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NEWS RELEASE

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GWINNETT LOOKS 25 YEARS DOWN THE ROAD

(Lawrenceville, Sept. 11, 2006) – Where will Gwinnett be in 25 years, and what challenges will the County face? That is the question the Gwinnett County 2030 Unified Plan will address over the next year.

Designed to aid and direct Gwinnett County in future planning, the Unified Plan will be used as a guide for future land use and community development decisions in Gwinnett through the year 2030.

Work on the Unified Plan began in February 2006, and is designed to address challenges and concerns related to Gwinnett County's growth, housing needs, diversity, capital investment, land use, redevelopment, transportation, waterways, forested areas, air quality and water supply.

The Gwinnett County 2030 Unified Plan is the central document and integrates two traditionally separate plans: the Comprehensive Plan and the Consolidated Plan. Typically the [Comprehensive Plan](#), required by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, focuses on land use and development issues while the [Consolidated Plan](#), required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, addresses community development, housing and homeless needs. Both of these plans rely on the same basic data and both establish long-range policy direction for the County.

The Unified Plan will guide future land use and community development decisions in the County through 2030, and will address housing and homeless needs for the period 2008 through 2012. This single document will simultaneously provide the basis for capital investment and land use decisions while allowing the County to continue to receive federal funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

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The [Comprehensive Transportation Plan](#), while coordinated with the Unified Plan, will be a stand-alone document and will focus on the transportation network needed to serve current and future development. The Comprehensive Transportation Plan becomes the reference providing for the county's transportation funding priorities. A summary of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan will become the "transportation element" of the Comprehensive Plan.

This planning process will address these challenges and concerns by creating and evaluating alternative scenarios of the future. These will be very different from each other. Evaluating the impacts of each scenario and predicting how they meet various goals will enable us to identify the most desirable, yet achievable, future for Gwinnett County.

A Planning Advisory Committee, representing a range of community interests, has been put into place to guide this effort. This 23-member group will provide input, act as a sounding board on the Plan's progress throughout its development, and solicit ideas from the organizations with which they are affiliated.

"Standing in Gwinnett 30 years ago, many people could have not imagined the County's growth," said Steve Logan, Gwinnett Planning Division Director. "That is what we are asking the Planning Advisory Committee to do to help us prepare for the future."

Focus groups and public information meetings are other key elements that will be used to help develop the Plan. Scenario-building exercises will be explored and tested to help predict and evaluate future challenges, and public meetings will be held across the County to provide residents an opportunity to review and provide input on the Plan.

Completion of the final version of the Unified Plan is expected in June 2007, with a goal to have the Plan adopted by the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners in early 2008.

To find out more information and follow progress on the Gwinnett 2030 Unified Plan, visit <http://www.gwinnettunifiedplan.com/> and you will directly connected to the web page.

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