

Athens-Clarke County and
The City of Winterville

Community Assessment
Chapter Six:
Intergovernmental
Coordination

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CHAPTER 6: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

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6.2 Introduction

The Service Delivery Plan for Athens-Clarke County and the City of Winterville was adopted in June of 1999. This plan will be updated as part of the Comprehensive Planning Process.

6.3 Adjacent Local Governments

There are three local governments within the boundaries of Clarke County: The Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, City of Winterville and the Town of Bogart, Georgia. While the entirety of both Athens-Clarke County and the City of Winterville lie within Clarke County, the bulk of the City of Bogart is found within Oconee County.

6.3.1 MACORTS

Perhaps one of the most important coordinated efforts between Athens-Clarke County and the surrounding counties is MACORTS. MACORTS (Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study Area) is a cooperative transportation planning body for the urbanized area which includes Athens-Clarke County and portions of southern Madison County and northern Oconee County. Formed in 1969, MACORTS was originally known as ACORTS until Madison County was added to the area in 2002/2003. MACORTS is responsible for implementing the 3-C (comprehensive, cooperative, and continuing) Transportation Planning Process. The Athens-Clarke County Planning Department is designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for MACORTS, one of 14 MPOs in the state. The Transportation Planning Process is required by federal law for all urban areas over 50,000 in population. The MACORTS Transportation Plan includes projects in the MACORTS area which utilize state and/or federal funds. These must go through a process of adoption into a regional transportation plan. Projects that are in this plan are, over time, put into the Transportation Improvement Program for budgeting, scheduling and implementation.

The Service Delivery Plan, as adopted in 1999 identifies the following services that are coordinated between governments in Clarke County:

6.3.2 Services Provided By One Government

The Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County provides the following services for the entirety of Clarke County:

Table 1: Services Provided By One Government

• Aging Services	• Probate Court
• Airport	• Public Health
• Convention and Tourism	• Public Transit
• Cooperative Extension Service	• Public Transportation – MACORTS
• Coroner	• Recycling – Collection and Processing
• Downtown Development Authority – Athens	• River Corridor Environmental Support
• Emergency Management	• Roads and Bridges / Construction and Maintenance
• Family and Child Services	• Solid Waste – Commercial
• Indigent Legal Services	• Solid Waste Educational
• Jail (Corrections)	• Storm Water Management
• Juvenile Court	• Superior Court
• Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful	• Water Supply (treatment and distribution)
• Magistrate Court	•

6.3.3 Services Provided By More Than One Government:

Several community services are provided by more than one government either directly, or, more commonly, through contracts or agreements with Athens-Clarke County to provide the services for compensation. A more detailed description of these services is found in the Clarke County Service Delivery Plan, which will be updated as part of the Clarke County Comprehensive Planning process.

Table 2: Services Provided By More Than One Government

• Building Inspection	• Municipal Court
• Election Services	• Right-of-Way Maintenance
• Fire Protection	• Planning
• Leaf and Limb Collection	• Police
• Leisure Services	• Solid Waste Collection – residential
• Library	• Tax Collection
• Marshal Services	

6.3.4 Services Provided By Government Outside of Clarke County

Other than the usual state and federal government agencies (such as the Clarke County Health Department) no services are provided in Clarke County by government outside

of Clarke County. Natural Gas Service is provided to a small portion of Clarke County from Commerce, Georgia.

6.4 Independent Special Authorities and Districts

There are several Special Authorities and Districts within Clarke County and identified by the 1999 Service Delivery Strategy. Specifically mentioned are the Northeast Georgia Solid Waste Management Authority, the Athens-Clarke County Public Facilities Authority, the Clarke County Airport Authority, the Classic Center Authority and the Upper Oconee Water Basin Authority.

A search of the Department of Community Affairs website provides a list of Authorities within Athens-Clarke County. Some of these, not discussed in this section, are covered under 6.6 Independent Development Authorities and Districts on page 10 of this chapter

Table 3: Authorities serving Athens-Clarke County and Registered with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs

Authority Name	Type	Method of Creation	Dependency	Single- or Multi-Jurisdictional
Athens Public Facilities Authority	Building	Local Law	Dependent	Single
Athens-Clarke County Downtown Development Authority	Downtown Development	General Statute	Dependent	Single
Athens-Clarke County Industrial Development Authority	Industrial Development	Local Constitutional Amendment	Independent	Single
Clarke County Airport Authority	Airport	Local Law	Dependent	Single
Classic Center Authority for Clarke County	Stadium and Coliseum	Local Law	Dependent	Single
Development Authority of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke	Development	General Statute	Independent	Single

Authority Name	Type	Method of Creation	Dependency	Single- or Multi-Jurisdictional
County, Georgia				
Downtown Athens Development Authority	Downtown Development	Local Constitutional Amendment	Independent	Single
Georgia Bioscience Joint Development Authority	Multi-County	General Statute	Independent	Multi-Jurisdiction
Hospital Authority of Clarke County Georgia	Hospital	General Statute	Independent	Single
Housing Authority of the City of Athens, Georgia	Housing	General Statute	Independent	Single
Joint Development Authority of Northeast Georgia	Multi-County	General Statute	Independent	Multi
Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly Authority of Athens-Clarke County	Residential Care of the Elderly	General Statute	Independent	Single
Solid Waste Management Authority of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia	Solid Waste Management	General Statute	Dependent	Single

6.4.1 The Northeast Georgia Solid Waste Management Authority

Athens-Clarke County and the City of Winterville are members of the 10-County Solid Waste Authority, which was set forth by the Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center to implement a ten-year solid waste plan. The Solid Waste Authority sets short-term and long-term goals for the future needs of solid waste planning. These include, but are not limited to:

- Regional Landfills
- Regional Recycling
- Regional Grants
- Tire Amnesty Programs

6.4.2 Athens-Clarke County Public Facilities Authority

The Athens-Clarke County Public Facilities Authority has the power to plan and construct public transportation systems, air quality control installations, and similar projects.

6.4.3 Athens-Clarke County Airport Authority

This six-member body advises the Athens-Clarke County Commission on technical matters involving Athens-Ben Epps Airport.

6.4.4 The Classic Center Authority

The operations of the Classic Center, a local convention center, is guided by the leadership of the Classic Center Authority (CCA). The Center is located within the Central Business District of downtown Athens and is a meeting, special events, and performing arts venue providing entertainment, dining opportunities, and a variety of programs including, but not limited to trade shows and conferences. Originally founded March 10, 1988, the CCA is a political subdivision of state government as enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Georgia. This five-member Authority is appointed by the Athens-Clarke County Mayor and Commission.

6.4.5 Upper Oconee Water Basin Authority

The Bear Creek Reservoir is located north of Bogart and west of Cleveland Road in Jackson County and serves Athens-Clarke, Jackson, Barrow and Oconee counties. The Upper Oconee Water Basin Authority was formed by these counties to address long

term water needs through regional approaches. The 505-acre lake helps Athens-Clarke County to ensure an adequate water supply during periods of drought. Athens-Clarke County's 44% share of the reservoir water will be pumped to the Beacham Water Plant for treatment

6.5 School Boards

A nine-member Clarke County Board of Education is the official governing body for the School District. Its responsibilities include policy-making, budget approval, evaluation of the superintendent and other duties as prescribed by law. Board members are elected to four-year terms. Since 1954, there has been one school district co-extensive with the limits of Clarke County.

6.5.1 School District

There are twenty schools within the Clarke County School District. Of those, thirteen are Elementary Schools (K-5), four are Middle Schools (6-8) and two are Senior High Schools (9-12). In addition, the District operates the Classic City High School - Performance Learning Center and a Pre-Kindergarten Program. All schools are accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and meet Georgia Department of Education standards

6.5.2 Gifted Education Program:

Nearly 12% of students are enrolled in gifted education

6.5.3 Students

The enrollment in Clarke County Schools is currently 12,126. The K-5 Average Pupil/Teacher Ratio is 23:1 and the average daily attendance rate: 94.9%

6.5.4 Teachers and Staff

There are 820 Teachers employed by the Clarke County School Board. In addition, there are 250 Paraprofessionals and 900 Professional support employees. 60% of teachers and school administrators hold advanced degrees

6.5.5 Community Involvement

The Board of Education welcomes Community Involvement, specifically through the following programs:

- Foundation for Excellence in Public Education in Clarke County
- Clarke County Mentor Program
- Partners In Education

6.5.6 Multi-Jurisdictional School: The Rutland Academy

The Rutland Academy serves behaviorally disordered students in the public schools of northeast Georgia. Students are served from the following systems: Barrow, Commerce City, Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Jefferson City, Madison, Morgan, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Social Circle City, and Walton. The schools mission is to provide a therapeutic, educational environment which encourages and nurtures student's social and emotional growth; enabling them to reach their highest level or capacity in the least restrictive environment and to become productive and contributing members of society. As part of Clarke County's Special Local Option Sales Tax referendum (SPLOST 2) funds for the Rutland Academy were approved to be used for the relocation and expansion of the facilities. A little more than 40% of the students at the Rutland Academy are from Clarke County.

6.6 Independent Development Authorities and Districts

6.6.1 Athens Downtown Development Authority

Formed by state legislation in 1977, the Athens Downtown Development Authority administers the revitalization and redevelopment of the Central Business District. Acting as a liaison between the Athens Clarke County Government and the Downtown Business community, the Authority coordinates planning and implementation of public facilities as well as assisting private investors and individual businesses. The Athens Clarke County Downtown Development Authority, created in 1995, focuses on the redevelopment of the Downtown East area, a fifty-acre "brownfield" site adjacent to the Central Business District.

6.6.2 Athens Housing Authority

Chartered under state law, a public housing authority is a not-for-profit public corporation. A housing authority is an independent organization with a relationship to

federal, state, and local governments; however, it is not a part of any governmental body. This organizational structure allows housing authorities to work in conjunction with local governments and agencies to develop long-term housing strategies for communities.

In 1937, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) charged communities with the development of affordable housing in order to "provide decent, safe, and sanitary housing for low-and-moderate income families." Shortly after that, community and business leaders established the Athens Housing Authority to respond to a basic need.

In 1941, Parkview Homes, the first public housing in Athens, was opened to families. Since that time, the Athens Housing Authority has overseen the design, construction, maintenance, and administration of eleven additional neighborhoods.

Since its inception, the Athens Housing Authority has worked cooperatively with Athens-Clarke County to create a variety of affordable housing options. The Athens Housing Authority manages and administers 1,255 dwelling units for approximately 3,300 residents.

The Housing Authority has the ability to initiate tax-exempt revenue bonds, and through them have aided the renovations and construction of privately owned affordable housing developments in the community. The Authority's ACT I Homes program was designed for families ready to purchase their first house. On a regional level and national level, through the Georgia HAP Administrators Inc (Section 8 Housing Assistance Payment program), the Authority has secured contracts through HUD to conduct management and occupancy reviews for project-based subsidized housing units in Northeast Georgia and the state of Illinois.

6.6.3 Hospital Authority of Clarke County Georgia

The Hospital Authority is a public body corporate and politic of the State of Georgia, duly created and validly existing pursuant to the Hospital Authorities Law of the State of Georgia, as amended (the "Act"), and by a resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Roads and Revenues of Clarke County adopted on January 5, 1960. Under this Act, the Hospital Authority has the power to provide for the planning, design, construction, acquisition or carrying out of any "project", which is defined in the Act to include hospitals, health care facilities, medical office buildings, clinics, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, extended care facilities and other public health facilities. The Act also grants the Hospital Authority the power to issue its revenue anticipation

certificates for the purpose of providing funds to carry out the duties of the Hospital Authority, and to pledge or assign any or all of its income, revenues, tolls, charges or fees to the payment of the principal of, redemption premium (if any) and interest on any revenue anticipation certificates issued by the Hospital Authority in connection therewith. The Act also authorizes the issuance of revenue anticipation certificates to refund or refinance indebtedness. The Hospital Authority has no taxing power.

The Hospital Authority is governed by a nine-member Board of Trustees (the "Hospital Authority Board"). Members are appointed for overlapping six-year terms by the Mayor and Commission of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County. The Authority Board recommends two candidates to the Mayor and Commission for each vacancy, but the Mayor and Commission is not bound by this recommendation.

Prior to May 1, 1995, Athens Regional Health Services was both owned and operated by the Hospital Authority. On July 1, 1995, the Hospital Authority and ARMC entered into a lease pursuant to which the Authority leased its assets, including the System, and transferred the operations and liabilities of the System to ARMC. The Hospital Authority continues to own property and is an active institution which acts as a financial conduit to handle intergovernmental transfers, issue bonds and other long term financing, and any other issues that it needs to support the activities of Athens Regional Medical Center. The board members have an active role in the boards of the affiliated organizations of Athens Regional Health Services.

6.7 Federal, State or Regional Programs

There are the usual list of Federal, State and Regional Programs that function within Clarke County. However, in regards to planning, the University of Georgia is the most significant in regards to community planning.

6.7.1 The University of Georgia

In many ways, Athens-Clarke County is a community that developed around the location of the University to provide a variety of services, such as housing and commercial trade. There are no cooperative agreements between Athens-Clarke-County and the University for joint use of facilities at the University. However, the University relies on Athens-Clarke County for many of its day to day services. For instance, the University of Georgia water consumption comprised 7% of all water pumped during 1997. The University of Georgia collects its own waste for disposal at the Athens-Clarke County landfill. The University also collects recyclables and operates an office-paper recycling program throughout the campus. The Fire Department responds to calls at the

University of Georgia but does not handle inspections or review of new construction on campus. The University of Georgia maintains its own Police Department, but utilizes Athens-Clarke County's Municipal Court system to process its citations. Both Athens-Clarke County and the University of Georgia benefit from integrated land use and infrastructure planning and the development of mutual implementation strategies.