookkeeper Salary	\$0.00
Secretary Salary	\$0.00
Training/Travel	\$729.31
Marketing Expenses	\$729.31
Telephone Expenses	\$1,093.96
Office Supplies	\$729.31
Rental Expenses	\$2,431.01
Standard Overhead	\$0.00
Computer Software	\$607.75
Audit	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
Subtotal Administrative	\$30,630.78

Operating Budget

Driver Salary	\$48,620.25
Dispatcher Salary	\$8,508.55
Mechanic Salary	\$0.00
Fuel	\$18,232.60
Maintenance and Repair	\$2,431.01
Vehicle Insurance	\$6,077.54
Drug/Alcohol Testing	\$668.54
License	\$0.00
Uniforms	\$607.75
Communications (Radios)	\$6,077.54
Other	\$0.00
Subtotal Operations	\$91,223.78

Total Expenses	\$121,854.56
Purchase of Service Revenue	\$0.00
Farebox Revenue	\$12,186.46
Net Expenses (Less Farebox Revenue)	\$109,669.10

Table 30:

Capital Budget	Quantity	Cost
Standard Van	0	\$0.00
Modified Van	0	\$0.00
Conversion Van	0	\$0.00
Conversion Van/Lift	0	\$0.00
Shuttle Van	1	\$33,500.00
Shuttle Van/Lift	1	\$37,500.00
Shuttle Bus	0	\$0.00
Shuttle Bus/Lift	0	\$0.00
Computer Hardware	1	\$4,000.00
Subtotal Capital		\$75,000.00

Tables 25-30 are a proposed budget without any federal or state funding. As proposed, for the first year, 2010, Atkinson County would provide \$100,250 to begin a public transportation system. In addition to the administrative and operating budget, Atkinson County would cover the entire operating budget. Therefore the County would need \$100,250 plus \$75,000 for a total budget of \$175,250. Future estimates are projected by increasing the budget by 5% each year.

Conclusion

If, in the future, the County considers rural public transportation, the Federal Transit Administrative Section 5311 Program is recommended. Many rural regions are using this program and have found it to work successfully in various cities and counties. Rural public transportation is a great benefit to the citizens, as well as the County. Public transportation provides a reliable way for citizens to attend classes at community college or technical colleges, provides safe transportation for the elderly, and can act as recruiting tool for new industries.