CITY OF ATTALLA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

FINAL DRAFT

August, 2008

Prepared by the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission

CITY OF ATTALLA
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

This document was prepared under the direction of the

ATTALLA CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

AND

ATTALLA CITY COUNCIL

by the

EAST ALABAMA REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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Abstract:

The intent of this Comprehensive Plan is to serve as a guide for the future growth and development of the City of Attalla, Alabama. This document is to be used as a basis for policy and zoning decisions in the community through the year 2020. This study presents recommendations on the general location and extent of residential, commercial, and public land uses needed to serve the projected population.

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CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the Comprehensive Plan

The primary purpose of the comprehensive plan is to provide direction for local public policy and planning implementation necessary for increasing quality of life and livability for a community's citizens and visitors presently and in the future. The comprehensive plan, also called a master plan, is the most basic public policy guide for a community and its development. All other plans, studies, and land use codes and ordinances should be adopted in accordance with the comprehensive plan and toward the promotion and advancement of its goals and objectives. A comprehensive plan consists of the following components:

1. an inventory and assessment of population and economic trends and community resources (such as schools, roads, public buildings, undeveloped land, constrained land, and natural resources);
2. a summary of community needs and goals; and
3. a coordinated strategy for the management or improvement of community resources and the future growth and development of the city.

The comprehensive plan serves two major purposes: to help local officials better understand growth and development trends and community problems; and to develop strategies to use available resources effectively when addressing local problems and building capacity for future growth. If the growth and development of a city can be compared to the construction of a house, then the comprehensive plan is the blueprint. It contains a list of building tools and materials (the inventory and assessment component), instructions on how to put the pieces together and in what order (the statement of goals, objectives, and policy recommendations, and implementation schedule), and a picture or image of the desired product (the conceptual future land use map).

The Benefits of the Comprehensive Plan

A plan can provide many benefits to a community. For example, a comprehensive plan can and does:

1. draw attention to important community problems or needs;
2. promote the city to outside development interests;
3. communicate public policies to residents of the community;
4. help prioritize and coordinate investments in public improvements;
5. help minimize wasteful spending of tax dollars;
6. identify sources of funds that can be used to address local needs; and
7. serve as a guide for local zoning ordinances and other development codes.

Although a plan can offer many benefits to a community, it is important to remember that the plan is only as good as the information it contains, and can only benefit the community if it is used by the city and updated regularly to reflect changing needs and conditions. It is recommended that a community adopt a new comprehensive plan once every 10 years in order to accommodate

changes in growth and development patterns and the most recent needs and desires for the community.

Legal Authority

Alabama law requires that every municipal planning commission prepare and adopt a plan for the community (Title 11, Chapter 52, Section 8 of the Code of Alabama, 1975). Although the comprehensive plan is adopted by the planning commission, it should serve as the primary guide for the formulation of local public policy and for coordinating the future growth and development of the community. Therefore, the governing body of the community should be involved in the plan preparation process, or should be afforded an opportunity to review and comment on the draft plan before its adoption by the planning commission. In some communities, the city council also has adopted the plan after its adoption by the planning commission. However, Alabama law recognizes only the planning commission's action on the plan, so adoption of the plan by a city council cannot substitute for adoption by the planning commission.

According to Title 11, Chapter 52, Section 10 of the Code of Alabama, 1975, the planning commission may adopt a comprehensive plan in its entirety, or it may adopt individual sections or chapters of the plan as they are prepared. Before the plan or any section or portion of it may be adopted by the planning commission, a public hearing must be conducted. Alabama law does allow the planning commission to dispense with the public hearing, if the city council conducts a public hearing on the plan or plan section prior to its adoption by the planning commission. Once the comprehensive plan has been adopted by the planning commission, an attested copy of the plan must be certified to the city council and the Probate Judge.

The law also requires local zoning to be prepared in accordance with the comprehensive plan (Title 11, Chapter 52, Section 72 of the Code of Alabama, 1975). Some communities interpret this provision of law to mean that the zoning map and the future land use map in the comprehensive plan must be identical. However, this interpretation of the relationship between the zoning map and the comprehensive plan only constrains the plan's ability to guide future growth and development. The future land use map contained in the plan should be developed as a general depiction of desired local development patterns at the end of the planning period, which may be ten to twenty years into the future. Therefore, it should identify areas that will be more desirable for more intensive development after the supporting infrastructure improvements have been completed to allow such development. On the other hand, zoning should guide land uses and development to occur in areas that are suitable given existing conditions and limitations. This distinction between the future land use map contained in the comprehensive plan and the zoning map gives the zoning map legal authority to regulate current development, and allows the plan to serve as a guide for future zoning changes to provide for new growth and development.

The adoption of a comprehensive plan also gives the planning commission authority to review and approve the construction of public streets and squares, parks, public buildings, and public utilities (Title 11, Chapter 52, Section 11 of the Code of Alabama, 1975). If the planning commission determines that a proposal to construct such public facilities is not consistent with the comprehensive plan, it may disapprove the proposal and provide written notice of its findings to the city council or the applicable governing authority. The city council or applicable governing

authority can overturn the planning commission's disapproval by a two-thirds majority vote of its entire membership.

Planning Process

In the summer of 2005 the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission (EARPDC) contracted with the City of Attalla to create a comprehensive plan for Attalla in order to guide and direct land use and development in a logical manner, consistent with the goals and objectives of the city.

To initiate the planning process, an initial public hearing was called and conducted on August 23, 2005 in Attalla City Hall. The meeting was used to inform the city council and the public on the nature, benefits, and processes involved in creating and using a comprehensive plan for future land use and development in the city. The meeting also was used to gather public input about community strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in what is referred to as a SWOT Analysis. This information was recorded by staff for future use.

After the initial public hearing, EARPDC staff conducted a series of working sessions with the Attalla Planning Commission (APC) on a bi-monthly basis in order to keep APC updated on the plans progress and for EARPDC staff to receive guidance and direction on the plan. Working sessions focused on analyzing and discussing information presented in the chapters of the plan and were also used to create goals, objectives, strategies and plans for land use and development within the City of Attalla. The EARPDC cartography staff provided mapping services for practical land use research and applications.

Location

Attalla is located in northeastern Appalachian foothills of Alabama in central Etowah County. Interstate 59 forms the eastern border of Attalla, separating the city from Gadsden to the east and the cities of Rainbow City and Southside a short 7 miles to the southeast. Interstate 59 links Attalla with Birmingham, 58 miles to the southwest, and Chattanooga, 90 miles northeast. Federal highway 431 connects the city to Gadsden and then extends through downtown Attalla and continues northwest to the Boaz/Albertville area of Marshall County. Major highways going through or passing near Attalla include Interstate 59, U.S. Hwy. 11, U.S. Hwy. 278, U.S. Hwy. 431, and AL Hwy.77. Being located in close proximity to Gadsden, a metropolitan hub, and serving major roadway connections, makes Attalla a prime area for economic development.

General Information

The City of Attalla (pop. 6,677) was first incorporated on February 5, 1872. The name Attalla is translated "My Home" in the Cherokee Indian language. Located near Interstate 59 and the metro area of Gadsden, the city is conveniently situated for significant economic prosperity and growth. The small-town atmosphere, historic downtown, quality schools, and low crime rates are attractive aspects of the community.

Attalla is unique in a couple of aspects. Although Attalla is acknowledged as a rural community, the city has a reasonably dense population with several small, compact "village" communities. In 1990 and 2000, the city showed a substantially larger population and housing densities than surrounding communities in the county. Attalla in 1990 was classified as an urban center, exceeding the population density barrier of 1,000 persons per square mile, as determined by the National Center for Immigration Studies, and in 2000 dropped just below this mark. With total land acreage of slightly over 6 square miles, the city stands unique as a small community with an exceptionally dense historic downtown and neighborhoods.

For transportation purposes Attalla could be viewed as a major "crossroads" city. A total of five major state or federal routes pass through and interconnect in or near the city. Interstate 59 passes through portions of the eastern edge of the city, intersecting with U.S. Hwy. 431 and AL Hwy. 77 at Attalla's eastern borders. Federal Highway 11 serves as the city's central "spine" running parallel to I-59 throughout the length of the city, connecting to AL Hwy. 77 and U.S. Hwy. 431, while U.S. Hwy. 278 connects to U.S. Hwy. 431 in the northwestern part of the city. The railroad also runs through Attalla, parallel to U.S. Hwy. 11 through the center of the city, allowing rail commerce to commercial and industrial sites.

Nestled in the Southern Appalachian Mountain Region the city offers abundant opportunities for recreational activity. Big Wills Creek and nearby Lake Neely Henry provide opportunities for water sports and recreation. The Attalla Sports Complex, Carnes Recreation Center, and Attalla Community Center, as well as a variety of city parks, offer numerous provisions for indoor and outdoor recreation.

Historical Background

Attalla is a city rich in social and cultural history. Prior to European settlement, the land was occupied by the Cherokee Indian nation. The town site was an important Indian village, being home to the famous Indian Captain John Brown, whose family established the Creek Path Mission School in 1820. The first European visitor to the area was the French general Marquis de LaFayette, invited as a guest of the U.S. government in 1825. Early settlers to the area include W.C. Hammond, Henry W. Pickens, Dr. Thomas Edwards, Rev. James Scales, John Latham, E.I. Holcomb, John S. Moragne, and Allen Gray, who became the first postmaster.

The City of Attalla was incorporated as a city government on February 5, 1872 after being founded on a site donated by plantation owner W.C. Hammond in 1870. According to historical records, the site of Attalla was originally named "New Town" and condensed to Newton between 1832 and 1840. This name was used until 1870 when Newton grew large enough to warrant a post office. Since there was already another Newton post office in the state, the town was forced to find another name and settled for Attalla, meaning "my home" in the Cherokee Indian language. In 1893 the town was officially named Attalla. E.I. Holcomb served as the first mayor of Attalla.

The 1870s brought the railroads to Attalla, substantially spurring the growth and development of the city as a major trading crossroads. The Rail Company Stanton, Cravath, and Stanton completed the Wills Valley line, extending from Chattanooga TN along the base of Lookout Mountain, to the

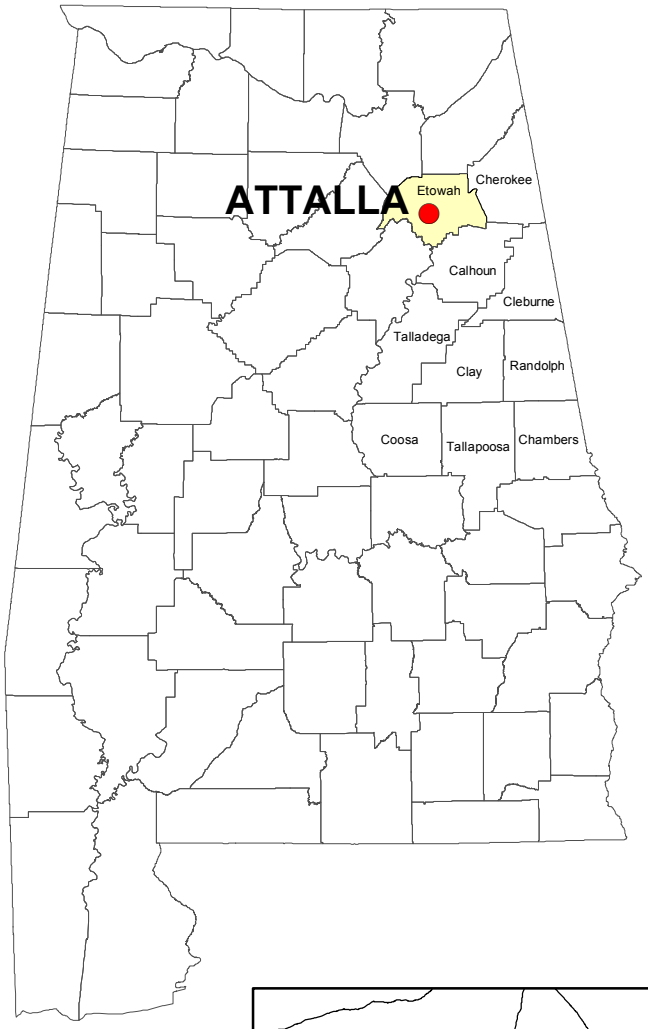
southern end point at Attalla. Also during this time the Selma, Rome, and Dalton Railroad was built through Attalla and became a part of the Nashville & Chattanooga system. The Alabama Mineral Railroad was later constructed here and merged with the Louisville & Nashville lines. In 1879 the Great Southern Railroad was built through Attalla. As a converging center for these four major routes the city grew significantly in both population and economic prosperity. Other, smaller routes include the East Alabama & Cincinnati Railroad (linking Attalla with Gadsden), the T.&C. Railroad, and the L. & N. Railroad, built in 1890. In the 1880s Attalla, due to railroad connections, became one of the major industrial engines in the state and largest iron ore shipping point in Alabama. The local newspaper the Attalla "Herald" declared, "*Attalla is a city made by the railroads. It grew because it had to grow, and the railroads came because they had to, and will have to come to get away from the mountains. Its destiny is fixed by its location, and its people are alive to this fact, and the active bustling town is a living example of present prosperity*." Unfortunately, Attalla's railroad prosperity was short-lived. When the railroad companies the city depended on went into bankruptcy Attalla lived an economically stagnant and precarious existence for almost a decade. Many of the city's prominent businessmen relocated and trade was sourced through other channels. Economic vitality was finally revived when iron mines in the surrounding mountains were opened for industrial development.

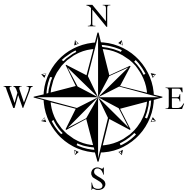
Another major contributor to Attalla's growth and prosperity was in being the first community entirely powered by a hydro-electric plant. In 1887, W.P. Lay invented the hydro-electric plant on a stream in Etowah County, near Attalla, giving birth to the Southern Company and Alabama Power. Today, Attalla is known and celebrated as the birthplace of Alabama Power.

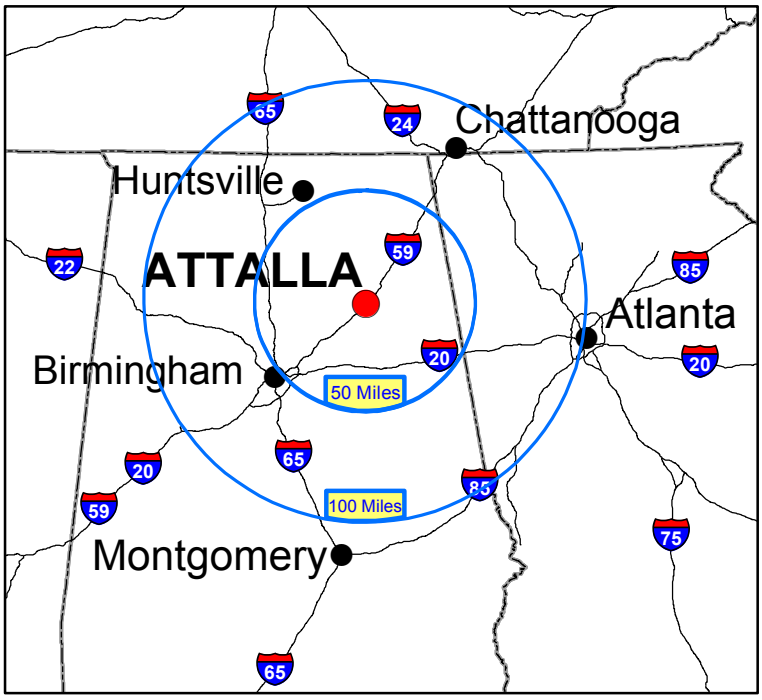
In later years, between 1942 and 1944, Camp Siebert was constructed in Attalla and neighboring Rainbow City as a replacement training center for the Chemical Warfare Service under the Defense Department. The 37,034 acre site was used as a chemical warfare training center until the end of WWII in 1945. Training performed at the site included such tasks as smoke screening, chemical decontamination, chemical depot maintenance, and chemical impregnation. Training exercises performed often entailed dropping sulfuric acid on troops from planes to simulate aerial mustard gas attacks. After decontamination, in 1948, the site was returned to private ownership and the airfield transferred to the City of Gadsden.

Today, Attalla remains a traditional southern community with small town charm, fine homes, good schools, and a bright future.

MAP 1
LOCATION







SOUTHEASTERN U.S.

MAP 2

BASE MAP

ATTALLA

ALABAMA

N

W E

S

Scale

2,200 1,100 0 2,200 Feet

Prepared By The East Alabama Regional Planning And Development Commission, 2006.

CHAPTER II: POPULATION

Population characteristics and trends play a pivotal role in the planning effort. Since people constitute a city, the general population creates a city's identity, distinguishing it from other communities. Changes in population influence land use decisions, economic spending patterns and employment, public services, and needs for public improvements. Furthermore, a clear understanding of existing population characteristics and trends gives guidance to city officials for making the most informed and effective decisions in meeting growth and development needs in a diverse and changing community. The purpose of this chapter is to gain an understanding of population change and composition in the City of Attalla in order to explore decisions and develop public policies and plans, which will best serve its present and future residents. This chapter examines historic population trends and place of birth and residence patterns. Population composition includes elements such as age, racial, and gender distributions, marital status, and population density. Finally, an analytical summary of population findings concludes the chapter.

Population Trends

Historic Population Trends

All community populations change to some degree over a given span of time. Historic population trends are useful in showing when and to what degree population has increased, decreased, or stabilized over a given time period. Major trends usually identify and reflect the goals and values of our nation as a whole and how communities respond to changing times and historical events. Although unfit for predicting the future, this information is useful for planning by understanding how and why social and cultural history shaped the city, making it what it is today. Table P-1 shows historical population trends for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama between 1910 and 2000.

Table P-1. Historical Population Trends: Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama

Year	Attalla	% Change	Etowah County	% Change	Alabama	% Change
1910	2,513	NA	39,109	NA	2,138,093	NA
1920	3,462	37.8%	47,275	20.9%	2,348,174	9.8%
1930	4,585	32.4%	63,399	34.1%	2,646,248	12.7%
1940	4,885	6.5%	72,580	14.5%	2,832,961	7.1%
1950	7,537	54.3%	93,892	29.4%	3,061,743	8.1%
1960	8,257	9.6%	96,980	3.3%	3,266,740	6.7%
1970	7,510	-9.0%	94,144	-2.9%	3,444,165	5.4%
1980	7,737	3.0%	103,057	9.5%	3,893,888	13.1%
1990	6,859	-11.3%	99,840	-3.1%	4,040,587	3.8%
2000	6,677	-2.7%	103,459	3.6%	4,447,100	10.1%

Source: U.S. Census of Population 1990 and 2000, 1997 Attalla Comp. Plan

Historically, Attalla has undergone considerable changes in population. From 1910 to 1960, the city grew, for the most part, at considerably higher rates than both Etowah County and Alabama.

In more recent years, 1970 through 2000, the city dropped below the county and state in terms of percent population growth and periodically lost population. The most significant growth periods in Attalla occurred between 1910 and 1920 (37%), 1920 and 1930 (32%), and 1940 and 1950 (54%). Between 1910 and 1950 Attalla's population increased by 5,024, a percent increase of 199.9%. During this time, the county increased by 140% and the state 43%. The most significant population losses occurred in 1970 (-9%) and 1990 (-11%). In 2000, Attalla sustained only a –2.7% loss in population. The timeframe of 1970 to 2000 shows Attalla losing 833 people, a decrease of 11%, while the county increased by 9% and the state 29%. Figure P-1 displays historic population trends for Attalla and Etowah County. Notice how Attalla had periods of sharper population growth and loss than Etowah County, which underwent more gradual change.

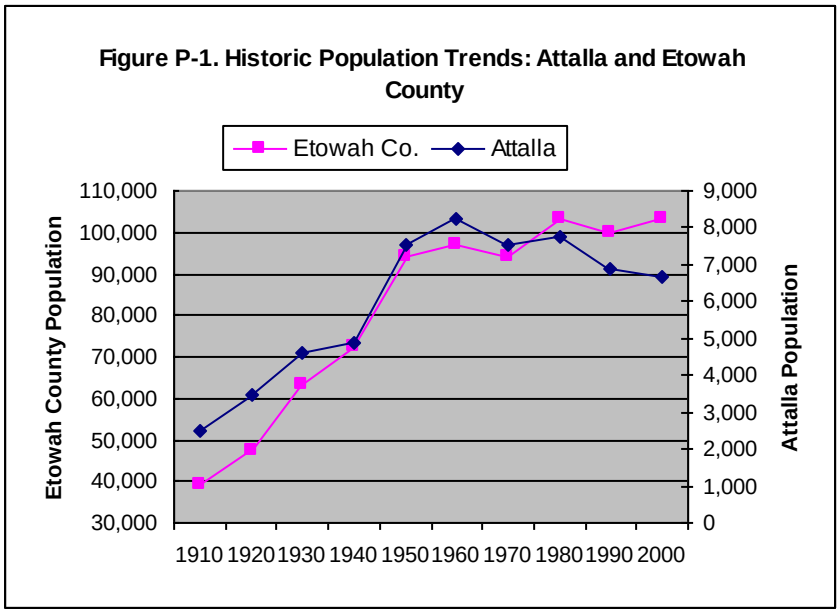


Figure P-1. Historic Population Trends: Attalla and Etowah County

Between 1910 and 1930, Attalla's population more than doubled numerically from 2,513 to 4,585, a percent increase of 82%. Etowah County experienced similar growth trends at 62% but did not double in size, while the state grew at a considerably slower rate (23%). Such growth could be attributed to great economic stability at the time. The great depression followed in 1939, resulting in economic decline and slower population growth for the city, county, and state overall. Population growth from 1940 to 1950 could be attributed to the end of WWII as residents of Alabama started new families, giving birth to the baby-boomer generation. Intermittent wars that followed from 1950 to 1970 such as the Korean War and Vietnam War assisted in population increases. The Anniston Army Depot in neighboring Calhoun County could have drawn additional military employees and their families to Attalla and Etowah County in wartime efforts, thus spurring population growth. Decreases in population from 1970 to 2000 could be attributed to economic globalization as a large percentage of manufacturing and other types of blue-collar employment became more available and feasible in other countries and establishments consolidated their resources in larger U.S. cities. As a result, workers and their families were relocated to other communities or sought employment opportunities elsewhere.

Place of Birth

Place of birth data is useful in determining population trends through migration patterns in the city's population. Examination of this data will show if the city is drawing population from other states and other counties or if the population is predominantly Alabama-born. Place of birth patterns show that Attalla had only minor inward migration from other states and countries. The majority of residents in Attalla, 86% in 1990 and 82% in 2000, were born in Alabama. The percent

of residents born in another state rose slightly from 13% in 1990 to 16% in 2000. Most residents born in another state were from another southern state (57% in 1990 and 64% in 2000), followed by movers from a mid-western state. All residents born outside the U.S. were born abroad of their U.S. parents in both 1990 and 2000. The U.S. Census records no foreign-born residents living in Attalla in 1990 and about 91 in 2000, accounting for 1.4% of the population. Table P-2 shows place of birth for the City of Attalla between 1990 and 2000.

Table P-2. Place of Birth: Attalla					Change 1990-2000	
Born in	1990	% of Total	2000	% of Total	#Change	%Change
State of Residence	5,919	86.3%	5,493	82.3%	-426	-7.2%
Another State	902	13.2%	1,065	16.0%	163	18.1%
A Northeastern State	102	11.3%	96	9.0%	-6	-5.9%
A Midwestern State	203	22.5%	208	19.5%	5	2.5%
A Southern State	518	57.4%	685	64.3%	167	32.2%
A Western State	79	8.8%	76	7.1%	-3	-3.8%
Born outside U.S.	38	0.6%	28	0.4%	-10	-26.3%
Puerto Rico	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
U.S. Island Areas	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Abroad of U.S. Parents	38	100.0%	28	100.0%	-10	-26.3%
Foreign-born	0	0.0%	91	1.4%	91	100.0%
Total	6,859		6,677		-182	-2.7%

U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 SF 3.

Place of Residence

Place of residence is defined as: The area of residence 5 years prior to the reference date (1990 and 2000) of those who reported moving to a different housing unit (U.S. Census Glossary). This data is useful to determine city migration patterns. Examination of this data will verify if the city has been gaining or losing in population previously living in other states and countries, and if the city's residents have been fairly stationary or mobile.

Most residents in Attalla tended to remain fairly stationary. Residents living in the same house 5 years prior declined from 3,927 (60% of the total population) in 1990 to 3,661 (59%) in 2000, a slight decrease of -6%. Meanwhile, residents previously living in a different housing unit in either Etowah County or some other county declined by a marginal –0.6%, which accounted for the remaining 40% of the population, excluding foreigners, in 2000. Attalla also received people moving in from other Alabama counties, increasing by 121 individuals, a 51% increase, however, the majority (68%) of the moving population remained in Etowah County in 2000. Most residents previously from out of state were from another southern state (70%) and 14% were from a northeastern state. Although the city gained substantially in southerners, it lost similarly substantial portions of mid-westerners, which attributed to the overall gain of only 7 individuals from other states. The city also gained 35 foreigners to its population, prior to none. Table P-3 examines place of residence for Attalla between 1990 and 2000.

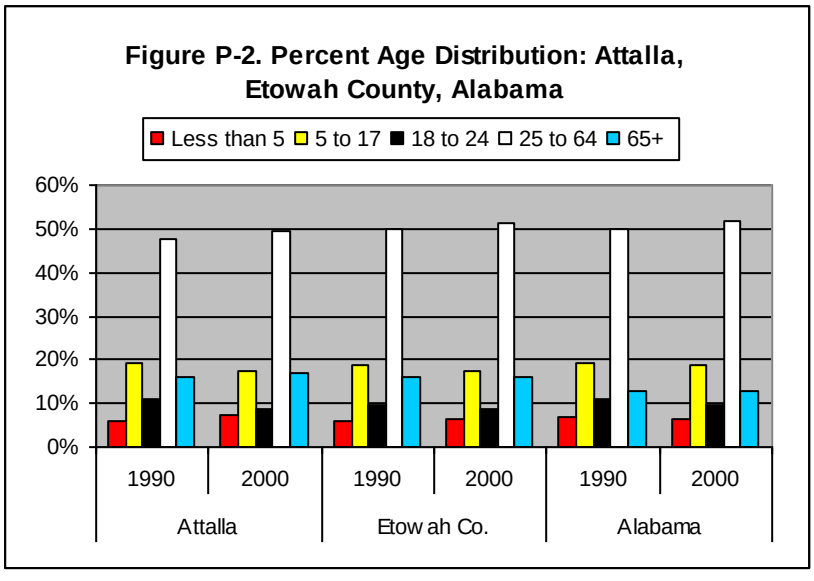
Table P-3. Place of Residence: Attalla					Change 1990-2000	
Resided in	1985	% of Total	1995	% of Total	#Change	%Change
Same House in...	3,927	60.8%	3,661	59.2%	-266	-6.8%
Different House in….	2,537	39.2%	2,521	40.8%	-16	-0.6%
Same County	1,912	75.4%	1,733	68.7%	-179	-9.4%
Same State	235	9.3%	356	14.1%	121	51.5%
Other State	390	15.4%	397	15.7%	7	1.8%
Northeastern State	46	11.8%	58	14.6%	12	26.1%
Midwestern State	163	41.8%	41	10.3%	-122	-74.8%
Southern State	172	44.1%	279	70.3%	107	62.2%
Western State	9	2.3%	19	4.8%	10	111.1%
Puerto Rico	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
U.S. outlying area	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Foreign Country	0	0.0%	35	1.4%	35	100.0%
Total	6,464		6,182		-282	-4.4%

U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 SF 3.

Population Composition

Age Distribution

Age distribution is a critical element in any population study. A community must structure their budget and resources to meet a wide variety of residents' needs. Needs tend to differ significantly from one age group to another, therefore a proper understanding of age distribution in the community is necessary. For the purposes of this study, age distributions are classified as followed: Toddler/Preschool (Less than 5 years in age), Youth/K-12 (5 to 17), Young Adult/College Age (18 to 24), Middle Age/Working adult (25 to 64), and Senior/Retired (65+). Between 1990 and 2000, the substantially dominant age group in Attalla was middle age working adults, which accounted for 47% of the total population in 1990 and 49% 2000, distantly followed by youth and senior populations at 19% and 16%, respectively in 1990. Both groups accounted for 17% in 2000. Figure P-2 illustrates percent age distribution for each age group in Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama between 1990 and 2000. Etowah County and Alabama followed similar patterns to Attalla in age distribution at this time. The dominant age group in the county and state in 1990 and 2000 was middle age working adult (Age 25-64), accounting for about half the population. Due to considerable differences in age, the middle age working group was further



divided into two age classes: age class 25 to 44 and age class 45 to 64. This division is useful for a more sufficient comparison of age groups and a better representation of the population as a whole. From 1990 to 2000, the younger class (25 to 44) accounted for a larger portion of the population, ranging between 26% and 30% of the city, county, and state population in 1990 and 2000, while the higher aged class accounted for a range between 19% and 24%.

The most significant growth occurred in toddler group, which increased from 395 to 495 individuals, a 25% increase from 1990. This population accounted for only a minor 7% of the total population, yet such growth suggests a somewhat substantial increase of natural births within young adult families. Comparatively, toddler populations in the county and state grew by 13% and 4%, respectively. The most prominent age group loss in the city occurred in the young adult group, with a percent decrease of -12%, while the county decreased by -3% and the state increased by 6%. Median age, during this time, rose to 38 in the city and county and 35 in the state. Table P-4 examines age distribution for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama for 1990 and 2000.

Table P-4. Age Distribution: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama

Age Group	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	%Change
Less than 5	395	495	25.3%	5,919	6,686	13.0%	280,785	294,822	4.5%
% of Total	5.8%	7.4%		6.0%	6.5%		6.9%	6.6%	
5 to 17	1,334	1,170	-12.3%	18,598	18,000	-3.2%	779,216	827,790	6.2%
% of Total	19.4%	17.5%		18.6%	17.4%		19.3%	18.6%	
18 to 24	759	579	-23.7%	9,651	8,944	-7.3%	434,617	437,088	0.6%
% of Total	11.1%	8.7%		9.7%	8.6%		10.8%	9.8%	
25 to 44	1,795	1,808	0.7%	28,612	28,347	-0.9%	1,237,765	1,294,710	4.6%
% of Total	26.2%	27.1%		28.7%	27.4%		30.6%	29.1%	
45 to 64	1,468	1,490	1.5%	21,188	24,895	17.5%	785,598	1,012,662	28.9%
% of Total	21.4%	22.3%		21.2%	24.1%		19.4%	22.8%	
65+	1,108	1,135	2.4%	15,872	16,587	4.5%	522,606	580,028	11.0%
% of Total	16.2%	17.0%		15.9%	16.0%		12.9%	13.0%	
Total	6,859	6,677	-2.7%	99,840	103,459	3.6%	4,040,587	4,447,100	10.1%
Median Age	35.3	38.1	7.9%	36	38.3	6.4%	33	35.8	8.5%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 SF 1.

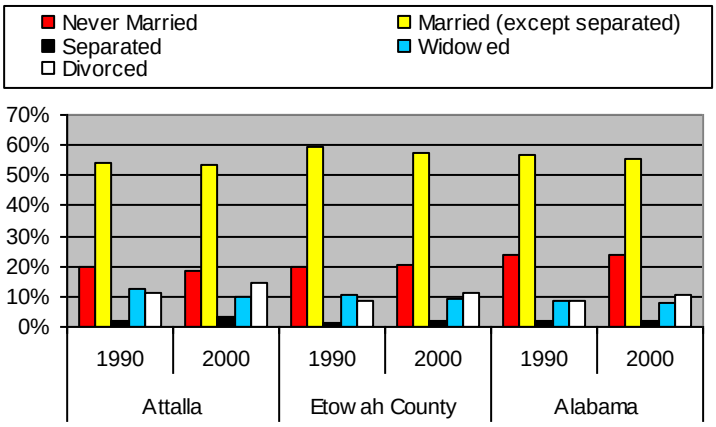
Marital Status

Marital status also plays an important role in demographic studies. A thorough understanding of marital status allows a community to determine family needs and develop programs and policy toward building stronger families. For purposes of this study, marital status reports for all persons age 15 and older and is organized into 5 categories which are as follows: 1) never married, 2) married (except separated), 3) separated, 4) widowed, 5) divorced.

According to Census data the dominant marital status in 1990 (54%) and 2000 (53%) was married (except separated). Both Etowah County and Alabama showed similar patterns with approximately 55% to 60% of the 15 years and older population reportedly married (except separated) in 1990 and 2000. Between 1990 and 2000, this population decreased slightly (-0.5%) in the city and

increased slightly in the county (2%) and state (9%). Attalla, also at this time, recorded somewhat higher divorce rates than the county and state. Although the county and state increased somewhat greater (both at 35%) in divorced individuals than the city (28%), Attalla, in 2000, held a somewhat higher portion of divorced persons (14%) than the county (11%) and state (10%). Figure P-3 illustrates percent marital status for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama between 1990 and 2000.

Figure P-3. Percent Marital Status: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama



Attalla also exhibited slightly higher portions of widowed marital status. From 1990 to 2000, the city decreased in widowed populations by a significant -21%, while the county and state decreased by -7% and -0.6% respectively. However, in 2000, city representation in this group accounted for 10%, which was slightly higher than the county at 9% and state at 7%. Separation has also increased (83%) substantially in the city in comparison to the county (34%) and the state (11%). This information indicates that Attalla would benefit from social programs and policy directed toward strengthening families and mitigating divorce rates. Table P-5 examines marital status for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama between 1990 and 2000.

Table P-5. Marital Status (Age 15 and Older): Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama

Marital Status	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change
Never Married	1,067	977	-8.4%	15,568	16,884	8.5%	754,868	839,185	11.2%
% of Total	20.1%	18.4%		19.8%	20.3%		23.9%	23.9%	
Married (except separated)	2,861	2,848	-0.5%	46,764	47,856	2.3%	1,791,644	1,953,261	9.0%
% of Total	54.0%	53.6%		59.5%	57.5%		56.6%	55.6%	
Separated	98	180	83.7%	1,286	1,729	34.4%	68,002	75,988	11.7%
% of Total	1.8%	3.4%		1.6%	2.1%		2.1%	2.2%	
Widowed	673	531	-21.1%	8,171	7,524	-7.9%	276,267	274,547	-0.6%
% of Total	12.7%	10.0%		10.4%	9.0%		8.7%	7.8%	
Divorced	604	775	28.3%	6,850	9,249	35.0%	273,511	371,218	35.7%
% of Total	11.4%	14.6%		8.7%	11.1%		8.6%	10.6%	
Total	5,303	5,311	0.2%	78,639	83,242	5.9%	3,164,292	3,514,199	11.1%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 SF 3.

Race Distribution

A general understanding of racial diversity is necessary for a community to better serve its residents. Communities with varying races tend to have differing cultural and ethnic needs, however, these factors can spur greater opportunities for growth within the community. Similar to many communities in Alabama, Attalla is a predominantly white community. Approximately 82.7% of Attalla's population in 2000 was white, which was similar to Etowah County at 82.8% and somewhat higher than Alabama at 71%, which has greater black populations. Both white and black populations in Attalla declined, -4% and –1% respectfully, from 1990 to 2000, while "other" groups (American Indians, Asians, and Pacific Islanders) have increased significantly, yet remained only a slight portion of the population. This could be due to a 2000 Census form change, which allowed individuals of closely varying racial backgrounds to mark multiple races as opposed to primary. Data indicated that both the county and state had uncommonly high increases in "other" race groups. Etowah County increased marginally 0.4% in whites, and somewhat more substantially in blacks at 6%. Alabama increased by 6% in whites and 13% in blacks, with significantly larger portions of blacks, suggesting conclusively higher racial diversity in the state than in the county and city. Table P-6 shows race distribution information for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama between 1990 and 2000.

Table P-6. Racial Distribution: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama

Racial Characteristics	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change
White	5,801	5,523	-4.8%	85,274	85,640	0.4%	2,975,797	3,162,808	6.3%
% of Total	84.6%	82.7%		85.4%	82.8%		73.6%	71.1%	
Black	1,032	899	-12.9%	13,799	14,672	6.3%	1,020,705	1,155,930	13.2%
% of Total	15.0%	13.5%		13.8%	14.2%		25.3%	26.0%	
Other	26	255	880.8%	767	3,147	310.3%	44,085	128,362	191.2%
% of Total	0.4%	3.8%		0.8%	3.0%		1.1%	2.9%	
Total	6,859	6,677	-2.7%	99,840	103,459	3.6%	4,040,587	4,447,100	10.1%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 SF 1.

Gender Distribution

In typical American communities females tend to slightly outnumber males, due primarily to higher male mortality rates and longer female life expectancy. Attalla closely followed this pattern, as well as Etowah County and Alabama communities, in general. Attalla's population, in 2000 comprised 46% male and 53% female. The county indicated similar results at 47% male and 52% female, while the state showed 48% and 51% respectively. Between 1990 and 2000, Attalla male populations decreased by –3% and –1% female. Although females slightly outnumber males, male populations have been growing at a slightly greater rate than female in both the county and state. Etowah County increased in males by 5% and 2% females, while the state climbed by 10% and 9% respectively. Table P-7 exhibits gender distribution for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama between 1990 and 2000.

Table P-7. Gender Distribution: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama									
Gender Distribution	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change
Male	3,235	3,110	-3.9%	47,065	49,433	5.0%	1,935,936	2,144,463	10.8%
% of Total	47.2%	46.6%		47.1%	47.8%		47.9%	48.2%	
Female	3,624	3,567	-1.6%	52,775	54,026	2.4%	2,104,651	2,302,637	9.4%
% of Total	52.8%	53.4%		52.9%	52.2%		52.1%	51.8%	
Total	6,859	6,677	-2.7%	99,840	103,459	3.6%	4,040,587	4,447,100	10.1%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 SF 1.

Population Density

Every community desires to grow in size and population, competitively. Population density measures this growth and examines how population changes affect city growth. Density is defined and calculated as: The total number of housing units within a geographic entity divided by the land area of that entity measured in square kilometers or square miles (U.S. Census 2000). According to the National Center for Immigration Studies, a city must have a population density of 1,000 people or more per square mile in order to be considered an urban area. In 1990 Attalla exceeded the set limit at 1,2000 people per square mile and could be recognized as an urban area, however, due to population decrease population density dropped to 988 in 2000, which was minimally under the mandatory requirement. Figure P-4 illustrates population density for Attalla and surrounding cities from 1990 to 2000.

Attalla showed substantially higher population and housing density than surrounding cities of similar size. In 1990 and 2000, the city's total land area was 6 square miles, compared to similarly sized communities in 2000 such as Rainbow City (25 square miles), Glencoe (16) and Southside (18). These neighboring cities recorded similar population size, yet were three to four times Attalla's land size. This situation, along with significant environmental constraints, forced the city to develop much more compactly and utilize land more efficiently in order to meet housing needs and other development demands. Attalla's housing units per square mile in 1990 was 479 and 436 in 2000, which averaged a housing density about three times the density of the neighboring communities of Rainbow City, Glencoe, and Southside. As previously mentioned, this pattern could also be substantially attributed to developmental physical barriers such as limited suitable land between the interstate and the mountains and floodplains adjacent to Big Wills Creek.

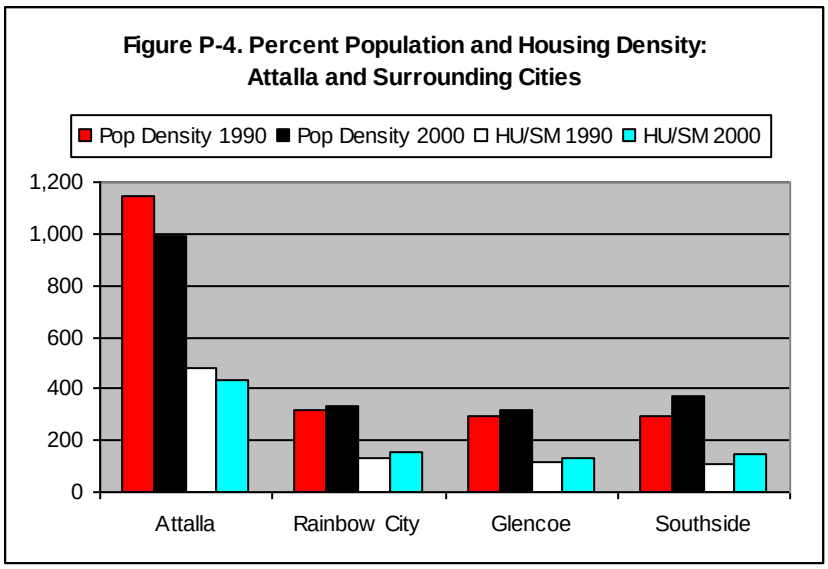


Table P-8 displays population density for Attalla and the neighboring communities of Rainbow City, Glencoe, and Southside from 1990 to 2000.

Table P-8. Population Density and Area: Attalla and Vicinity					
Geographic Area	Total Area	Total Land Area	Pop. Per sq. mile	Housing Units Per sq. mile	Total Population
Attalla 1990	6.0	6.0	1,143.2	479.0	6,859
2000	6.6	6.6	988.0	436.8	6,677
%Change	10.0%	10.0%	-13.6%	-8.8%	-2.7%
Rainbow City 1990	24.3	24.1	318.4	131.6	7,673
2000	25.3	25.1	333.0	151.1	8,607
%Change	4.1%	4.1%	4.6%	14.8%	12.2%
Glencoe 1990	14.3	14.2	298.0	113.6	4,663
2000	16.1	16.0	319.5	132.2	4,936
%Change	12.6%	12.7%	7.2%	16.4%	5.9%
Southside 1990	18.6	18.4	295.4	106.5	5,556
2000	19.1	18.9	368.3	145.7	7,057
%Change	2.7%	2.7%	24.7%	36.8%	27.0%

Source: U.S. Census 1990, SF 3 and EARPDC database, 2000.

Analytical Summary

The analytical summary provides a general review of the topics discussed in each chapter.

Historical Population Trends

- Historically, Attalla has undergone considerable changes in population. From 1910 to 1960, the city grew, for the most part, at considerably higher rates than both Etowah County and Alabama. In more recent years, 1970 through 2000, the city dropped below the county and state in terms of percent population growth and periodically lost population. Such loses could be attributed to declining economic opportunity and more competitive markets in neighboring communities such as Gadsden and Rainbow City.

Place of Birth

- Attalla had only minor inward migration from other states and countries. The majority of residents in Attalla, 86% in 1990 and 82% in 2000, were born in Alabama, indicating that Attalla relies primarily on residents born within the state.

Place of Residence

- Most residents in Attalla tended to remain fairly stationary. Residents living in the same house 5 years prior declined from 3,927 (60% of the total population) in 1990 to 3,661 (59%) in 2000, a slight decrease of -6%. Meanwhile, residents previously living in a different housing unit in either Etowah County or some other county declined by a marginal -2%, which accounted for the remaining 40% of the population, excluding foreigners, in 2000. This information reveals that there has been considerably little housing transition within the city.

- Attalla also received people moving in from other Alabama counties, increasing by 121, a 51% increase, however, the majority (69%) of the moving population remained in county in 2000. Most residents previously from out of state were from another southern state (70%) and 14% were from a northeastern state, suggesting that the city has been drawing in people much closer to home.

Age Distribution

- Between 1990 and 2000, the substantially dominant age group in Attalla was middle age (age 45 to 64) working adults, which accounted for 47% of the total population in 1990 and 49% 2000, distantly followed by youth/K-12 (age 5 to 17)and senior/retired (age 65+) populations at 19% and 16%, respectively in 1990. Both youth and senior groups accounted for 17% a piece in 2000.

Race Distribution

- Similar to many communities in Alabama, Attalla has been a predominantly white community. Approximately 82.7% of Attalla's population in 2000 was white, which was similar to Etowah County at 82.8% and somewhat higher than Alabama at 71%, indicating that the city has somewhat less racial diversity than the state.

Gender Distribution

- Gender composition in Attalla remains fairly balanced, following county and state trends. Attalla's population, in 2000 comprised 46% male and 53% female. The county indicated similar results at 47% male and 52% female, while the state showed 48% and 51% respectively.

Population Density

- Attalla is expanding minimally and losing population density. Between 1990 and 2000, Attalla grew from 6 square miles to 6.6 square miles, a 10% increase, yet decreased considerably in population per square mile (-13%) and housing units per square mile (-8%). As a planning consideration, the city should continue to develop compactly and utilize land as efficiently as efficiently as possible.

CHAPTER III: ECONOMY

The economy directly affects a community's growth and prosperity. The state of the local economy i.e. how well it creates and maintains employment opportunities, handles production, and distributes goods and services greatly influences population, housing, transportation, and land use. Therefore, a clear understanding of the local economy is a vital factor for community growth and development as well as a sustainable comprehensive planning effort.

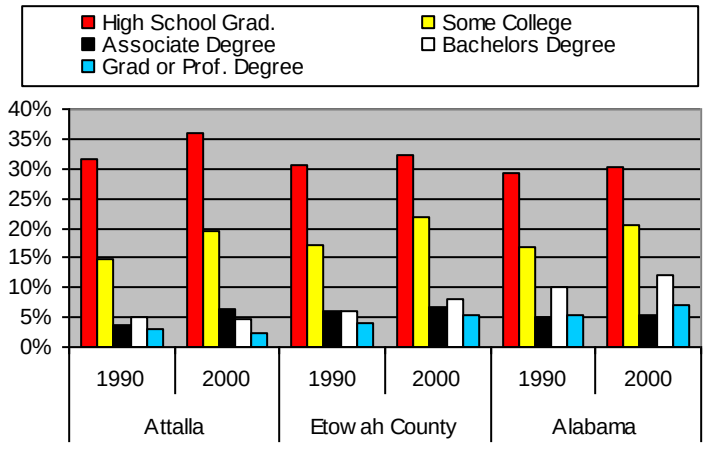
This chapter of the comprehensive plan examines the following economy related elements: educational attainment, income, commuting patterns, labor force participation and unemployment, industrial composition, occupational status, poverty, public assistance, and economic development potential. Attalla has great economic potential. Located in central Etowah County, in close proximity to the City of Gadsden and supported by Interstate 59 and other major highway routes, Attalla has convenient access to significant Alabama highways and a good metro market.

Educational Attainment

Education is a vital factor for initiating community growth and economic development. A high quality education system prepares and empowers individuals within the community to be productive, successful leaders in their respective fields of training and expertise. This, in turn, qualifies individuals for greater earning potential, allowing more money to be reinvested into the community, building the local economy.

Attalla ranked fairly low in educational attainment. Between 1990 and 2000, Attalla lost a significant amount of bachelor and graduate/professional degree recipients, for a combined decrease of -30%, while Etowah County and Alabama increased by 80% and 76%, respectively. In 2000, only 6% of the population had completed a bachelors or graduate/professional degree, as compared to the county at 13%, and the state at 19%. Figure E-1 illustrates percent educational attainment for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama between 1990 and 2000.

Figure E-1. Percent Educational Attainment: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama



Attalla, however, showed significant growth in recipients of Associate degrees and college participants with no degree, with a combined percent increase of 116%. In comparison, the county increased by 53% and the state by 61%. In 2000, approximately 25% of Attalla residents held an Associate degree or participated in college, while the county and state reported similar figures at 28% and 25% respectively. These increases could be attributed to community colleges and universities in the area such as Gadsden State Community College in Gadsden, Ayers State

Technical College in Anniston, and Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville. Table E-1 exhibits educational attainment for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama from 1990 to 2000.

Table E-1. Educational Attainment: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama

Educational Level	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change
Less Than 9th Grade	765	498	-34.9%	9,516	6,023	-36.7%	348,848	240,333	-31.1%
% of Total Pop. 25 Years +	17.5%	11.2%		14.5%	8.6%		13.7%	8.3%	
9th to 12 Grade, No Diploma	1,065	883	-17.1%	14,072	12,092	-14.1%	494,790	473,748	-4.3%
% of Total Pop. 25 Years +	24.4%	19.9%		21.4%	17.3%		19.4%	16.4%	
High School Graduate	1,387	1,599	15.3%	20,194	22,531	11.6%	749,591	877,216	17.0%
% of Total Pop. 25 Years +	31.7%	36.1%		30.7%	32.3%		29.4%	30.4%	
Some College, No Degree	645	859	33.2%	11,301	15,137	33.9%	427,062	591,055	38.4%
% of Total Pop. 25 Years +	14.8%	19.4%		17.2%	21.7%		16.8%	20.5%	
Associate Degree	158	290	83.5%	3,900	4,674	19.8%	126,450	155,440	22.9%
% of Total Pop. 25 Years +	3.6%	6.5%		5.9%	6.7%		5.0%	5.4%	
Bachelors Degree	220	203	-7.7%	4,076	5,679	39.3%	258,231	351,772	36.2%
% of Total Pop. 25 Years +	5.0%	4.6%		6.2%	8.1%		10.1%	12.2%	
Graduate or Professional	131	101	-22.9%	2,613	3,693	41.3%	140,997	197,836	40.3%
% of Total Pop. 25 Years +	3.0%	2.3%		4.0%	5.3%		5.5%	6.9%	
Persons 25 Years and Over	4,371	4,433	1.4%	65,672	69,829	6.3%	2,545,969	2,887,400	13.4%
% of Total Population	57.0%	51.5%		65.8%	67.5%		63.0%	64.9%	

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 SF 3.

Income

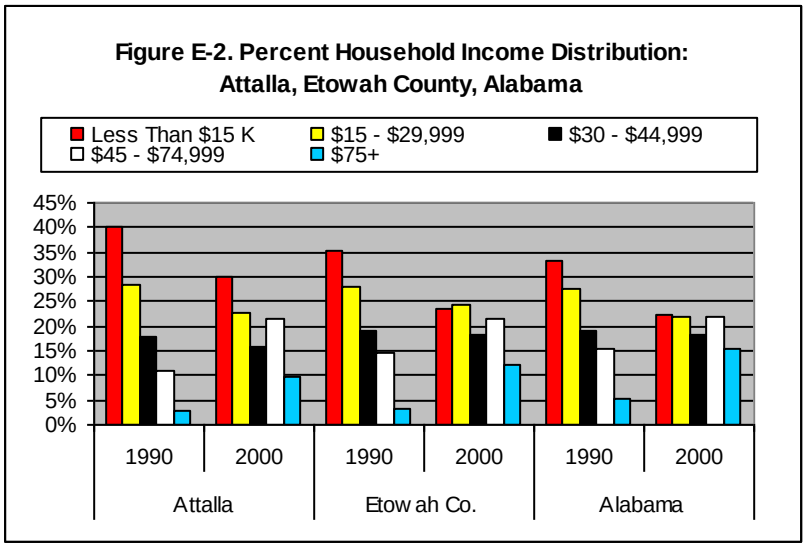
Monetary income is a primary factor in determining a community's wealth and prosperity. Higher incomes promote a higher standard of living and more return investment into the community, while lower incomes suggest lower standards and less investment. Therefore, a comprehensive economic study requires a though understanding of community income.

Household Income

Household income (HHI) is the most basic and generalized variable in measuring income. A household is considered a dwelling unit in which one or more individuals live. Therefore, the HHI is the accumulation of all income generated within a specified household. Median household income (MHI), which is characterized as the exact middle point monetary amount of household incomes collected, was also examined.

Attalla household income ranked considerably low. From 1990 to 2000, Attalla households tended to earn considerably less money than Etowah County and Alabama households in general, suggesting lower-paying jobs and less wealth being brought into the community. In 2000, a little over half, 52% of all households earned less than $29,999 per year, compared to 48% in Etowah County, and 44% in Alabama at this time. Approximately 30% of city households recorded earning less than $15 K per year, while the county and state registered 23% and 22% respectively, suggesting a substantially larger portion of households in need of monetary assistance and living

below acceptable standards. Figure E-2 illustrates percent household income distribution for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama from 1990 to 2000.



The greatest income growth for Attalla occurred in households earning more than $44,999, increasing by 337%, which was substantially less than the county at 365%, but significantly higher than the state at 303%. In 2000, approximately 31% of all Attalla households earned more than $44,999. Similar results were reflected in the county at 33%. Meanwhile, the state reported somewhat substantially more households at 37%, showing that although the city and county increased at a faster rate in wealthy households, the state maintained a higher balance. Notice in figure E-2 the significantly even income distribution in the state in 2000, which was somewhat more balanced than the county, and considerably more balanced than the city. Such balance indicates a more stable and sustainable economy, with a greater mix of high and low income jobs.

Median household income was also examined. In examining trends, median household income for Attalla between 1990 and 2000 was somewhat lower than Etowah County, and significantly lower than Alabama. In 2000, Attalla median household income was $27,444, while the county and state showed $31,170 and $34,135, respectively. Table E-2 shows household income distribution for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama from 1990 to 2000.

Table E-2. Household Income Distribution: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama

Income Level	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	%Change
Less Than $15 K	1,015	801	-21.1%	13,519	9,787	-27.6%	498,957	391,406	-21.6%
% of Total	40.0%	30.1%		35.2%	23.5%		33.1%	22.5%	
$15 - $29,999	720	604	-16.1%	10,772	10,199	-5.3%	412,393	378,264	-8.3%
% of Total	28.4%	22.7%		28.0%	24.5%		27.4%	21.8%	
$30 - $44,999	452	420	-7.1%	7,401	7,673	3.7%	284,506	318,861	12.1%
% of Total	17.8%	15.8%		19.2%	18.4%		18.9%	18.4%	
$45 - $74,999	281	574	104.3%	5,521	8,981	62.7%	231,304	381,959	65.1%
% of Total	11.1%	21.5%		14.4%	21.6%		15.4%	22.0%	
$75+	71	265	273.2%	1,240	4,994	302.7%	78,849	266,895	238.5%
% of Total	2.8%	9.9%		3.2%	12.0%		5.2%	15.4%	
Total Households	2,539	2,664	4.9%	38,453	41,634	8.3%	1,506,009	1,737,385	15.4%
Median Income	$20,176	$27,444	36.0%	$22,314	$31,170	39.7%	$23,597	$34,135	44.7%

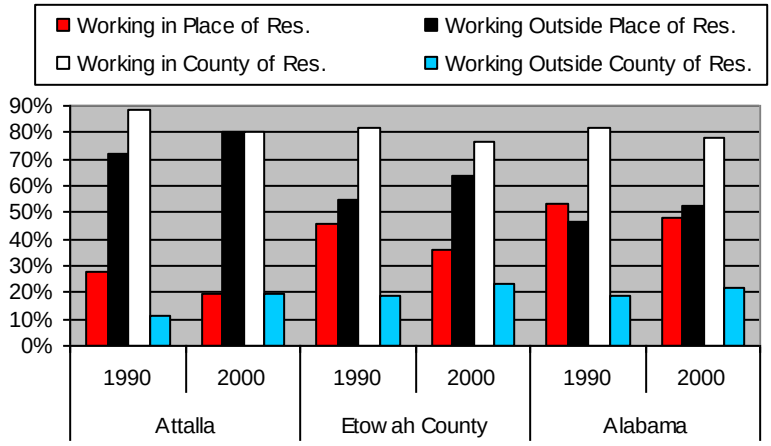
Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 SF 1 and 2000 SF 3.

Commuting Patterns

Commuting patterns can be used to gauge how far away people in a community live from their place of work and how much time was spent in transition to and from home and the workplace. These patterns are useful in recognizing places for job development and retention as well as alleviating long commuting time and travel distances in the city and its surrounding municipalities, thus advancing the local economy.

A national trend between 1990 and 2000 has been increasing commutes to work in both time and distance. Etowah County and Alabama have followed this trend, decreasing in laborers working in their place (city) of residence by –20% and –4% respectfully. Attalla also followed this trend. During this time, the city decreased in commuters working in their place of residence by a considerable -31% and increased in commuters working outside their place of residence by 8%. Figure E-3 illustrates percent commuting patterns for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama from 1990 to 2000. Notice that Attalla lost commuters living and working in the city, but gained in commuters living in other counties and commuting to the city. This suggests that more city commuters are living outside Attalla in other places in Etowah County and in surrounding counties.

Figure E-3. Percent Commuting Patterns: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama



The substantial majority of commuters in Attalla, in 2000, (80%) worked outside their place of residence and commuted to another community for work each day. Comparatively, the city had a significantly greater portion of commuters working outside their place of residence than did the county (64%) and the state (52%), indicating that the city was lagging behind in creating job opportunities near where employees lived.

Commuters from inside and outside the county also played a pivotal role in Attalla's economy. The city lost a few commuters in the county, but gained significantly more from outside the county, suggesting that Attalla was drawing workers from surrounding counties.

Attalla would benefit greatly from a fairly stationary labor force and concentrated economy. The city would save time and money on highway infrastructure improvements and expansion as a result of people living closer to their jobs. Other infrastructure costs such as electrical, sewer, and water would be reduced considerably. Workers should have the option of living closer to work and have the incentive to do so. Housing construction should follow economic development patterns, in order to create necessary and suitable living arrangements for workers. This would also promote other forms of transportation such as biking and walking, thus alleviating automobile dependency. As the city grows and expands, it should continue to seek employees from other surrounding

counties, states, and countries in order to better diversify its employment base and promote new ideas and options for growth and development. Table E-3 shows commuting patterns for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama between 1990 and 2000.

Table E-3. Commuting Patterns: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama

Geographic Area	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change
Working in Place of Residence	765	528	-31.0%	13,592	10,840	-20.2%	596,516	569,905	-4.5%
% of Total	27.9%	19.8%		45.4%	35.9%		53.2%	47.8%	
Working Outside Place of Residence	1,975	2,138	8.3%	16,365	19,351	18.2%	525,480	621,853	18.3%
% of Total	72.1%	80.2%		54.6%	64.1%		46.8%	52.2%	
Total Place	2,740	2,666	-2.7%	29,957	30,191	0.8%	1,121,996	1,191,758	6.2%
Working in County of Residence	2,362	2,130	-9.8%	32,370	32,082	-0.9%	1,363,133	1,421,356	4.3%
% of Total	88.4%	80.5%		81.5%	76.6%		81.5%	78.0%	
Working Outside County of Residence	311	516	65.9%	7,328	9,800	33.7%	310,438	400,437	29.0%
% of Total	11.6%	19.5%		18.5%	23.4%		18.5%	22.0%	
Total County	2,673	2,646	-1.0%	39,698	41,882	5.5%	1,673,571	1,821,793	8.9%

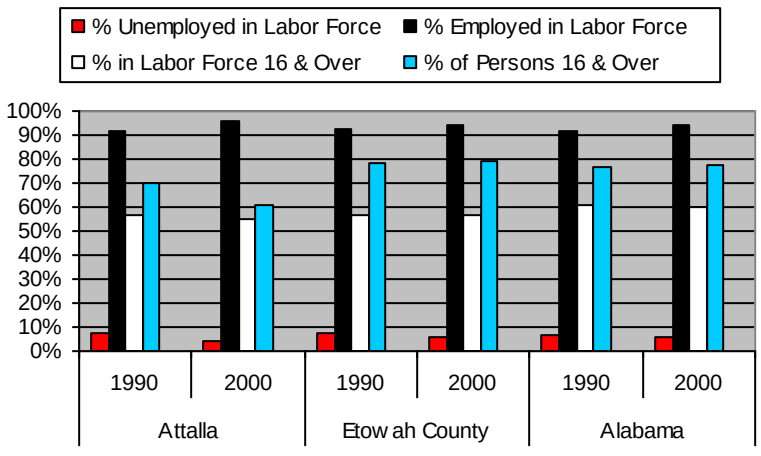
Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 STF 3.

Labor Force Participation and Unemployment

Labor force participation is based on how many individuals ages 16 and over are a part of the labor force, and if they are employed or unemployed as civilian or armed forces. Businesses desiring to relocate or expand seek communities with a strong labor force from which to draw qualified employment. To do this they must estimate approximately how many candidates are available to fill positions required to perform necessary operations. Therefore, a proper understanding of a community's labor force is critical to a comprehensive planning effort.

Attalla's labor force participation was fairly standard. City labor force participation declined slightly by –4% from 1990 to 2000, while county participation increased slightly by 4% and the state declined significantly by –27%. In 2000, approximately 54% of city's 16 and older population participated in the labor force, compared to 56% in the county, and 59% in the state. Figure E-4 illustrates percent labor force participation for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama between 1990 and 2000.

Figure E-4. Percent Labor Force Participation: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama



City unemployment ranked relatively low. From 1990 to 2000, the city dropped from 7% to 2% unemployment, while the county showed a drop from 7%

to 3%, and the state recorded a 4% to 3% decline. Attalla also had a considerably smaller portion of individuals age 16 and older than both the county and state, showing that in the city there was less of a base from which to draw employable workers. Table E-4 shows labor force participation for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama between 1990 and 2000.

Table E-4. Labor Force Participation: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama

Labor Classification	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change
Total Persons 16+	5,339	5,233	-2.0%	78,517	81,735	4.1%	3,103,529	3,450,542	11.2%
In Labor Force	3,007	2,862	-4.8%	44,211	46,225	4.6%	2,832,419	2,061,169	-27.2%
% in Labor Force	56.3%	54.7%	-2.8%	56.3%	56.6%	0.5%	91.3%	59.7%	-34.6%
Armed Forces	8	0	-100.0%	117	45	-61.5%	24,980	14,069	-43.7%
% in Armed Forces	0.3%	0.0%	-100.0%	0.3%	0.1%	-66.7%	0.9%	0.7%	-22.2%
Civilian Labor Force	2,999	2,862	-4.6%	44,094	46,180	4.7%	1,870,381	2,047,100	9.4%
Employed	2,763	2,733	-1.1%	40,902	43,426	6.2%	1,741,794	1,920,189	10.2%
Unemployed	236	129	-45.3%	3,192	2,754	-13.7%	128,587	126,911	-1.3%
% Unemployed	7.8%	2.5%	-67.9%	7.2%	3.4%	-52.8%	4.5%	3.7%	-17.8%
Not in Labor Force	2,332	2,371	1.7%	34,306	35,510	3.5%	1,208,168	1,389,373	15.0%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 STF 3.

Industrial Composition

Any economically prosperous community will have a diverse and changing economic base, offering a variety of job opportunities and services to its population. As markets change and demand for specified goods and services increase or decrease, industrial sectors will vary in size and in their influence on the overall industrial composition and economic welfare of the community, therefore, a proper examination of industrial composition is necessary to plan for economic development and opportunities.

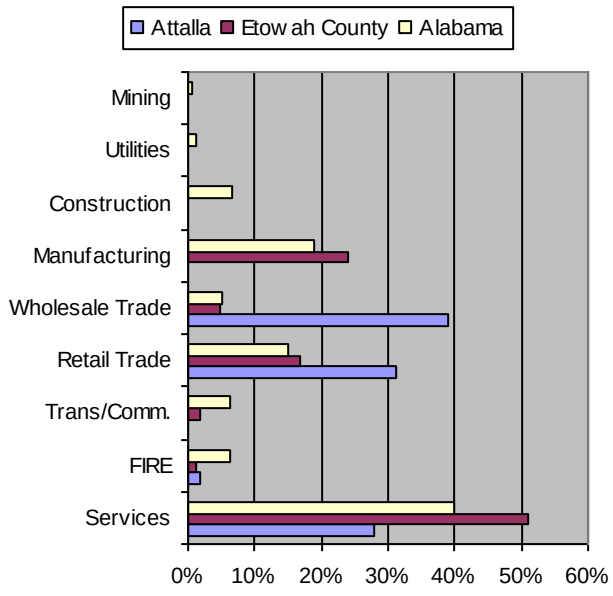
This section of the economy chapter focuses on industrial composition through employment by industry data and establishment by industry data. This information is useful in determining economic diversity and where economic development and opportunity is expected to grow and/or decline. For categorization purposes, industries have been organized into 9 distinct industrial sectors, which included: mining, utilities, construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, transportation and communications (Trans/Comm), FIRE (Finance, Insurance, Real-Estate), and services (which entails professional, administrative, arts, education, healthcare, and food accommodation). Information for this study was collected from the 2002 Economic Census, which profiles American business every 5 years from the national to local level.

Employment by Industrial Sector

A study of employment in the city, county, and state is useful in determining the probable direction of job growth and opportunity. Attalla employment, in 2002 consisted primarily of wholesale trade (38%), retail trade (31%), and services (27%), altogether accounting for approximately 98% of all

employment opportunities. Both Etowah County and Alabama showed considerably different patterns in economic development. While the city excelled in wholesale and retail trade, the county and state focused on services (51% for county, and 40% for state) and manufacturing (24% for county, and 19% for state), together accounting for 75% and 59% of their respective employment. Figure E-5 illustrates percent employment by industry for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama in 2002.

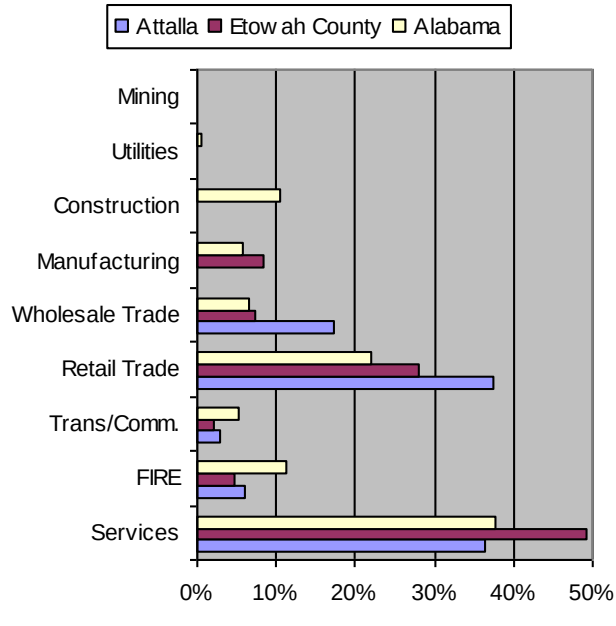
Figure E-5. Percent Employment by Industry: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama (2002)



Both Etowah County and Alabama have a substantially more diverse employment base than Attalla, suggesting a more stable economy. As a part of its plan for economic development, Attalla should promote goals and policy to diversify its economy, creating a wider range of opportunity for job growth and economic development.

Establishments by Industrial Sector

Figure E-6. Percent Establishments by Industry: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama (2002)



A study of business establishments is useful follow-up to employment patterns. As companies grow and expand they need new and better facilities for operation. The majority of city establishments incorporated retail trade (37%) and services (36%) together accounting for 73% of all city establishments.

Meanwhile, Etowah County recorded about 28% in retail and 49% in services. Alabama showed 22% and 37%, respectively. Figure E-6 shows percent establishments by industry for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama in 2002.

Wholesale trade establishments accounted for 17% of all establishments, being Attalla's largest employer at 38%. Transportation/Communications and FIRE cumulatively accounted for 9% of all establishments, despite representing 1.9% of

all city employment. Table E-5 shows establishment and employment by industry information for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama in 2002.

Table E-5. Establishment and Employment by Industry: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama, 2002

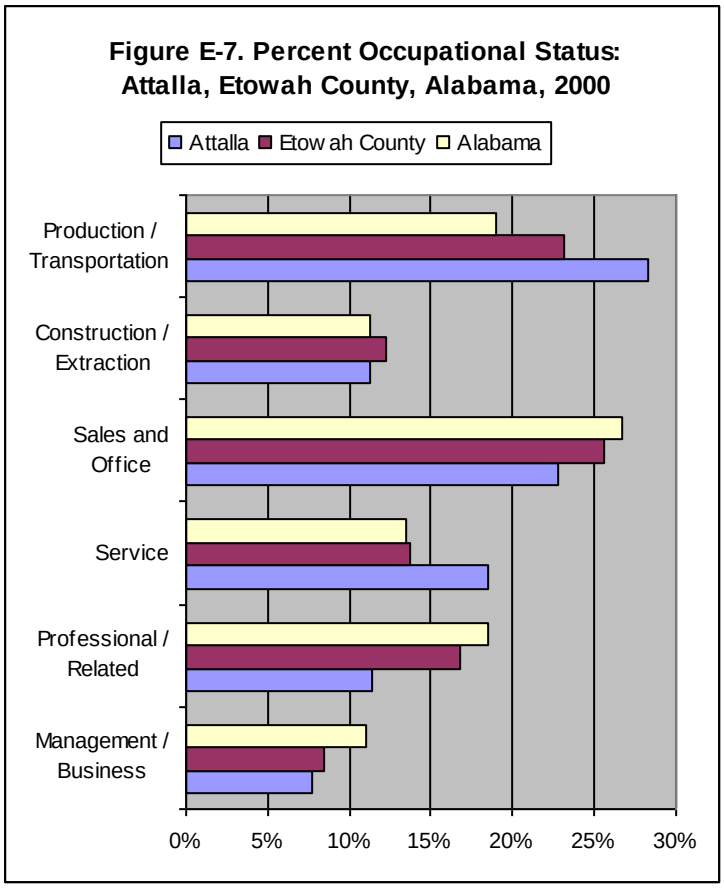
Industry	Attalla		Etowah County		Alabama	
	Est.	Emp.	Est.	Emp.	Est.	Emp.
Mining	X	X	X	X	282	7,508
% of Total	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.5%
Utilities	X	X	X	X	503	16,014
% of Total	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	1.1%
Construction	X	X	X	X	9,345	98,555
% of Total	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.6%	6.6%
Manufacturing	Z	Z	138	6,504	5,119	284,127
% of Total	0.0%	0.0%	8.5%	24.1%	5.8%	19.0%
Wholesale Trade	17	445	119	1,333	5,747	74,915
% of Total	17.2%	38.9%	7.4%	4.9%	6.5%	5.0%
Retail Trade	37	358	454	4,581	19,608	222,416
% of Total	37.4%	31.3%	28.0%	16.9%	22.1%	14.9%
Trans/Comm.	3	X	36	452	4,731	91,960
% of Total	3.0%	0.0%	2.2%	1.7%	5.3%	6.2%
FIRE	6	22	75	350	9,971	95,551
% of Total	6.1%	1.9%	4.6%	1.3%	11.3%	6.4%
Services	36	320	797	13,807	33,257	600,844
% of Total	36.4%	27.9%	49.2%	51.1%	37.6%	40.3%
Totals	99	1,145	1,619	27,027	88,563	1,491,890

Source: U.S. Economic Census, 2002.

Occupational Status

Every economically viable community has a variety of job occupations through which services are performed and money is circulated. A study of occupational status shows what kind of labor is being utilized in a community. This is useful for determining where job opportunities exist and where job growth is most or least likely to occur. For categorization purposes, occupational status has been divided into 6 categories, which included: 1) Management / Business—which constituted business and financial operators, farmers and farm operators, and financial specialists, 2) Professional / Related—which consisted of architects, engineers, legal occupations, computer specialists, social services, and technical healthcare occupations. 3) Services—healthcare support, firefighting and law enforcement, ground and building maintenance, food accommodation, and personal care services, 4) Sales / Office—sales and related, and administrative, 5) Construction / Extraction—construction trade workers, extraction workers, and supervisors, 6) Production / Transportation—production occupations, transportation and moving occupations, aircraft and traffic control operations, motor vehicle operators, rail, water, and other transportation related occupations.

Attalla's three major occupations were in production/transportation (28%), sales and office (22%), and service (18%), together these three occupations accounted for approximately 69% of all city jobs in 2000.



Occupational status for Attalla followed trends similar to Etowah County and Alabama. Both the county at 23% and state at 19% had a substantial portion of occupations in production/transportation and in sales and office, the dominant occupational status, at 25% and 26%, respectively. However, the city ranked considerably higher than the county and state in production /transportation occupations and service while the county and state ranked substantially higher in professional/related occupations and sales and office. This information suggests a predominance of industrial, blue collar jobs in the city, while the county and state exhibited a white collar, office-related background. Figure E-7 displays percent occupational status for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama in 2000.

Occupational status data was collected from the 2000 U.S. Census. Provisions for job overlap in each category and individual multiple occupations were not taken into consideration. Therefore, information collected is useful in giving a broad indication of occupational status in the defined areas. Table E-6 shows occupational status for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama in 2000.

Table E-6. Occupational Status: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama, 2000

Occupation	Attalla	% of Total	Etowah County	% of Total	Alabama	% of Total
Management / Business	211	7.7%	3,655	8.4%	211,869	11.0%
Professional / Related	311	11.4%	7,312	16.8%	354,456	18.5%
Service	506	18.5%	5,969	13.7%	259,106	13.5%
Sales and Office	624	22.8%	11,138	25.6%	512,117	26.7%
Construction / Extraction	308	11.3%	5,290	12.2%	217,200	11.3%
Production / Transportation	773	28.3%	10,062	23.2%	365,441	19.0%
Total	2,733		43,426		1,920,189	

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 2000 STF 3.

Poverty Status

Poverty status shows the economic welfare of a community and can be used to assess a community's need for public assistance. According to the U.S. Census glossary, poverty is measured in accordance with monetary income, excluding capital gains or losses, taxes, non-cash benefits, and whether or not a person lives in a family or non-family household, compared to the selected poverty threshold for the respective community. People who cannot be included in poverty studies include: unrelated individuals under 15, and people in institutional group quarters, college dormitories, military barracks, and living conditions without conventional housing and who are not in shelters.

Poverty status was categorized into age classes. The largest age class was 18 to 64, which held the most poverty at 51% for Attalla, 52% for Etowah County, and 53% for Alabama in 2000. From 1990 to 2000, poverty in senior populations decreased by -20%, but increased in younger populations, particularly in the 5 and under (22%). In 2000, Attalla had a somewhat larger portion of seniors in poverty (17%) than did Etowah County (13%) and Alabama (12%). The county and state had larger portions of youths aged 6 to 17 in poverty than the city at this time.

From 1990 to 2000, Attalla lagged behind in mitigating poverty. Although city poverty dropped from 19% to 18% during this time, both the county (15%) and state (16%) had lower poverty levels in 2000. Table E-7 examines poverty status for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama between 1990 and 2000.

Table E-7. Poverty Status: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama

Poverty Status by Age	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change
5 and under	131	161	22.9%	1,832	2,024	10.5%	87,462	82,914	-5.2%
% of Total	10.3%	13.3%		11.3%	12.7%		12.1%	11.9%	
6 to 17	212	213	0.5%	3,215	3,359	4.5%	166,174	154,967	-6.7%
% of Total	16.7%	17.6%		19.8%	21.1%		23.0%	22.2%	
18 to 64	663	623	-6.0%	8,030	8,388	4.5%	350,179	373,940	6.8%
% of Total	52.1%	51.5%		49.4%	52.6%		48.4%	53.6%	
65 and above	267	213	-20.2%	3,165	2,167	-31.5%	119,799	86,276	-28.0%
% of Total	21.0%	17.6%		19.5%	13.6%		16.6%	12.4%	
Total	1,273	1,210	-4.9%	16,242	15,938	-1.9%	723,614	698,097	-3.5%
% Below Poverty Level	19.0%	18.6%	-0.4%	16.5%	15.7%	-0.8%	18.3%	16.1%	-2.2%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 STF 3.

Public Assistance

Public assistance income supports households below the pre-determined poverty threshold. An examination of public assistance income is useful in determining how many people are in need of receiving public monetary support and if that need is being met. To determine levels of need, public assistance status was measured against below poverty level information.

Attalla provided public assistance to its residents. In 1990, Attalla provided approximately 14% of its population with public assistance. That percentage decreased substantially to 2% (an 80% decline) in 2000, yet poverty status dropped by less than 1% (0.4%) during this time, indicating that public assistance did little to alleviate poverty to begin with or these people moved out of the city. Both Etowah County and Alabama showed similar trends. The county decreased public assistance spending from 9% to 2%, yet decreased in poverty by less than 1%, and the state decreased spending from 8% to 2%, yet decreased poverty by 2%. This information indicates that despite significant reductions in public assistance spending, poverty status tended to decline only minimally. The results shown could be attributed to a combination of factors such as more stringent regulations and screening as to who is able to receive public assistance income and those in poverty finding other means of attaining their needs. Table E-8 displays public assistance status for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama between 1990 and 2000.

Table E-8. Public Assistance Status: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama

Status	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change
Public Assistance Income	356	71	-80.1%	3,468	944	-72.8%	130,616	38,964	-70.2%
% of Total	14.0%	2.7%		9.0%	2.3%		8.7%	2.2%	
No Public Assistance Income	2,183	2,593	18.8%	34,985	40,690	16.3%	1,375,393	1,698,421	23.5%
% of Total	86.0%	97.3%		91.0%	97.7%		91.3%	97.8%	
Totals	2,539	2,664	4.9%	38,453	41,634	8.3%	1,506,009	1,737,385	15.4%
% Below Poverty Level	19.0%	18.6%	-0.4%	16.5%	15.7%	-0.8%	18.3%	16.1%	-2.2%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 STF 3.

Economic Development Potential for Attalla

Located adjacent to Interstate 59 and a major metro market in the neighboring City of Gadsden, Attalla is positioned for substantial commercial and industrial development. The city is also supported by three federal highways and one state highway, forming a crossroads of sorts in the downtown. Attalla should strive to promote highway commercial and light to medium industrial development along these corridors and annex land where appropriate in order to increase city employment and revenue. In order to draw potential industrial developments to the community, Attalla could create and implement a strategic industrial recruitment plan, as described in Chapter IX: Goals and Objectives.

As a central planning principal for economic development and quality of life, the city must not neglect the downtown, in favor of highway establishments, but continue to improve and expand businesses in the downtown. The city could accomplish this by creating and implementing a downtown improvement plan, as described in Chapter IX: Goals and Objectives and Chapter X: Implementation. This plan would seek to preserve and enhance the aesthetic appeal and small-community charm inherent to Alabama rural town culture.

Attalla could also capitalize on its unique historical position as the birthplace of Alabama Power and the first community in the United States to utilize electric street lighting. A historical or

commemorative station could be placed in a strategic location in Attalla, such as in City Hall, to honor this precious achievement.

Recreation and tourism is another economic potential for the city. Big Wills Creek and its extensive floodplains could be used for canoeing, walking trails, and parkland, creating a unique recreational environment and enhancing adjacent land values.

Analytical Summary

The analytical summary provides a general review of the topics discussed in each chapter and sets forth broad recommendations (in italics).

Educational Attainment

- *Improve and enhance educational attainment through vocational training and computer technology*. Attalla ranked fairly low in educational attainment. Between 1990 and 2000, Attalla lost a significant amount of bachelor and graduate/professional degree recipients, for a combined decrease of -30%, while Etowah County and Alabama increased by 80% and 76%, respectively. In 2000, only 6% of the population had completed a bachelors or graduate/professional degree, as compared to the county at 13%, and the state at 19%.

Income

- *Increase household income levels through improved workforce development*. Attalla household income ranked considerably low. From 1990 to 2000, Attalla households tended to earn considerably less money than Etowah County and Alabama households in general, suggesting lower-paying jobs and less wealth being brought into the community. In 2000, a little over half, 52% of all households earned less than $29,999 per year, compared to 48% in Etowah County, and 44% in Alabama at this time.
- Median household income for Attalla between 1990 and 2000 was somewhat lower than Etowah County, and significantly lower than Alabama. In 2000, Attalla median household income was $27,444, while the county and state showed $31,170 and $34,135, respectively.

Commuting Patterns

- *Decrease commuting distances by creating job opportunities in close proximity to residential areas*. A national trend between 1990 and 2000 has been increasing commutes to work in both time and distance. Etowah County and Alabama have followed this trend, decreasing in laborers working in their place (city) of residence by –20% and –4% respectively. Attalla also followed this trend. During this time, the city decreased in commuters working in their place of residence by a considerable -31% and increased in commuters working outside their place of residence by 8%. The substantial majority of commuters in Attalla, in 2000, (80%) worked outside their place of residence and commuted to another community for work each day. Comparatively, the city had a significantly greater portion of commuters working outside their place of residence than did the county (64%) and the state (52%), indicating that the city was lagging behind in creating job opportunities near where employees lived.

Labor Force Participation and Unemployment

- *Increase labor force participation and enhance employment opportunities through work force development and education*. Attalla's labor force participation was fairly standard. City labor force participation declined slightly by –4% from 1990 to 2000, while county participation increased slightly by 4% and the state declined significantly by –27%. In 2000, approximately 54% of city's 16 and older population participated in the labor force, compared to 56% in the county, and 59% in the state.

- City unemployment ranked relatively low. From 1990 to 2000, the city dropped from 7% to 2% unemployment, while the county showed a drop from 7% to 3%, and the state recorded a 4% to 3% decline.

Industrial Composition

- *Continue to diversify employment opportunities through a variety of job training initiatives*. Attalla employment, in 2002 consisted primarily of wholesale trade (38%), retail trade (31%), and services (27%), altogether accounting for approximately 98% of all employment opportunities. Both Etowah County and Alabama showed considerably different patterns in economic development. While the city excelled in wholesale and retail trade, the county and state focused on services (51% for county, and 40% for state) and manufacturing (24% for county, and 19% for state), together accounting for 75% and 59% of their respective employment. This information suggests that Attalla showed substantially lower diversification in employment opportunity than both the county and state.

Occupational Status

- *Create small-business opportunities through downtown re-development and job training*. Attalla's three major occupations were in production/transportation (28%), sales and office (22%), and service (18%), together these three occupations accounted for approximately 69% of all city jobs in 2000.

Poverty Status

- *Continue providing low-income housing, preferably quality affordable housing, and public assistance to needy families*. From 1990 to 2000, Attalla lagged behind in mitigating poverty. Although city poverty dropped from 19% to 18% during this time, both the county (15%) and state (16%) had lower poverty levels in 2000.

Public Assistance

- *Increase public assistance as a measure to improve economic conditions, but also develop policy and plans to mitigate the need for assistance*. Attalla provided public assistance to its residents. In 1990, Attalla provided approximately 14% of its population with public assistance. That percentage decreased substantially to 2% (an 80% decline) in 2000, yet poverty status dropped by less than 1% (0.4%) during this time, indicating that public assistance did little to alleviate poverty to begin with or these people moved out of the city. Both Etowah County and Alabama showed similar trends. The county decreased public assistance spending from 9% to 2%, yet decreased in poverty by less than 1%, and the state decreased spending from 8% to 2%, yet decreased poverty by 2%.

CHAPTER IV: HOUSING

Housing is one of the most fundamental elements of community needs. In order for a community to grow and prosper there must be a diverse and satisfactory amount of quality housing available. A housing examination is useful in determining housing types, existing housing conditions, availability, and affordability, in order to identify and meet the city's housing needs. Attalla recognizes these needs and has taken action to address concerns. This chapter examines housing characteristics such as unit types, tenure and occupancy status, vacancy status, household size, housing stock age, conditions, value, and affordability.

Housing Inventory

Units by Type

Housing comes in many forms and styles, each aiming to satisfy a wide range of people with changing demands and needs. A community that champions a variety of housing types has an advantage in that it provides many housing options with which to choose from, thus attracting more people. An examination of unit types reveals the most common and least common housing options available, expressing trends in housing development. Attalla's housing consists of the following types: 1) Single-family—one unit attached or detached structures housing one family, primarily a house 2) Multi-family—contains two or more units within one structure with one family per unit; these include apartments, town homes, and duplexes, 3) Manufactured—a transportable structure which is three hundred-twenty or more square feet, when installed, to be used as a dwelling with or without a foundation, 4) Other—any living accommodations occupied as a housing unit that does not fit the previous types, such as houseboats, railroad cars, campers, and vans. Figure H-1 illustrates percent housing types for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama between 1990 and 2000.

Single-family housing comprised the largest housing type in the city, at 81% in 2000. This was somewhat higher than the county at 75% and considerably higher than the state at 68%. From 1990 to 2000, Attalla decreased significantly in mobile home units (-37%), while Etowah County increased by 45% and Alabama by 46%, indicating that single-family and multi-family housing increased substantially more as attractive options. Based on significantly high population and housing densities (See Chapter I: Population), most city homes and lots were somewhat smaller than others in the county. Attalla should consider investing in more multi-family housing to accommodate a variety of housing needs and draw more people into the

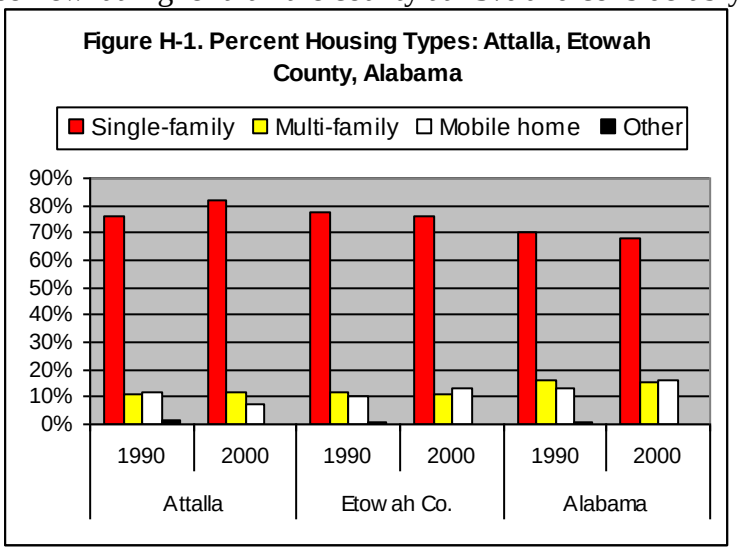


Figure H-1. Percent Housing Types: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama

city. Also, as the city's population ages into middle and senior populations (See Chapter I: Population), demand for multi-family could increase. Table H-1 shows housing types for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama between 1990 and 2000.

Table H-1. Housing Types: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama

Housing Types	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change
Single-family	2,182	2,430	11.4%	32,378	34,855	7.7%	1,171,201	1,338,832	14.3%
% of Total	75.9%	81.6%		77.5%	75.8%		70.1%	68.2%	
Multi-family	320	341	6.6%	4,902	5,011	2.2%	266,351	300,569	12.8%
% of Total	11.1%	11.4%		11.7%	10.9%		15.9%	15.3%	
Mobile home	333	208	-37.5%	4,166	6,056	45.4%	217,784	319,212	46.6%
% of Total	11.6%	7.0%		10.0%	13.2%		13.0%	16.3%	
Other	39	0	-100.0%	341	37	-89.1%	15,043	5,098	-66.1%
% of Total	1.4%	0.0%		0.8%	0.1%		0.9%	0.3%	
Total Units	2,874	2,979	3.7%	41,787	45,959	10.0%	1,670,379	1,963,711	17.6%

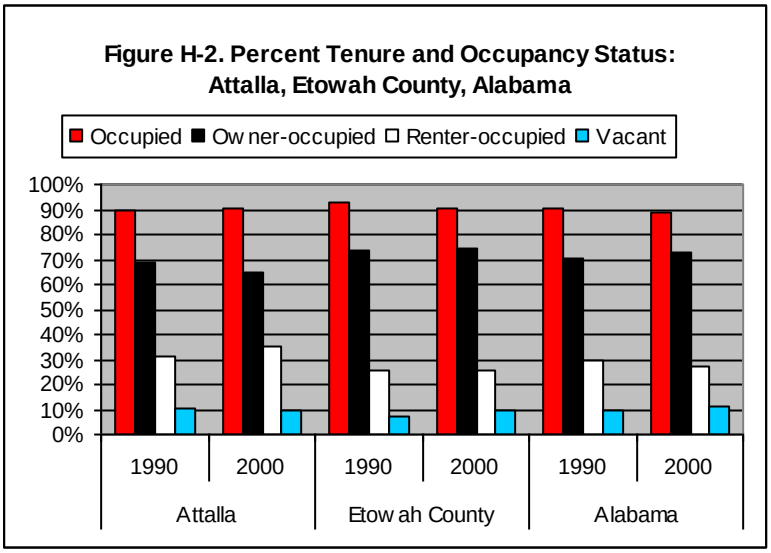
Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 STF 1.

Tenure and Occupancy Status

Housing occupancy and ownership patterns change as a result of the housing market and population growth or decline. A study of housing ownership patterns is useful in analyzing housing needs and guiding policies toward better housing development.

Most of Attalla's housing was owner-occupied (64%), which was substantially behind Etowah County (74%) and Alabama (72%) in 2000. Between 1990 and 2000, owner-occupied housing declined by a slim –2%, yet increased by 8% and 18% in the county and state, respectively. During this time, the city's renter-occupied housing increased by a significant 19%, a considerably greater climb than the county at 5% and the state at 7%. This suggests that renting was becoming a slightly more attractive option than owning in Attalla. Figure H-2 shows percent tenure and occupancy status for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama between 1990 and 2000. In 2000, Attalla had a somewhat larger portion of renter-occupied housing (35%) than Etowah County (25%) and Alabama (27%). Occupancy rates for the city followed county and state trends. In 2000, Attalla had a stable 90% occupancy rate as did Etowah County. Alabama registered a minimally lower occupancy rate of 88% in 2000. Between 1990 and 2000, the city decreased in vacancies by a slight –4%, during this time the county and state increased in vacancies by 39% and 38% respectively, suggesting that city

Figure H-2. Percent Tenure and Occupancy Status: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama



housing construction and/or reuse has not kept pace with the county and state or housing was being filled at a faster rate in the city. Table H-2 examines tenure and occupancy status for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama from 1990 to 2000.

Table H-2. Tenure and Occupancy Status: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama

Tenure & Occupancy	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change
Occupied	2,567	2,687	4.7%	38,675	41,615	7.6%	1,506,790	1,737,080	15.3%
% of Total	89.3%	90.2%		92.6%	90.5%		90.2%	88.5%	
Owner-occupied	1,768	1,733	-2.0%	28,612	30,957	8.2%	1,062,148	1,258,686	18.5%
% of Total	68.9%	64.5%		74.0%	74.4%		70.5%	72.5%	
Renter-occupied	799	954	19.4%	10,063	10,658	5.9%	444,642	478,394	7.6%
% of Total	31.1%	35.5%		26.0%	25.6%		29.5%	27.5%	
Vacant	307	292	-4.9%	3,112	4,344	39.6%	163,589	226,631	38.5%
% of Total	10.7%	9.8%		7.4%	9.5%		9.8%	11.5%	
Total Units	2,874	2,979	3.7%	41,787	45,959	10.0%	1,670,379	1,963,711	17.6%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 STF 1.

Vacancy Status

Vacancy status is useful in determining how vacant housing has been utilized. Any unoccupied housing unit is considered vacant. Vacancies can also be occupied houses for rent, sale, or for seasonal or recreational use only. Five basic categories were selected to identify how vacant housing was being used, these included: 1) for sale only units, 2) for rent only units, 3) rented or sold, but not occupied, 4) miscellaneous—this includes units used for seasonal, recreational, occasional use, or migrant workers, 5) other—which entails other non-specified uses. Figure H-3 illustrates percent vacancy status for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama between 1990 and 2000.

Between 1990 and 2000, most Attalla vacancies were used either as rental units only or other non-specified uses. In 2000, approximately 62% of Attalla's vacant units were either rent only or other vacant, while Etowah County recorded 59% and Alabama 54% in this group. Vacant units that were either rented or sold were more prevalent in the city at 19% than in the county (15%) and state (8%). Figure H-3 shows percent vacancy status for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama between 1990 and 2000.

Figure H-3. Percent Vacancy Status: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama

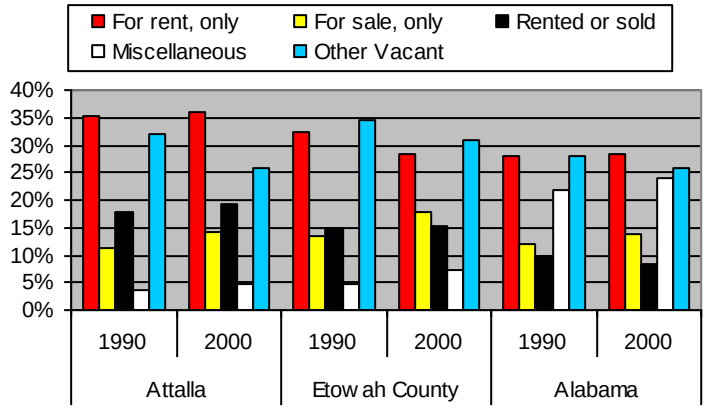


Table H-3 displays vacant housing unit status for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama between 1990 and 2000.

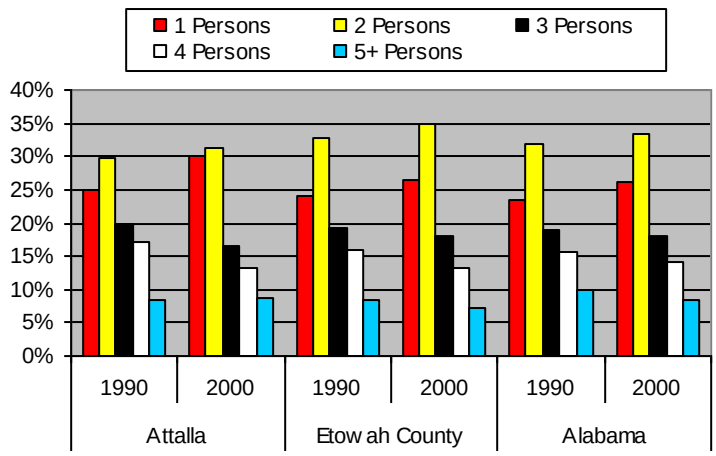
Table H-3. Vacant Housing Unit Status: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama									
Vacancy Status	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change
For rent, only	108	105	-2.8%	1,010	1,239	22.7%	45,871	64,037	39.6%
% of Total	35.2%	36.0%		32.5%	28.5%		28.0%	28.3%	
For sale, only	35	41	17.1%	414	781	88.6%	19,845	31,121	56.8%
% of Total	11.4%	14.0%		13.3%	18.0%		12.1%	13.7%	
Rented or sold	55	56	1.8%	463	655	41.5%	16,058	18,507	15.3%
% of Total	17.9%	19.2%		14.9%	15.1%		9.8%	8.2%	
Miscellaneous	11	14	27.3%	147	322	119.0%	35,904	54,593	52.1%
% of Total	3.6%	4.8%		4.7%	7.4%		21.9%	24.1%	
Other Vacant	98	76	-22.4%	1,078	1,347	25.0%	45,911	58,373	27.1%
% of Total	31.9%	26.0%		34.6%	31.0%		28.1%	25.8%	
Total Vacant	307	292	-4.9%	3,112	4,344	39.6%	163,589	226,631	38.5%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 STF 1.

Household Size

Household size is a useful measure in determining how housing is being utilized and in meeting household needs. Generally speaking, a community with fewer individuals per household could best utilize housing by building smaller or more compact housing than a community with larger households and vise-versa. Attalla household size followed similar patterns to Etowah County and Alabama, with a few exceptions. Between 1990 and 2000, Attalla increased in one person households by a significant 27%, while the county increased in this category by 18% and the state by 27% as well. In 2000, the dominant household size was two person for the city (31%), county (35%), and state (33%), however, one person households followed closely behind, especially in Attalla. Figure H-4 examines percent household size for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama from 1990 to 2000.

Figure H-4. Percent Household Size: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama



From 1990 to 2000, Attalla decreased somewhat significantly (-11%) in three person households and in four person households (-17%), while the county and state both increased in three person households by 2% and 10%, respectively. Etowah County declined somewhat (-8%) in four person households while the state grew slightly (3%) in this same category. This information indicates that households in Attalla tended to be smaller in size than in

the county and state at this time. Attalla could benefit by building larger homes to meet the needs of larger families and diversify housing options. Table H-4 displays household size for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama between 1990 and 2000.

Table H-4. Household Size: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama

Household Size	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change
1 Persons	637	812	27.5%	9,254	10,973	18.6%	354,918	453,927	27.9%
% of Total	25.1%	30.2%		24.1%	26.4%		23.6%	26.1%	
2 Persons	753	838	11.3%	12,573	14,577	15.9%	478,471	579,355	21.1%
% of Total	29.7%	31.2%		32.7%	35.0%		31.8%	33.4%	
3 Persons	500	445	-11.0%	7,351	7,546	2.7%	284,277	315,083	10.8%
% of Total	19.7%	16.6%		19.1%	18.1%		18.9%	18.1%	
4 Persons	432	357	-17.4%	6,082	5,552	-8.7%	237,174	245,005	3.3%
% of Total	17.0%	13.3%		15.8%	13.3%		15.7%	14.1%	
5 Persons or more	217	235	8.3%	3,193	2,967	-7.1%	151,169	143,710	-4.9%
% of Total	8.5%	8.7%		8.3%	7.1%		10.0%	8.3%	
Total Persons	2,539	2,687	5.8%	38,453	41,615	8.2%	1,506,009	1,737,080	15.3%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 STF 3.

Housing Conditions

Housing Stock Age

Housing stock age is a good indicator of current housing conditions and needs. A general study of housing age can be used to assess probable housing conditions and needs for improvements within the community. Attalla's housing stock is considerably older than the average in Etowah County and Alabama. The majority of Attalla's housing was built between 1940 and 1979 (68%). Approximately 78% of the city's housing stock was built prior to 1980, while the county and state reported 71%, and 59%, respectively, in this category. This information suggests that the city should promote newer housing and improvements and updates might be needed.

Figure H-5. Percent Housing Stock Age: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama

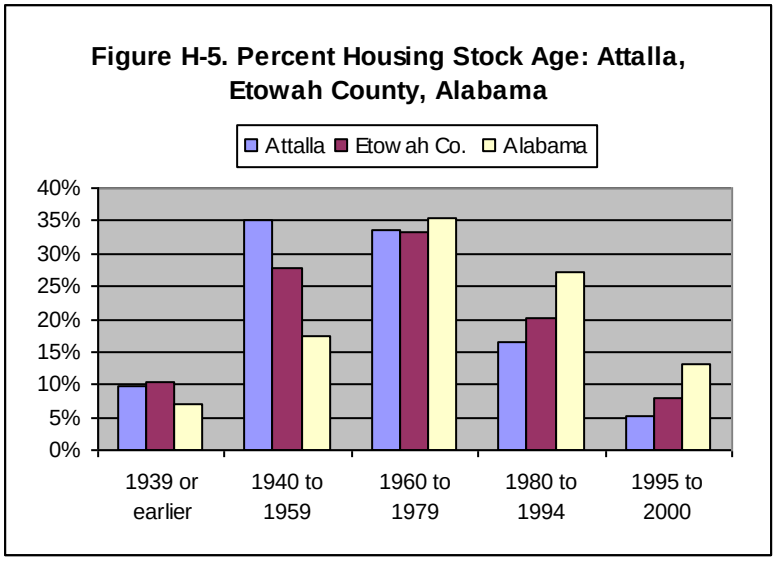


Figure H-5 illustrates percent housing stock age for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama from 1939 or earlier to 2000. Notice the majority of Attalla housing built between 1940 and 1979. Approximately 21% of the city's housing stock was built post 1980, while the county (28%) and state (40%) reported considerably more new housing at this time.

As housing deteriorates with age, older structures will be harder to maintain than newer, thus spurring demolition, and replacement with new construction. Attalla should promote and encourage new housing construction in order to compete with the county and state for sustainable housing conditions. Table H-5 shows housing stock age for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama.

Table H-5. Housing Stock Age: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama

Housing Stock	Attalla		Etowah County		Alabama	
	Number	%Change	Number	%Change	Number	%Change
1939 or earlier	292	NA	4,824	NA	139,227	NA
% of Total	9.8%		10.5%		7.1%	
1940 to 1959	1,043	257.2%	12,831	166.0%	341,735	145.5%
% of Total	35.0%		27.9%		17.4%	
1960 to 1979	1,001	-4.0%	15,364	19.7%	692,480	102.6%
% of Total	33.6%		33.4%		35.3%	
1980 to 1994	488	-51.2%	9,246	-39.8%	534,533	-22.8%
% of Total	16.4%		20.1%		27.2%	
1995 to 2000	155	-68.2%	3,694	-60.0%	255,736	-52.2%
% of Total	5.2%		8.0%		13.0%	
Total Units	2,979		45,959		1,963,711	
Median Year Structure Built	1963		1968		1975	

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 STF 3.

Physical Conditions

Quality physical housing conditions play an important role in serving the general population and in attracting new people to the community. This section of the plan examines physical housing conditions for outside physical aesthetic appearance and structural stability. Based on these aspects, Attalla showed considerable need for physical housing improvements. In 2007, EARPDC cartography staff conducted a field check of the city to inventory housing improvement needs (See Map#3 and Map#4: *Housing Conditions*) based on three pre-determined criteria: 1) sound condition, 2) deteriorating, 3) dilapidated. These criteria are described as follows:

- Sound conditions—units need no work, all painted areas are painted, roof is straight with no sags, good shingles or other roof material, gutters attached and in good functional shape, all siding or brick is intact and properly maintained. Windows have screens or storm windows. No rotten doors and windows in place, shingles in good condition. No rotten or missing shutters. All doors are in good shape. Foundations are full and not cracked or sagging.
- Deteriorating conditions—units may show one or many improvements needed. Roofs are sagging and/or curled with missing shingles, rotten or missing trim or siding, cracks in brick or foundation, piles of trash, unkempt yards, cluttered (junky) appearance. Units categorized herein present a wide range of conditions from almost sound to nearly dilapidated.
- Dilapidated—units are neglected and could be vacant, abandoned, or burned and not repaired. These units exhibit many obvious defects and have been deemed “unlivable” and not habitable under city code.

As of 2007, there were approximately 3,498 housing units in Attalla, 2,786 (80%) of which were single-family, manufactured (17%), and multi-family (3%). Attalla has considerable need to

improve housing conditions. Approximately 40% of the housing stock was in deteriorating condition and 3% dilapidated. Manufactured housing showed the greatest need with about 65% of homes in deteriorating condition and 7% in dilapidated status. Approximately 1,000 single-family homes were reported in deteriorating condition. Table H-6 shows physical housing conditions for Attalla in 2007.

Table H-6. Physical Housing Conditions: Attalla, 2007

Housing Conditions	Single Family		Multi-Family		Manufactured		Totals	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sound Condition	1,698	60.9%	73	66.4%	161	26.7%	1,932	55.2%
Deteriorating	1,000	35.9%	33	30.0%	397	65.9%	1,430	40.9%
Dilapidated	88	3.2%	4	3.6%	44	7.3%	136	3.9%
Total	2,786	100.0%	110	100.0%	602	100.0%	3,498	100.0%

Source: EARPDC Housing Inventory Study, 2007.

Selected Physical Conditions

Quality selected physical housing conditions play an important role in serving the general population and in attracting new people to the community. Homes throughout the community need proper, complete, and reliable utilities such as plumbing, kitchen, and heating in order to sufficiently serve the resident population. Data pertaining to physical housing conditions was collected from the 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census and examined the following physical conditions: 1) complete plumbing facilities, 2) complete kitchen facilities, and 3) complete heating facilities.

Selected physical housing conditions in Attalla followed county and state patterns closely. Between 1990 and 2000, slightly more than 97% of city, county, and state homes reported complete plumbing and kitchen facilities. Also during this time, Attalla recorded minimal increase in the percentage of homes with complete heating facilities, growing from 89% to 90%. Both the county and state showed somewhat of a decrease in portion of homes with complete heating facilities, declining from 92% to 90% in the county, and 90% to 88% in the state, indicating that even though Attalla gained in this category, it remained on pace with the county and slightly surpassed the state. Overall, selected physical housing in Attalla, at this time, was in reasonably good condition, on par with the county and state. Figure H-6 portrays percent selected physical housing conditions for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama from 1990 to 2000.

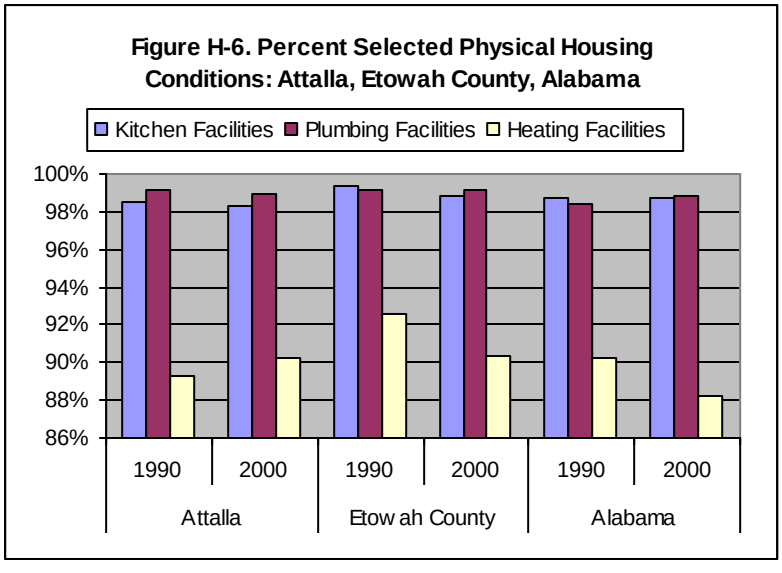


Table H-7 displays selected physical housing conditions for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama between 1990 and 2000.

Table H-7. Selected Housing Conditions: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama

Housing Conditions	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change
Complete Kitchen Facilities	2,831	2,929	3.5%	41,519	45,410	9.4%	1,648,290	1,937,261	17.5%
% of Total	98.5%	98.3%		99.4%	98.8%		98.7%	98.7%	
Complete Plumbing Facilities	2,850	2,947	3.4%	41,471	45,573	9.9%	1,642,879	1,939,344	18.0%
% of Total	99.2%	98.9%		99.2%	99.2%		98.4%	98.8%	
Heating Facilities	2,567	2,687	4.7%	38,675	41,549	7.4%	1,506,790	1,732,744	15.0%
% of Total	89.3%	90.2%		92.6%	90.4%		90.2%	88.2%	
Total Units	2,874	2,979	3.7%	41,787	45,959	10.0%	1,670,379	1,963,711	17.6%

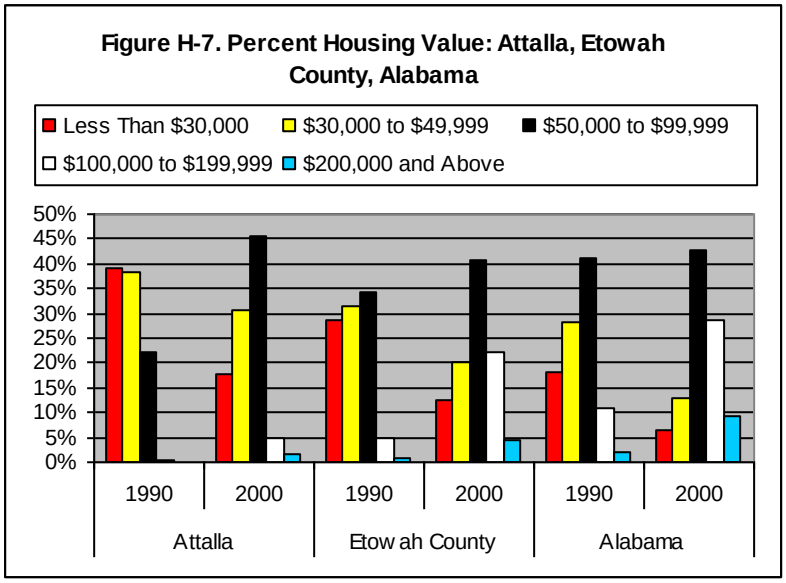
Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 STF 3

Housing Value

Housing value is a critical element of a comprehensive housing study. Every community desires housing with high resale value and growing equity. The information provided focuses chiefly on housing value for owner-occupied housing, being the primary form of housing in the community. Attalla recognizes the need to promote and encourage quality housing development and has been active in preparing for such growth.

Housing value in Attalla has been somewhat lagging. In 2000, slightly over half (51%) of homes were valued at less than $50,000. For comparison, Etowah County reported 37% in this category and Alabama 28%, indicating that Attalla was, at this time, was in need of higher priced homes.

Figure H-7. Percent Housing Value: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama



Between 1990 and 2000, however, Attalla increased significantly in homes valued at $50 K to $99 K from 332 to 733, a 120% increase, showing that city housing increased in value during this time. The county and state increased in this category by 57% and 54%, respectively. Figure H-7 shows percent housing value for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama from 1990 to 2000. Notice that in 2000 almost half (45%) of the city's housing cost between $49 K and $99 K with few homes attaining more value. Attalla median housing value, between 1990 and 2000, grew from $33,800 to $48,700, a valued increase of $14,900. Both Etowah County and Alabama showed substantially larger increases. County median housing

value rose from $42,400 to $66,500, an increase of $24,100. Alabama median housing value grew from $53,200 to $76,700, an increase of $23,500. Table H-8 examines housing value of owner-occupied units for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama from 1990 to 2000.

Table H-8. Housing Value of Owner-occupied Units: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama

Housing Value	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change
Less Than $30,000	593	268	-54.8%	6,266	2,928	-53.3%	138,101	57,528	-58.3%
% of Total	39.3%	17.6%		28.8%	12.4%		18.1%	6.3%	
$30,000 to $49,999	577	467	-19.1%	6,869	4,745	-30.9%	214,835	118,659	-44.8%
% of Total	38.3%	30.7%		31.6%	20.1%		28.1%	12.9%	
$50,000 to $99,999	332	691	108.1%	7,407	9,649	30.3%	313,210	392,400	25.3%
% of Total	22.0%	45.4%		34.1%	40.8%		41.0%	42.7%	
$100,000 to $199,999	5	73	1360.0%	1,028	5,226	408.4%	82,341	264,879	221.7%
% of Total	0.3%	4.8%		4.7%	22.1%		10.8%	28.8%	
$200,000 and above	0	23	223.0%	150	1,089	626.0%	16,239	85,104	424.1%
% of Total	0.0%	1.5%		0.7%	4.6%		2.1%	9.3%	
Total Units	1,507	1,522	1.0%	21,720	23,637	8.8%	764,726	918,570	20.1%
Median Value	$33,800	$51,800	53.3%	$42,700	$71,200	66.7%	$53,700	$85,100	58.5%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 STF 3.

Housing Affordability

Attalla recognizes the need to establish and maintain housing, which is affordable and suitable to its residents. According to the Alabama Housing Finance Authority, the generally accepted affordability standard for housing cost is no more than 30 percent of household income. Attalla housing substantially satisfies this requirement. Housing affordability is examined through changes in contract rent, gross rent, and housing value. Contract rent is, as described in the 2000 Census, "The monthly rent agreed to or contracted for, regardless of any furnishings, utilities, fees, meals, or services that may be included". Gross rent is also defined in the 2000 Census as, "The amount of the contract rent plus the estimated average monthly cost of utilities (electricity, gas, and water and sewer) and fuels (oil, coal, kerosene, wood, etc.)". Table H-9 shows housing affordability for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama from 1990 to 2000.

Table H-9. Housing Affordability: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama

Ownership Status	Attalla		Etowah County		Alabama	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
Median Contract Rent	$165	$265	$186	$280	$229	$339
Median Gross Rent	$281	$405	$281	$395	$325	$447
Median Value Owner-Occupied Housing	$33,800	$48,700	$42,400	$66,500	$53,200	$76,700
% Units > $100,000	0.3%	6.1%	5.4%	24.9%	39.9%	33.3%
Total Housing Units	1,507	1,733	21,720	30,957	1,670,379	1,963,711

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 STF 3.

Cost of living in Attalla was considerably low. In 2000, median contract rent for Attalla was $265, while Etowah County recorded slightly higher rent at $280 and Alabama at $339. Median gross rent was $405 in Attalla, $395 in Etowah County, and $447 in Alabama. Also in 2000, Attalla homes valued at $100 K or greater represented 6% of the housing stock, while Etowah County reported 24% and Alabama showed 33%.

Affordability of Owner-occupied Housing

Affordability of owner-occupied housing is vitally important in maintaining housing occupancy and population growth within the community. The relative affordability of owner-occupied housing was determined by examining selected monthly owner costs as a percentage of household income. As a common goal, communities should strive to make housing more affordable to their residents without sacrificing structural quality, working facilities, and aesthetic appeal.

Home ownership has been relatively affordable for Attalla residents. In 2000, approximately 69% of households spent less than 20% of their income on housing. In comparison, Etowah County households spending less than 20% of their income on housing was 64%, while Alabama reported 60%. Table H-10 examines selected monthly owner costs as a percentage of household income for Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama between 1990 and 2000.

Table H-10. Selected Monthly Owner Costs As A Percentage of Household Income: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama

Percent of Income	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change
Less than 20%	1,057	1,053	-0.4%	14,452	15,285	5.8%	482,702	556,093	15.2%
% of Total	70.1%	69.2%		66.5%	64.7%		63.1%	60.5%	
20 to 24%	153	79	-48.4%	2,376	2,396	0.8%	93,693	110,978	18.4%
% of Total	10.2%	5.2%		10.9%	10.1%		12.3%	12.1%	
25 to 29%	58	89	53.4%	1,511	1,453	-3.8%	56,044	67,849	21.1%
% of Total	3.8%	5.8%		7.0%	6.1%		7.3%	7.4%	
30 to 34%	65	46	-29.2%	837	990	18.3%	33,671	42,840	27.2%
% of Total	4.3%	3.0%		3.9%	4.2%		4.4%	4.7%	
35% or more	174	181	4.0%	2,341	3,151	34.6%	91,195	127,930	40.3%
% of Total	11.5%	11.9%		10.8%	13.3%		11.9%	13.9%	
Not computed	0	74	74.0%	203	362	78.3%	7,421	12,880	73.6%
Total Households	1,507	1,522	1.0%	21,720	23,637	8.8%	764,726	918,570	20.1%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 STF 3.

Affordability of Renter-occupied Housing

Renting has often been an attractive alternative to owning a home. Home ownership is generally more expensive and houses often require greater maintenance than apartments, town homes, or condominiums. Although home ownership, nationally, is much more popular and highly regarded, renter-occupied housing is needed to meet the needs of a diverse population, requiring a variety of housing choices.

Rental units in Attalla have been relatively affordable. Between 1990 and 2000, the percentage of households paying less than 20% of their income on rent remained at 34%, while in Etowah County that percentage rose from 35% to 36%. Alabama remained steady at 32%. Households paying 35% or more of their income on rent in Attalla declined from 30% to 27%. Etowah County households in this category remained at 25%, as did Alabama at 27%. This information suggests that, during this time, rental rate affordability was much the same in the city, county, and state. Table H-11 shows gross rent as a percentage of household income in Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama between 1990 and 2000.

Table H-11. Gross Rent As A Percentage of Household Income: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama

Percent of Income	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change
Less than 20%	270	327	21.1%	3,485	3,852	10.5%	139,708	153,017	9.5%
% of Total	34.1%	34.7%		35.8%	36.9%		32.6%	32.6%	
20 to 24%	61	68	11.5%	1,016	937	-7.8%	52,569	51,356	-2.3%
% of Total	7.7%	7.2%		10.4%	9.0%		12.3%	10.9%	
25 to 29%	120	99	-17.5%	983	926	-5.8%	42,333	41,425	-2.1%
% of Total	15.2%	10.5%		10.1%	8.9%		9.9%	8.8%	
30 to 34%	11	73	563.6%	598	532	-11.0%	28,501	29,476	3.4%
% of Total	1.4%	7.7%		6.1%	5.1%		6.7%	6.3%	
35% or more	240	257	7.1%	2,516	2,610	3.7%	117,289	128,349	9.4%
% of Total	30.3%	27.3%		25.8%	25.0%		27.4%	27.4%	
Not computed	90	119	32.2%	1,147	1,574	37.2%	47,624	65,506	37.5%
Total	792	943	19.1%	9,745	10,431	7.0%	428,024	469,129	9.6%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 STF 3.

Housing Development Potential for Attalla

Attalla has substantial potential to grow considerably in housing development, particularly in single-family housing. Housing is relatively affordable compared to the county and state and housing values have increased, particularly in moderately priced homes valued between $50,000 and $100,000, providing suitable housing availability for middle income families.

Although the city is zoned primarily for high density housing, consigned to small-lot sizes, single-family homes dominate the landscape. This zoning gives Attalla the flexibility to develop housing more or less intensively as the city grows. Significant barriers to housing development include environmental constraints such as floodplains and steep slopes. Much of the land is septic restrictive, creating greater reliance on city sewer infrastructure. These obstacles can be overcome through careful planning and adherence to ADEM regulations.

The city could also improve housing conditions and spur local investment in the community by creating and implementing a housing improvement plan. This plan is described in more detail in Chapter IX: Goals and Objectives and Chapter X: Implementation.

Analytical Summary

The analytical summary provides a general review of the topics discussed in each chapter and sets forth broad recommendations (in italics).

Units by Type

- *Provide a variety of housing options by constructing quality multi-family housing*. Single-family housing comprised the largest housing type in the city, at 81% in 2000. This was substantially higher than the county and state at 75% and 68%, respectively. Attalla is a town built in compact design. Based on significantly high population and housing densities (See Chapter I: Population), most city homes and lots were somewhat smaller than others in the county. Attalla should consider investing in more multi-family housing to accommodate a variety of housing needs and draw more people into the city. Also, as the city's population ages into middle and senior populations, demand for multi-family could increase.

Tenure and Occupancy

- *Diversify housing options by promoting and encouraging multi-family housing*. Attalla has shown a trend away from owner-occupied housing, and more toward renter-occupied housing. Most of Attalla's housing, in 2000, was owner-occupied (64%), however, this was substantially behind Etowah County (74%) and Alabama (72%). Between 1990 and 2000, owner-occupied housing declined by a slim –2%, yet increased by 8% and 18% in the county and state, respectively. During this time, the city's renter-occupied housing increased by a significant 19%, a considerably greater climb than the county at 5% and the state at 7%. This suggests that renting was becoming a slightly more attractive option than owning in Attalla.

- Occupancy rates for the city followed county and state trends. In 2000, Attalla had a stable 90% occupancy rate as did Etowah County. Alabama registered a similar occupancy rate of 88% in 2000. Between 1990 and 2000, the city decreased in vacancies by a slight –4%, during this time the county and state increased in vacancies by 39% and 38% respectfully, suggesting that city housing construction and/or reuse has not kept pace with the county and state or housing was being filled at a faster rate in the city.

Vacancy Status

- Vacancy use indicates growth in rental properties. Between 1990 and 2000, most Attalla vacancies were used either as rental units only or other non-specified uses. In 2000, approximately 62% of Attalla's vacant units were either rent only or other vacant, while Etowah County recorded 59% and Alabama 54% in this group.

Household Size

- Attalla household size followed similar patterns to Etowah County and Alabama with a few exceptions. Between 1990 and 2000, Attalla increased in one person households by a significant 27%, while the county increased in this category by 18% and the state by 27% as well. In 2000, the dominant household size was two person for the city (31%), county (35%), and state (33%), however, one person households followed closely behind, especially in Attalla.

Housing Stock Age

- *Continue housing improvement efforts.* A substantially large portion of Attalla's housing stock is reasonably old. The majority of Attalla's housing was built between 1940 and 1979 (68%). Approximately 78% of the city's housing stock was built prior to 1980, while the county and state reported 71%, and 59%, respectively. This information suggests that the city should promote newer housing. Improvements and updates might be needed.

Physical Conditions

- *Create and implement a housing improvement plan.* As of 2007, there were approximately 3,498 housing units in Attalla, 2,786 (80%) of which were single-family, manufactured (17%), and multi-family (3%). Attalla has considerable need to improve housing conditions. Approximately 40% of the housing stock was in deteriorating condition and 3% dilapidated. Manufactured housing showed the greatest need with about 65% of homes in deteriorating condition and 7% in dilapidated status. Approximately 1,000 single-family homes were reported in deteriorating condition.

Selected Physical Conditions

- Physical housing conditions in Attalla followed county and state patterns closely. Between 1990 and 2000, slightly more than 97% of city, county, and state homes reported complete plumbing and kitchen facilities. Also during this time, Attalla recorded minimal increase in the percentage of homes with complete heating facilities, from 89% to 90%. Both the county and state showed somewhat a decrease in percent of homes with complete heating facilities, 92% to 90% in the county, and 90% to 88% in the state, indicating that even though Attalla gained in this category, it remained on pace with the county and slightly surpassed the state.

Housing Value

- Housing value in Attalla has been lacking. In 2000, slightly over half (51%) of homes were valued at less than $50,000. For comparison, Etowah County reported 37% in this category and Alabama 28%, indicating that Attalla was, at this time, in need of higher priced homes in order to attract and draw in a wider variety of people to the community.

Housing Affordability

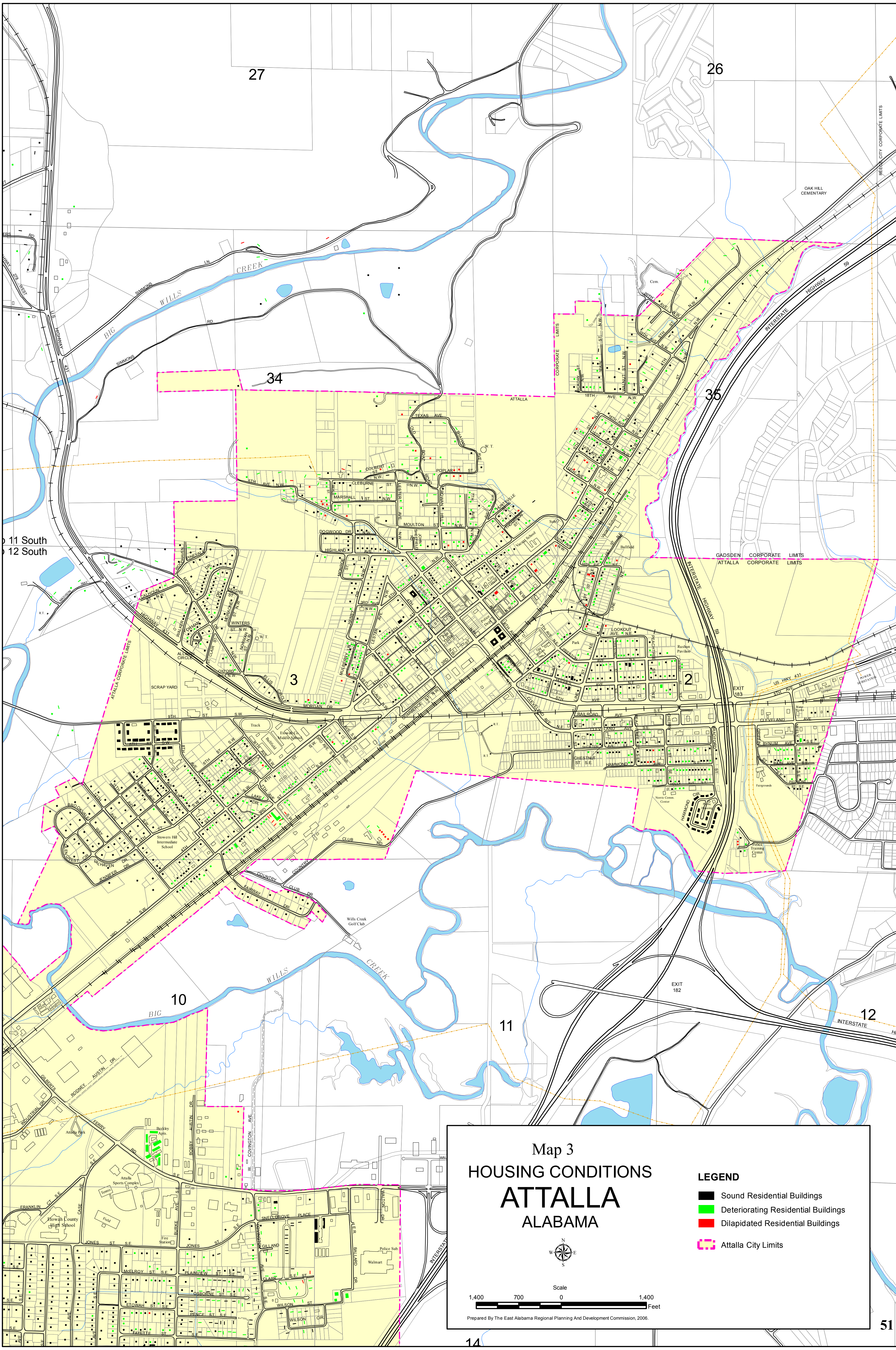
- Cost of living in Attalla was considerably low. In 2000, median contract rent for Attalla was $265, while Etowah County recorded slightly higher rent at $280 and Alabama at $339. Median gross rent was $405 in Attalla, $395 in Etowah County, and $447 in Alabama. Also in 2000, Attalla homes valued at $100 K or greater represented 6% of the housing stock, while Etowah County reported 24% and Alabama 33%.

Affordability of Owner-occupied Housing

- Home ownership has been relatively affordable for Attalla residents. In 2000, approximately 69% of households spent less than 20% of their income on housing. In Etowah County approximately 64% of households spent less than 20% of their income on housing, while Alabama reported 60%.

Affordability of Renter-occupied Housing

- Rental units in Attalla have been relatively affordable. Between 1990 and 2000, the percentage of households paying less than 20% of their income on rent remained at 34%, while in Etowah County that percentage rose from 35% to 36%. Alabama remained steady at 32%.


Map 3
HOUSING CONDITIONS
ATTALLA
ALABAMA
LEGEND
■ Sound Residential Buildings
🟩 Deteriorating Residential Buildings
🟥 Dilapidated Residential Buildings
Attalla City Limits
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Scale
1,400
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Feet
Prepared By The East Alabama Regional Planning And Development Commission, 2006.
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26
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35
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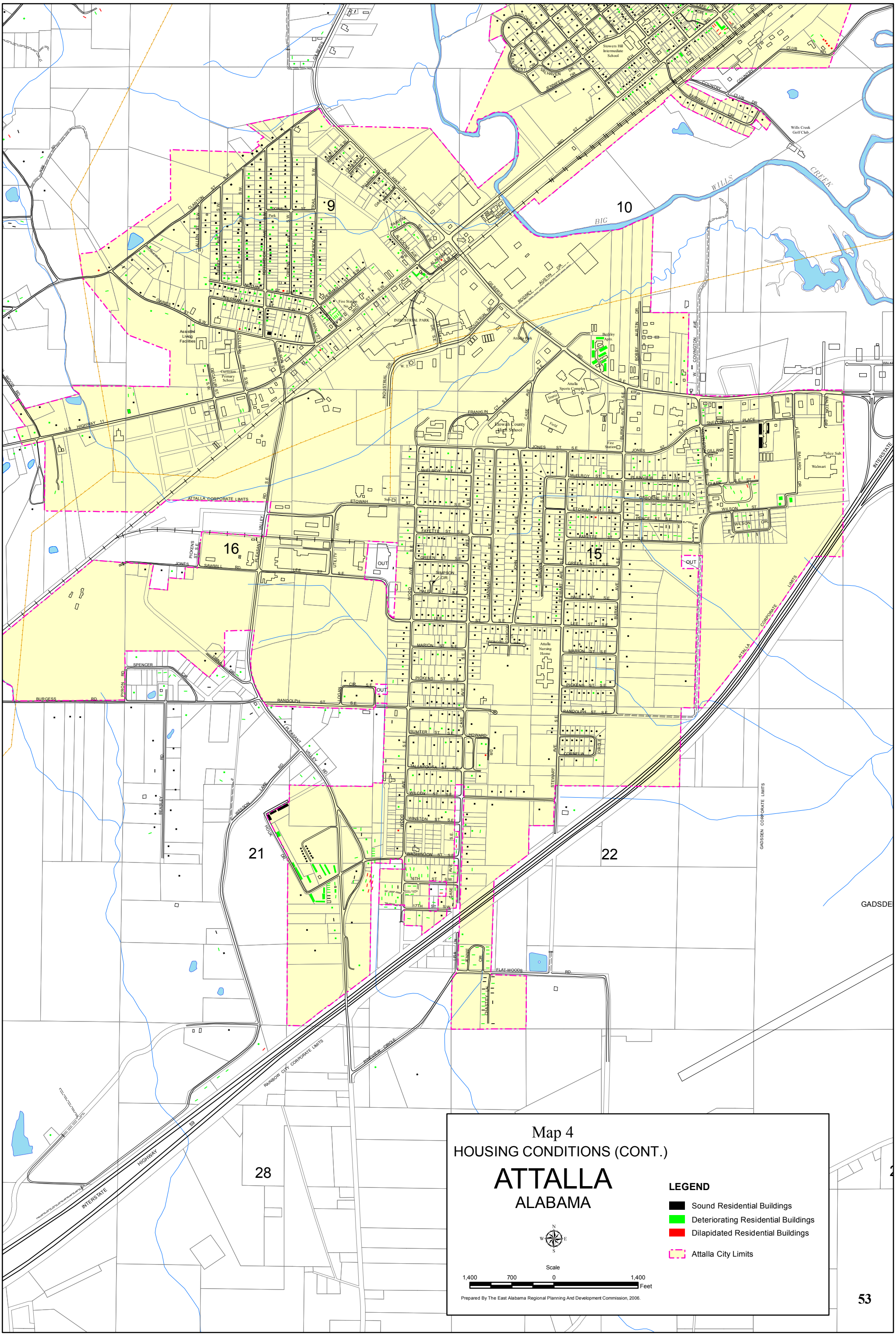
14
GADSDEN CORPORATE LIMITS
ATTALLA CORPORATE LIMITS
REECE CITY CORPORATE LIMITS
OAK HILL CEMENTARY
BIG WILLS CREEK
INTERSTATE HIGHWAY 59
EXIT 183
EXIT 182
US HWY 431
Wills Creek Golf Club
Stowers Hill Intermediate School
Etowah Co. Middle School
Etowah County High School
Attalla Sports Complex
Attalla Park
Berkley Apts.
Walmart
Police Sub.
Fire Station
Police Training Center
Fairgrounds
Norris Comm. Center
Public Housing
POWER SUBSTATION
AL State Troopers
Rushun Pavilion
City Hall
Police Dept.
Post Office
Vacant School
SCRAP YARD
11 South
12 South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WILLS CREEK
BIG
Stowers Hill Intermediate School
Wills Creek Golf Club
Fire Station No. 2
INDUSTRIAL PARK
Attalla Park
Berkley Apts.
Attalla Sports Complex
Etowah County High School
Fire Station
Police Sub.
Walmart
Curtision Primary School
Assisted Living Facilities
Attalla Nursing Home
ATTALLA CORPORATE LIMITS
RAINBOW CITY CORPORATE LIMITS
GADSDEN CORPORATE LIMITS
U.S. HIGHWAY 11
INTERSTATE HIGHWAY 59
OUT
Map 4
HOUSING CONDITIONS (CONT.)
ATTALLA
ALABAMA
LEGEND
Sound Residential Buildings
Deteriorating Residential Buildings
Dilapidated Residential Buildings
Attalla City Limits
Scale
1,400 700 0 1,400
Feet
Prepared By The East Alabama Regional Planning And Development Commission, 2006.
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CHAPTER V: COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Community facilities are crucial to the planning effort, affecting growth and development throughout the city. Accessibility to community facilities and the extent to which they serve the community has direct influence on land use patterns and development trends within the city. Properties with direct access to utilities such as municipal water, sewer, and power can develop at reduced costs and safely support greater developments than properties in more remote and unserviceable areas. Also, a city creates additional opportunities for growth and development by upgrading and extending their services to other areas of the city. Community facilities must have plans for conducting continued maintenance while ensuring quality service, meeting the needs of a diverse and changing population. A total of nine community facilities have been identified and discussed in this chapter which include: city administration, law enforcement, fire and rescue, education, public library, parks and recreation, senior center, housing authority, and utilities.

The purpose this chapter is to inventory existing community facilities and services, assess their capacity to serve existing and future needs, and suggest improvements and expansions for meeting these needs. To identify community facility locations in the city refer to Map#5: *Community Facilities*. In order to determine current community facility goals and needs, surveys were distributed to facility and department leaders and collected by the City Clerk. This chapter reviews these findings in text and as a summation in the analytical summary at the end of the chapter.

City Administration

City Council

Attalla's city government consists of five city council members and the Mayor. Elected officials serve 4-year consecutive terms. In addition to determining the city budget, city council also makes decisions regarding city departments. The Mayor sits on the council to make recommendations, introduce issues, and to vote on ordinances and resolutions. An ordinance or resolution must have the Mayor's signature to be passed. Should the Mayor decide not to sign an ordinance or resolution the council may still pass it with a second vote. The role of the City Clerk is to arrange the council's agenda for meeting, determine rules of order, keep records of meetings, and sit in on budget meetings. Council meetings are conducted in City Hall on the first and third Tuesday of each month.

Attalla's City Hall was built in 1956. City offices located in City Hall include: The Mayor's Office, City Clerk, Assistant City Clerk, Court Clerk/Magistrate, Revenue Department, Building Inspector, and Public Works Superintendent. Meetings and activities held in City Hall include municipal court, city council, planning commission, and various other municipal board meetings.

Planning Commission

Attalla's Planning Commission primary directive is to serve the community by promoting and guiding development in accordance with city policy and plans. The commission gives final approval or denial of subdivision plats and other development plans and makes recommendations

for rezoning to city council. Commission representation consists of nine members, six of which are appointed by city council, two supernumerary representatives—one appointed by city council and the other by the Mayor, and finally the Mayor. Meetings are called as necessary and held in the City Council Chambers.

Zoning Board of Adjustments

The Attalla Zoning Board of Adjustments consists of five members, each appointed by city council to serve a three-year term. The responsibility of the board is to make adjustments to the zoning ordinance involving cases of unjust and unnecessary hardships placed on property owners due to rezoning decisions. The board meets on an as needed basis at City Hall.

Industrial/Commercial Development Board

The primary purpose of Attalla's Industrial/Commercial Development Board is to promote and guide industrial and commercial development throughout the city. The board consists of six members each appointed by city council to serve six-year terms. The board meets with developers on an as needed basis to offer technical assistance in planning for development.

Attalla City Administration identified three improvements needed to provide better administrative services to the community. These include the following:

1. Expand city administration offices—relocate various city offices to vacant 4th Street Elementary School
2. Annex property for residential, commercial, and industrial growth
3. Hire a full or part-time grant writer trained in community growth and development issues.

Public Safety

Law Enforcement

Attalla's Police Department was established soon after the city's foundation in 1870 with the continuing mission to preserve the peace and order of the City of Attalla. The goal of the department is to provide the citizens and business community with the most modern and effective law enforcement based on community policing strategies. Specific responsibilities of the department include the following:

- Protection of life and property
- The prevention, repression, and investigation of crime
- The apprehension of criminal offenders
- The recovery of stolen property
- The regulation of non-criminal conduct

Police department staff consists of 20 full-time officers, 8 reserve officers, 2 administrators, 4 dispatchers, 1 inmates work detail supervisor, and 1 animal control officer. The department implements crime prevention strategies and education through a full-time Drug Awareness and Resistance Education (DARE) officer and full-time School Resource Officer (SRO) officer in

Etowah High School. The ratio of officers to residents is approximately 3 to 1,000, which is deemed too low. According to the community facilities survey for law enforcement, an additional 4 officers should be added to the force to more adequately serve the resident population.

Attalla also provides city law enforcement with facilities and equipment for conducting protection and service to the community. The city municipal jail currently holds 26 inmates with a new 10-person dorm to be added in 2008. The police department maintains 27 vehicles, which include 25 patrol and detective vehicles, 1 animal control vehicle, and 1 inmate work crew vehicle. At present, most of these vehicles are less than four years old and 7 are new. Emergency calls are handled through a direct 911 line routed to the department's communications center. Attalla does not have a designated police jurisdiction, however, city police assist all agencies in Etowah County when requested.

The police department has recently demonstrated considerable progress in reducing the crime rate within the city. According to crime rate statistics the city has seen a 20% reduction in the number of property crimes being reported and also a substantial decline in violent crimes such as assaults and robberies. In 2007, the city reported only 6 armed robberies and closed 85% of its crime cases. The most common crime in the city is petty theft and shoplifting. Decreases in city crime could be attributed to special robbery detail, new policing strategies, crime prevention programs, and the continued dedication of the men and women on Attalla's force.

The Attalla Police Department identified three improvements needed to provide better services to the community. These include the following:

1. Add mobile computers to police vehicles
2. Upgrade department communications system
3. Hire 4 full-time corrections officers for the municipal jail in order to keep more officers on the street

Note: Items #1 and #2 are currently being implemented. Item #3 is a considerable department need.

Fire and Rescue

The Attalla Fire Department was first established in 1915 and operated as a voluntary department until around 1950 when it became a combination of paid and voluntary, as it is today. The main goal or mission of the department is to save lives. The fire department serves a community of approximately 9 square miles and 8 miles of Interstate 59. Each member is trained in firefighting and medical procedures. The emergency medical service (EMS) division was established in 1979 and constitutes more than 84% of the department's yearly runs. Emergency calls are handled through E911 Etowah County Emergency Communications Hub located in the Etowah County Courthouse. Calls for Attalla are then routed to the Police Department Dispatch Center where the fire department is then notified. Attalla has three fire stations strategically positioned in the city.

Fire fighting staff accounts for 18 full-time career personnel and 25 volunteer reserves. Six members have completed and passed licensure, a National Registry Test Procedure for paramedic practice, along with three having completed the education curriculum but not the test itself. The

department also provides five EMT Intermediates at level II licensure, three EMT basic level, and one first responder. In order to more adequately serve the community, the fire department needs more members. A grant for eight more fire fighters to staff station three has been submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and is currently under review.
Vehicles used by the fire department and recent updates are listed as follows:

- Engine 1—2007 Pierce Contender Pumper
- Engine 2—2007 Pierce Contender Pumper
- Engine 3—1992 Pierce Arrow Pumper
- Quint 1—1997 KME International Aerial 55ft. Ladder
- Service 1—2002 Ford F450 Fire Service/Haz-Mat Vehicle
- Utility Hazardous Materials Trailer—24 ft.
- Utility Cascade Air Refilling Station Trailer—24 ft.
- John Deer Gator ATV for special operations—2006
- Ford F250 Crew Cab Assistant Chief's Vehicle—2008

The fire department also plans to purchase a new Brush Truck for wood fires through FEMA.

Fire protection and prevention efficiency and effectiveness is based on criteria, classified into a rating system, developed by the International Standards Organization's (ISO) Public Protection Classification Program (PPCP). This rating system ranks approximately 44,000 fire department jurisdictions across the country on a scale of 1 to 10. A rating of 1 signifies exemplary fire protection while a 10 indicates that the department does not meet minimum ISO standards and stronger measures must be taken. Criteria are based on three major evaluated categories which include:

- Fire alarms—communications center, telephone service, emergency listings in phone book, and dispatch circuits,
- Fire department—type and extent of fire personnel training, number of people in training, emergency response time, maintenance and testing of fire-fighting equipment,
- Water supply—available water supply exceeding daily consumption, components of water supply system such as pumps, storage, and filtration, water flow rate, fire hydrant condition, maintenance, and distribution.

These ISO measures, through the PPCP, give communities an objective approach in evaluating fire suppression services by establishing country-wide standards that help its departments plan and budget for facilities, equipment, training, water infrastructure, and emergency communication. In addition to mitigating fire damage and loss of lives, an improved ISO rating benefits communities through reduced insurance premiums to home owners and businesses, saving of taxpayer dollars, and in enhancing an overall prestige component to the community and its fire department.
In 2004 and 2005 Attalla's ISO rating was reevaluated from Class 6 to Class 4. Since the common community fire department ISO rating is 5 or 6, Attalla's Fire Department showed above average service and response to community needs. Major positive factors determining this rating include updated equipment carried on all pumpers, ownership of an Aerial Quint to serve as a Ladder, updated training records and water hydrant records, and better man-power on first assignment of calls from on-duty, off-duty, and reserve responders. The department could further improve its ISO rating by achieving the following objectives:

- Build a training facility consisting of a four story tower
- Construct a burn building to practice fire tactics

- Provide additional man power on duty and on first due pumpers

In addition to fire protection, Attalla's Fire Department provides fire prevention programs to local schools along with fire inspections and investigations through a Municipal Fire Marshal, serving as the Assistant Fire Chief. The department also conducts rescue operations, emergency medical response, hazardous material response, and service assistance to the community.

The Attalla Fire Department identified three improvements needed to provide better services to the community. These include:

1. Improved communications—replace repeater system in order to better communicate with all firefighters in dead zones areas where signals are unreached. Repeaters serve to expand communication coverage area by rebroadcasting short radio waves to long waves.
2. More manpower is needed for daily operations—grant submitted to FEMA for eight firefighters to staff currently vacant fire station no.3
3. New firefighter structural clothing to be purchased through FEMA—currently many reserves have clothing that barely meets National Fire Protection Association requirements

Note: Item #1—Improvement to communications is in process by moving the location of repeater towers from Cleburne Street in Attalla to Scenic Drive in Gadsden, however the repeater system still needs to be replaced in order to provide better coverage.

Educational Facilities

Educational facilities play a major role in community development by preparing and training individuals and youth for the competitive workforce and life-long learning. The Attalla School Board recognizes the need to promote and enhance its educational institutions in order to develop a strong educational foundation for the city's future leadership and a sustainable skilled labor force. Attalla's school system constitutes four primary institutions: Curtiston Primary School, Stowers Intermediate School, Etowah Middle School, and Etowah High School. Attalla's Elementary and Middle Schools are accredited with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the High School is accredited with the Alabama Department of Education, qualifying these schools for state and federal grants and other monetary assistance. Other important educational facilities in the city include the Etowah County Career Technical Center, which is owned and operated by the Etowah County School System. Table CF-1 shows facility information on Attalla educational facilities in 2008.

Table CF-1. Educational Facilities: Attalla, 2008

School	Teachers Available		# Students	# Classrooms	Programs		
	Full	Part			Band room	Gym	Library
Curtiston Primary School	25	1	262	16	0	1	1
Stowers Hill Intermediate School	19	3	275	17	0	1	1
Etowah Middle School	26	2	434	28	1	2	1
Etowah High School	46	2	687	45	1	3	1

Source: Community Facilities Survey, Attalla City Schools, 2008.

Attalla City Schools serve the community through a wide assortment of venues. The schools listed below provide valuable programs and facilities for high quality educational instruction, attainment, and extra-curricular activities, meeting a variety of needs.

Curtiston Primary School (Grades K-2)

Curtiston offers Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI), a state-wide K-12 initiative managed by the Alabama Department of Education, which provides training for teachers to help them teach reading in proven and effective ways. The school also provides Pre School and Transitional Math K-1, a computer program designed to instruct 4 to 8 year olds in math skills and give instant feedback. In addition to library and gym facilities, the building houses two computer labs, utilizing learning and instructional software.

Stowers Hill Intermediate School (Grades 3-5)

Stowers Hill provides a variety of programs in order for students to obtain a quality education and promote achievement at a pace suitable to their learning ability. Programs implemented include the following:

- Extended Day Program—provides extended learning time for students in need of support before and after school.
- Accelerated Reading and Math—computer based supplemental material in Reading and Math coursework for all students excelling in these subjects.
- Gifted Program—offered only to select students achieving an above average IQ test score. This program provides a variety of opportunities for children to develop their intellectual and creative abilities.
- Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative (AMSTI), a state-wide program established to enhance math and science education with the continuing mission to develop these skills in the student body necessary for success in post-secondary education and in the workforce. The Initiative provides schools with three basic services: professional development—through a two-week summer seminar for Math and Science teachers, equipment and materials necessary to engage students in hands-on and inquiry learning, and on-site support and mentoring, in which Math and Science specialists help teachers implement what they learned.

Etowah Middle School (Grades 6-8)

Etowah Middle School in Attalla provides a variety of programs and activities for students. In addition to a gifted program and AMSTI, the school offers career technical training in partnership with the Etowah County Career Technical Center. Beta Club, a national leadership through service organization, gives students of Etowah Middle School an opportunity to be recognized and rewarded for their hard work academically and in community service.

Etowah High School (Grades 9-12)

Etowah High School, originally a part of Etowah County Schools, provides a high quality education for its students, offering a variety of core courses, electives, and extra-curricular

activities. Some of the more unique electives offered include: Agricultural Science, Healthcare Occupations, Cosmetology, Childcare Occupations, and Forensic Science. The school also partnerships with the Etowah County Career Technical Center to provide high school students with the opportunity to learn specialized training in technological skills while earning a high school diploma. Various programs offered through the center include those in Auto Technology, Collision Repair, Carpentry, Child care, Drafting and Design, Electricity, Electronics, Precision Machining, Welding, and Math. The Etowah County Career Technical Center also cooperates with Gadsden State Community College, in Gadsden, allowing program completers to earn college course credit. In addition, Etowah High School offers distance learning education classes. Advanced Placement classes should be available in the near future. Various other beneficial programs offered by the school include:

- Key Club—which is a unique student-led organization, teaching leadership through service. Opportunities entail leadership development, vocational guidance, service learning, personal enrichment, and college scholarships.
- DARE (Drug and Resistance Education)—this officer-lead program guides students grades K-12 through a series of classroom lessons designed to teach them how to resist peer pressure and live productive drug and violence-free lives.
- Remediation classes—classes designed to help students pass the high school exit exam.
- JROTC—U.S. Army program that prepares high school students for leadership roles in their community while making them aware of their rights, privileges, and duties as an American citizen. Activities include participation in color guard, parades, and drill and rifle teams.

In order to facilitate these programs and activities the Etowah High School provides a significant variety of accessory classrooms and amenities. These include the following facilities: 1 band room, 1 choral room, 3 gymnasiums, 3 computer labs, 2 science labs, 2 JROTC rooms, 2 cosmetology rooms, and 1 library. The athletic program organizes competition in football, basketball, baseball, softball, and golf.

School Expansions/Additions and Other Needs

Attalla's city school system is progressing and plans are needed to expand some facilities and consolidate others. As part of a two-year facility expansion plan, the Attalla School System will join Stowers Hill Intermediate School with Curtiston Primary School. Stowers Hill will be shut down, moving grades 3 through 5 to Curtiston, forming a K-5 facility. Estimated cost of the project is $9 million with the beginning phase in the summer of 2008. This plan will allow the two schools to better utilize educational facilities and reduce costs.

The Attalla School Board identified three improvements needed to provide better educational services to the community. These are listed as follows:

1. Partnership with job placement and services
2. Cooperate with business owners for job qualifications
3. Provide more technology programs that teach skills needed for today's workforce

Public Library

The Attalla Public Library was founded in 1956 with the continuing mission to provide the city and surrounding communities with cataloged literature in reference, fiction, non-fiction, adult and children's books. The library also maintains goals to provide free internet access, including wireless, to the public and to be a public service library which meets needs within the community.

The library is funded through a combination of city funds, state aid, and local grants, which are used to hire staff and manage collections. Library staff currently consists of two full-time staff and one part-time. Materials available account for approximately 26,638 volumes, 60 periodicals, 90 audiotapes, and 2 newspapers. The average monthly circulation is 893.

A variety of programs and services offered by the library to the community include:

- Alabama Virtual Library—which provides all students, teachers, and citizens of Alabama with online access to essential library and information resources.
- Summer Reading Program—meets each Wednesday morning in the month of June and encourages children to read at least 10 books in June after which they receive a certificate and record sheet to tally books they read as they complete them. The program also provides various forms of entertainment and learning for the children.
- Children's Movie Friday—primarily used to keep kids interested in coming to the library during the summer, this program provides a movie with free popcorn and drinks
- Head Start Field Trip—meets in the library at least once a year for children story time and to inform children and parents on how to obtain a library card.
- Preschool Children's Story Time—program designed to begin developing reading and learning skills in children at an early age. Local daycare is encouraged to participate in this program.

The Attalla Public Library identified three improvements needed to provide better library services to the community. These are listed as follows:

1. Internet technician—technician would be hired upon approval of the Mayor and Attalla City Council based on a comparative cost study between in-house position and outside provider
2. Additional computer space for adults and children—to be achieved through continued application of federal, state, and local grants
3. Funding for DVD collection and a security system—to be achieved through continued application of federal, state, and local grants.

Parks and Recreation

The City of Attalla offers an abundance of opportunities for parks and recreation. Attalla parks and recreation facilities constitute two community centers, a recreation center, a sports complex, and four city parks. Youth sports leagues use these facilities as permitted by the city. Although Attalla does not oversee these leagues directly, the city monitors events and enforces rules and discipline when necessary. The Attalla Parks and Recreation Department employs 7 full time workers and 4 part time workers to manage and supervise recreational facilities and events. The Parks and Recreation Director's responsibility is to oversee all recreation events and employees while the Events Coordinator plans and coordinates all recreationally related city events. The city utilizes

approximately 65 acres for parks and recreational use. Attalla city parks and recreation facilities along with their respective uses are listed as follows:

Attalla Sports Complex

The Attalla Sports Complex, located adjacent AL Hwy. 77 nearby Etowah High School and Attalla Park, offers a variety of athletic facilities which include: 2 softball fields, 2 youth baseball fields, 2 football fields, 4 tennis courts, 1 quarter-mile asphalt running track, and 1 high school baseball field. The sports complex is planning on being upgraded with a girls' softball field and lights along the running track.

Community Centers

Attalla provides two community centers:1) The Attalla Community Center is used for large parties such as wedding receptions, family reunions, birthday parties, etc. The building will house approximately 150 people. 2) Norris Community Center, located on Holley Street, is used for similar purposes.

Carnes Recreation Center

Carnes Recreation Center offers a basketball gym and four rooms for various activities. Maximum room capacity is 45 people. Groups larger than 45 people are encouraged to use the Attalla Community Center. The center is used by the senior citizens program, which offers activities such as bingo, exercise, health speakers, public education, singing, crafts, and educational trips. Seniors meet for activities five days a week in the center to participate in these activities.

City Parks

Attalla operates and manages four city parks located throughout the city. These parks and their respective amenities are listed below:

- Attalla City Park—located on AL Hwy. 77, houses 4 pavilions, 1 walking trail connecting the park to the high school, and playground equipment in good condition,
- Alford Park (also referred to as Norris Park)—offers 3 new small pavilions and 1 large pavilion, playground equipment and outdoor bathrooms,
- 1st Park—located on 1st Street, one block from the fire station, offers a 160 meter asphalt walking track, playground equipment and picnic tables,
- Curtison Park—located on Donald Street, provides playground equipment and is fenced in.

Expansions/Additions and Other Improvements

For a city of approximately 6,500 people Attalla provides substantially high quality and numerous recreational facilities. Attalla Parks and Recreation plans to expand and improve its services in the following ways:

- Build a girls' softball field in the Attalla Sports Complex

- Upgrade the running track in the sports complex by adding lighting
- Upgrade city park pavilions—painting and new picnic tables
- Upgrade park restrooms—provide handicapped accessibility

The Attalla Parks and Recreation Department identified three improvements needed to provide better services to the community. These include the following:
1. More funding for hired help—this could be assisted through mandatory rent collection for facility use
2. More part time workers and volunteers to help with recreational programs—this could be assisted through voluntary organizations with the schools
3. Expand department services to organize and run sports leagues

Senior Center

The Attalla Senior Center was established in 1970 with the continuing goals of serving the senior population with meals, transportation, education, health knowledge, exercise, and fellowship. The center currently serves meals to about 20 congregate seniors and 27 homebound for a total of 47 people at $2.64 cost per meal. There are at this time 10 people on the waiting list.

The center offers a variety of recreational and learning activities such as bingo, exercise, health speakers, public education, singing, crafts, and educational trips. Seniors meet for activities five days a week in the Carnes Recreation Center. The Attalla Senior Center identified three improvements needed to provide better services to the community. These include the following:
1. More money for help with meals and utilities
2. A designated senior center or a room for the group to meet in, decorate, and work on projects
3. A facility for the seniors to use to display their crafts to the public

Housing Authority

Attalla's Housing Authority was created in 1952 with the continuing mission of providing quality, affordable housing for qualified families and individuals. The housing authority receives approximately $177,688 in federal funding annually from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to maintain and improve public housing development. Currently, all public project housing units are in need of modernization. About 20 people are currently on the waiting list, of which half are single mothers with children. Table CF-2 shows information on housing projects for Attalla in 2008.

Table CF-2. Housing Projects: Attalla, 2008

Housing Projects	Year Constructed	# of Units	Year of Modernization
Hanby Manor	1952	64	On-going
Alford Court	1952	46	On-going

Source: Community Facilities Survey, Attalla Housing Authority, 2008.

According to the Attalla Housing Authority's 5-year plan, from 2008 through 2012, the following highlights are outlined as major work items along with projected costs:

- Handicapped Modifications—$56,000 to $72,000
- Storm Window Installment—$10,000 to $25,000
- Storm Door Replacement—$10,000
- Porch Rail Replacement—$10,000
- HVAC (Heat Venting and Air Conditioning)—$10,000 to $105,000

Note: The work items listed do not include all projects listed in the 5-year plan. For more information refer to said document.

The Attalla Housing Authority identified three improvements needed to provide better services to the community. These include the following:

1. More options available in choosing an affordable cable company
2. Better road maintenance through re-paving city streets in the housing authority area
3. Security wire needs to be placed over street drains in order to protect the public

Utilities

Attalla utilities consist of water and sewer utilities. Water utilities are owned by Etowah County, yet operated by the city, while sanitary sewer is owned and operated by the city. As in many communities, residents outside the city are served with Attalla water and sewer utilities in planning for future land annexations and development.

Water Utilities

Attalla's Water Board was established in 1950 and is charged with conducting daily collection, treatment, and distribution of water throughout the city. Attalla's water treatment plant was established in 1988 and serves approximately 2,800 residents in the city and outside the city limits. In order to meet new Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) regulations, the treatment plant should upgrade from a rapid sand particle filtration system to the membrane system (water filtered through round hollow fibers) at a cost of about $1.3 million. The membrane system would enable water utilities to produce an extra million gallons of water per day. This project is currently underway with a plan to finish in March or April of 2009. Table CF-3 displays water line size and distribution for Attalla in 2008.

Table CF-3. Water Line Size and Distribution: Attalla, 2008

Water Line Size (Inches Diameter)	Linear Distance (Feet)	Percent Distribution
2"	66,791	16.6%
3"	6,968	1.7%
4"	17,569	4.4%
6"	144,048	35.8%
8"	86,327	21.4%
10"	40,936	10.2%
12"	25,002	6.2%
16"	11,414	2.8%
20"	3,838	1.0%
Total	402,893	100.0%

Source: Community Facilities Survey, Attalla Water Board, 2008.

Attalla's water system has been determined to provide adequate service in sustaining city needs. Water line size of 6 inches is, in general, the minimum required line diameter for general use and fire protection in areas zoned for agriculture and single-family residential, while water lines 8 inches lines, or larger, are usually required in multi-family and commercial areas. Twelve inches diameter is generally the minimum size required for industrial. Based on data provided, approximately 41% of city water lines are inventoried at 8 diameter inches and above, indicating suitable infrastructure provision for commercial uses and fire protection. The city's water system could support some light to moderate industry, requiring 12 inch line, but not substantial heavy industry, often requiring a large amount of piping 16 inches or larger. Water line location is shown on Map#6: *Water Utilities*.

The Attalla Water Board identified three improvements needed to provide better water services to the community. These include the following:
1. Replace old water mains throughout the city
2. Remove dead-end main for better flow
3. Improve water flow, services, and replace meters

Sewer Utilities

Attalla's Street and Sanitation Department is charged with the responsibility of maintaining and updating the city's sewer system in order to meet growth and expansion needs. The department serves an estimated 2,300 customers as well as residents outside the city limits. In 2008 EARPDC inventoried sewer line size and distribution in Attalla. Table CF-4 displays sewer line size and distribution for Attalla in 2008.

Table CF-4. Attalla: Sewer Line Size and Distribution

Sewer Line Size (Inches Diameter)	Linear Distance (Feet)	Percent Distribution
4" Force Main	1,284	0.4%
6"	1,168	0.4%
6" Force Main	3,920	1.2%
8"	127,402	39.9%
8" Or Less	46,115	14.5%
10"	20,604	6.5%
12"	16,647	5.2%
14" Main Force	6,645	2.1%
15"	17,224	5.4%
18"	7,851	2.5%
24"	7,831	2.5%
30"	18,764	5.9%
Size Unknown	43,463	13.6%
Total	318,918	100.0%

Source: EARPDC database, 2008.

Attalla's sewer system has been determined to provide adequate service in sustaining city needs. Sewer line size of 6 inches is the generally accepted minimum standard diameter for private land use. Eight inch lines are acceptable for public land use, while 12 inches and above should support light to moderate industry. Heavy industry may require 16 inch diameter line. Based on the data

provided, current sewer line size and distribution for 8 inch diameter line and larger represents approximately 84% of the city's sewer system, while 12 inch line and larger recorded 23% and 16 inch 16%. This information indicates that Attalla's sewage infrastructure is capable, to a substantial degree, of supporting large public uses such as high intensity commercial and some light to moderate industry. The city's sewer system could possibly support some heavy industry. Unknown sewer lines are located in the southern portion of the city, in the Camp Sibert area. Sewer line locations are shown on Map#7: *Sewer Utilities*.

The Attalla Street and Sanitation Department identified three improvements needed to provide better sewer services to the community. These include the following:

1. Better funding for operations and upgrades
2. Sewer line replacement
3. Upgrade the sewer treatment facility

In 2007 the Gadsden/Etowah County Metropolitan Planning Organization (GEMPO) produced a county-wide sewer improvement plan for small municipal separate storm sewer systems in order to determine and implement best management practices (BMPs) for sewer maintenance, efficiency, environmental conservation, and education throughout Etowah County. These practices are listed under topical categories as follows:

Public Education and Outreach on Storm Water Impacts

- Public education using radio and television to produce and air 30 second public service announcements on what practices can negatively impact storm water and what the public can do to prevent these impacts.
- A minimum of 50 percent of Gadsden/Etowah Area children (K-12) will be educated on implications of pollutants each year for the first two years of the program using videos, live presentations, and brochures.

Public Involvement/Participation

- Establish Gadsden/Etowah regional storm water steering committee to coordinate permit efforts regularly.
- Hold public meetings to receive continued input on programs as well as to disseminate progress made on program.

Construction Site Storm Water Runoff Control

- Co-permittees in the Gadsden/Etowah Urbanized Area will work with local developers to ensure that they are aware of and abide by the statewide construction storm water regulatory program consistent with NPDES requirements for construction activities.

Post-Construction Storm Water Management in New Development and Redevelopment

- Conduct inventory of structural storm water controls and integrate it into the regional Gadsden/Etowah GIS.
- Develop and implement a storm water ordinance and guidance manual designed to control runoff impacts.
- Acquaint local developers with state controls and encourage compliance.
- City planning and engineering will develop structural and nonstructural controls that support new development in Gadsden/Etowah Urbanized Area.

Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations

- Develop spill prevention and control plans for municipal and county-run facilities.

- Training for County/Municipal employees working at Municipal/County facilities in spill prevention technologies.

These best management practices are further supplemented with measurable goals and status reports established by the Environmental Protection Agency's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System through the *NPDES Permit Status Report*, March 9, 2007. As a part of the larger Gadsden/Etowah County Area, the City of Attalla should team with the MPO and other municipalities in the county to organize and implement these BMPs in order to improve sewer efficiency, maintenance, and environmental preservation and education in the area.

Solid Waste Management

Solid waste collection and disposal in Attalla is provided by Allied Waste. Collection of refuse such as leaves and tree limbs is free of charge, with the exception of very large piles of waste pick-up. Upon collection, solid waste is then transported and disposed of in Collinsville, approximately 24 miles northwest of the city.

The Attalla Street and Sanitation Department identified two improvements needed to provide better solid waste collection and disposal services to the community. These include the following:
1. Build a new inert landfill near the city
2. Develop a recycling center for the city

Analytical Summary

This analytical summary outlines the top three needs determined by each community facilities entity in the City of Attalla in 2008. Results were based on the 2008 Community Facilities Survey distributed and collected by EARPDC and the City of Attalla.

City Administration

1. Expand city administration offices—relocate various city offices to vacant 4th Street Elementary School
2. Annex property for residential, commercial, and industrial growth
3. Hire a full-time or part-time grant writer knowledgeable in community growth and development issues

Law Enforcement

1. Add mobile computers to police vehicles
2. Upgrade department communications system
3. Hire 4 full-time corrections officers for the municipal jail in order to keep more officers on the street

Note: Items #1 and #2 are currently being implemented. Item #3 is a considerable department need.

Fire and Rescue

1. Improved communications—replace repeater system in order to better communicate with all firefighters in dead zones areas where signals are unreached. Repeaters serve to expand communication coverage area by converting and rebroadcasting short radio waves to long.
2. More manpower for daily operations—grant submitted to FEMA for eight firefighters to staff currently vacant fire station no.3
3. New firefighter structural clothing to be purchased through FEMA—currently many reserves have clothing that barely meets National Fire Protection Association requirements

Note: Item #1—Improve communications is in process by moving the location of repeater machines for both the fire and police departments from Cleburne Street in Attalla to Scenic Drive in Gadsden, however, the repeater system still needs to be replaced in order to provide better coverage.

Educational Facilities

1. Partnership with job placement and services
2. Cooperate with business owners for job qualifications
3. Provide more technology programs that teach skills needed for today's workforce

Public Library

1. Internet technician—technician would be hired upon approval of the Mayor and Attalla City Council based on a comparative cost study between in-house position and outside provider

2. Additional computer space for adults and children—to be achieved through continued application of federal, state, and local grants
3. Funding for DVD collection and a security system—to be achieved through continued application of federal, state, and local grants

Parks and Recreation

1. More funding for hired help—this could be assisted through mandatory rent collection for facility use
2. More part time workers and volunteers to help with recreational programs—this could be assisted through voluntary organizations with the schools
3. Expand department services to organize and run sports leagues

Senior Center

1. More money for help with meals and utilities
2. A designated senior center or a room for the group to meet in, decorate, and work on projects
3. A facility for the seniors to use to display their crafts to the public

Housing Authority

1. More options available in choosing an affordable cable company
2. Better road maintenance through re-paving city streets in the housing authority area
3. Security wire needs to be placed over street drains in order to protect the public

Utilities

Water Utilities

1. Replace old water mains throughout the city
2. Remove dead-end main for better flow
3. Improve water flow, services, and replace meters

Sewer Utilities

1. Better funding for operations and upgrades
2. Sewer line replacement
3. Upgrade the sewer treatment facility

Solid Waste Management

1. Build a new inert landfill near the city
2. Develop a recycling center for the city

MAP 5
COMMUNITY FACILITIES
ATTALLA
ALABAMA

Scale

2,200 1,100 0 2,200 Feet

Prepared By The East Alabama Regional Planning And Development Commission, 2006.

Attalla City Limits

1. CITY HALL / LIBRARY
2. POLICE DEPT.
3. POST OFFICE
4. FIRE DEPT. No. 1
5. ETOWAH COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL
6. STOWERS HILL INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
7. CURTISTON PRIMARY SCHOOL
8. ATTALLA NURSING HOME
9. ETOWAH COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
10. ATTALLA SPORTS COMPLEX
11. FIRE STATION No. 2
12. ATTALLA PARK
13. FIRE STATION No. 3
14. ATTALLA WATER DEPT.
15. BALLFIELD
16. POLICE DEPT. SUBSTATION
17. CARNES RECREATION CENTER
18. ATTALLA COMMUNITY CENTER
19. ATTALLA BOARD OF EDUCATION
20. NORRIS COMMUNITY CENTER
21. FIRST PARK
22. CURTISTON PARK
23. ALFORD PARK
24. POLICE TRAINING CENTER

MAP 6

ATTALLA

ALABAMA

WATER UTILITIES

LEGEND

- Attalla City Limits
- 2" LINES OR LESS
- 3" LINES
- 4" LINES
- 6" LINES
- 8" LINES
- 10" LINES
- 12" LINES
- 16" LINES
- 20" LINES
- Storage Tank

N W E S

Scale

2,900 1,450 0 2,900 Feet

Prepared By The East Alabama Regional Planning And Development Commission, 2006.

MAP 7

ATTALLA

ALABAMA

SEWER UTILITIES

LEGEND

- Attalla City Limits
- SIZE UNKNOWN
- 6" MAIN
- 8" MAIN
- 8" OR LESS
- 10" MAIN
- 12" MAIN
- 15" MAIN
- 18" MAIN
- 24" MAIN
- 30" MAIN
- 4 FORCE MAIN
- 6 FORCE MAIN
- 14 MAIN FORCE

N W E S

Scale

1,000 500 0 1,000 2,000 3,000 Feet

Prepared By The East Alabama Regional Planning And Development Commission, 2006.

CHAPTER VI: TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is an essential element and must be carefully planned and developed to best meet the needs of the community. As America continues to grow in population and more people rely on vehicular travel, transportation planning for the automobile will continue to be of major importance. Efficient traffic flow and mobility influences the economic welfare and overall quality of life within a community. Routes with high traffic concentrations need to be identified and properly planned in order to accommodate present conditions and anticipated future growth. Traffic patterns also direct locations for growth and development. Industries and businesses wishing to be made visible and accessible to the public and to their suppliers tend to locate along major traffic routes. A well-planned transportation system should save business and the general population time and money by allowing its users to deliver goods, services, and other resources as efficiently and safely as possible. Therefore, it is important to analyze a city's existing transportation infrastructure and outline efforts for improving their local transportation network. To view functional street classifications for the city refer to Map#8: *Functional Street Classifications*

The purpose of this chapter is to provide information on existing traffic conditions and recommend actions to further enhance the transportation infrastructure within the City of Attalla. Traffic volumes along five major routes through the city have been used to calculate maximum capacity and future traffic growth projections (See Map#9: *Transportation Plan* for more information).

Definitions

When studying road transportation it is useful to classify roads and streets according to their function. Road classifications can be used to identify road characteristics and whether or not these roads are eligible for federal funding. The highway functional classification system is organized into a hierarchical structure with interstates exhibiting the highest traffic volumes, followed by arterials—principal and minor, collectors—major and minor, and local roads. The following roadway definitions of the functional classification of roads and streets are described by the Alabama Highway Department of Transportation.

Interstates

Interstates are divided highways with full control of access and grade separation at all intersections. The controlled access inherent in interstates results in high-lane capacities, enabling these roadways to carry up to three times the amount of traffic per lane as arterials. Interstates move traffic at relatively high speeds. The City of Attalla is located with convenient access to Interstate 59, routing northeast to Chattanooga TN and southwest to Birmingham.

Arterial Streets

Arterial streets are designed to handle large volumes of traffic. Arterials serve primarily as feeders to the interstate system and act as major connectors between land-use concentrations. With a suggested lane width of twelve feet, this class of roadway may be separated by a median. A secondary purpose of an arterial is to provide some access to adjacent property. The use of a curb lane for parking, loading, and unloading should not be permitted due to interference with the flow

of traffic. There are two classifications of arterials: principal and minor. Principal arterial highways connect communities to freeways and expressways while minor arterial highways join with principal arterial highways and collectors. Arterials could also be urban or rural in character. Principal arterials extending through the city include U.S. Hwy. 278, U.S. Hwy. 431, and AL Hwy. 77. Federal Highway 11 was classified as a minor arterial running through the city.

Collector Streets
Collector streets serve the purpose of collecting and distributing the traffic from the local streets to the arterials. With a suggested lane width of twelve feet, collectors are important for serving adjacent property and loading and unloading goods. Typically, collectors have lower volumes of traffic to accommodate shorter distance trips.

Local Streets
Local streets, designed to provide access to abutting property, are usually no wider than twelve feet. Most residential streets and alleys are considered local streets.

Administrative Street Classification

Streets are not classified by function only, but also by which entity owns and maintains them. Through an administrative street classification system, governments are able to identify which entity is responsible for a particular roadway and designate funding for projects accordingly. The Administrative Street classification categories are as follows:

Federal Roads
Federal highways are owned and funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation; the State Department of Transportation coordinates improvements on these roadways. Federal highways running through Attalla include U.S. Highway 431 and U.S. Highway 278.

Other Federal Roads
These roads are owned and maintained by other federal agencies, such as the U.S. Department of the Interior. Examples of these roadways include national forest roads and national park service roads. There are no federal roads of this sort in the city.

State Highways
State Highways are owned and maintained by the State Department of Transportation both in unincorporated portions of a county and within municipal corporate boundaries. AL Highway 77 is categorized as a state route passing through Attalla.

County Roads
County roads can be divided into two types: (1) roads owned and maintained by the county; and (2) roads owned by the county but maintained by the municipality under written agreement with the county.

Municipal Streets
Municipal streets consist of all other public roads inside city boundaries (excludes private roads). All roads in Attalla not listed in the other classifications fall into this category. The major municipal routes traversing through the city are 5th Ave. (partially U.S. Hwy. 431) and 3rd str. (partially AL Hwy. 11)

Private Roads
Private roads are not publicly funded but should be considered when planning future municipal street network expansions. This classification includes subdivision roads that have not been dedicated to the city and substantially long, shared driveways.

Traffic Volumes and Capacity

Traffic volumes are useful to determine traffic flow throughout a community, identify areas of high, medium, and low traffic volumes, and how traffic flow has been directed and changed over time. This data can be used to direct where road improvements, property access, and land developments should occur and the extent to which these occurrences should be administered. Data was collected from strategically placed traffic counters, which are identified by their mile marker positions. Traffic volumes are measured from Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) counts at these positions. Annual Average Daily Traffic is simply an indicator of the number of vehicles traveling on a particular section of roadway on any particular day for a given year.

After AADT is determined, it is compared to practical capacity to check if present volumes can adequately serve the public or not. Capacities are calculated by ALDOT using three data inputs: functional classification, number of lanes, and type of developments adjacent to the roadway. The Gadsden/Etowah 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan Update, completed in 2005, determines traffic volumes and capacities, based on functional street classifications, along major routes throughout Etowah County.

In order to determine how many more vehicles a particular portion of roadway can adequately serve the formula V/C (V= Traffic Volume and C= Traffic Capacity) is calculated to produce a ratio. If the ratio is less than 1 then capacity is adequate for that road and improvements are not mandatory. However, if the ratio is 1 or more than 1 then capacity is surpassing or has surpassed the maximum number of vehicles the road is designed to properly serve. For example, a rural principal arterial in an undeveloped area may adequately serve up to 32,500 vehicles per day. Should the AADT be 25,000 then: V/C calculates as 0.76. Next: 100 – 0.76 = 0.24% capacity available.

Another method used to determine if present volumes are adequate or not is to compare traffic volumes along a road type with Level of Service (LOS). The Alabama Department of Transportation has provided definitions for LOS, which are as follows:

Level of Service A	Free traffic flow
Level of Service B	Stable traffic flow
Level of Service C	Stable traffic flow
Level of Service D	High-density stable traffic flow

Level of Service E Capacity level traffic flow
Level of Service F Forced or breakdown traffic flow

Ideal traffic flow is Service level A, but B and C permit adequate traffic flow as well. Service level D is high-density stable traffic flow. When traffic volumes reach level D, plans to accommodate higher traffic volumes should be taken into consideration. Plans to accommodate more traffic are mandatory should traffic volumes meet or exceed levels E and F.

According to Level of Service information, Attalla showed LOS A, free flow traffic, throughout most of its roadway system, with a few areas exceeding or nearing capacity levels, indicating that the city, for the most part, should be able to increase in traffic volumes substantially before significant improvements need to be made. Locations for traffic stations and accompanying 2006 traffic counts and LOS in the city can be seen on Map#9: *Transportation Plan*. Stations are marked in parentheses with 2006 traffic counts and LOS identified below.

Interstate Hwy. 59

Interstate Highway 59 is classified as a four-lane, controlled access interstate highway connecting Attalla to Chattanooga TN to the northeast and Birmingham AL to the southwest. The roadway joins to U.S. Hwy. 431 and AL Hwy. 77 serving Attalla on the west side and the cities of Gadsden and Rainbow City on the east side of the road. ALDOT traffic volumes indicated Level of Service A, free flow, throughout the section under consideration, indicating that significant road improvements will not be needed in the immediate future. Table T-1 displays traffic volumes along I-59 for the City of Attalla from 1996 to 2006.

Table T-1. Traffic Volumes, Interstate Hwy. 59: City of Attalla

Location of Traffic Count	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006	# Change	% Change	LOS
S. edge of city (901)	17,140	18,930	20,610	21,070	22,050	22,050	4,910	28.6%	A
Intersection AL Hwy. 77 (902)	17,140	18,930	20,610	21,070	22,050	22,050	4,910	28.6%	A
Intersection I-759 (123)	22,600	24,190	26,000	26,730	27,760	29,670	7,070	31.3%	A
S. of US Hwy. 278 (124A)	20,860	22,300	22,700	23,320	24,260	24,600	3,740	17.9%	A
N. edge of city (124)	11,780	13,100	14,340	15,220	15,330	15,770	3,990	33.9%	A

Source: ALDOT website: Traffic Data, Statewide Traffic Volume Map

The greatest traffic increases, along I-59, occurred near the intersection with U.S. Hwy. 77. From 1996 to 2006, traffic counts increased at this location from 22,600 to 29,670, a 31% increase. Still there is considerable room for traffic growth along this route. Maximum capacity for a 4-lane interstate is set at 68,000 AADT, which indicates that, with an AADT of 29,670 in 2006, traffic volumes could double and still not reach capacity. Sections of I-59 to the south edge and intersections with AL Hwy.77 and U.S. Hwy. 431 increased significantly in traffic volumes, while stretches to the north of the city also grew, but to a somewhat lesser extent.

AL Hwy. 77

Alabama Highway 77 connects Attalla to I-59 and Rainbow City in the south and is classified as an undivided 2-lane minor arterial highway through Attalla. Level of Service along AL Hwy. 77 ranged from LOS A, free flow, in the northwestern portion of the city to LOS F, forced breakdown, in the southern half near I-59. In the years 2002, 2004, and 2006 the section of AL Hwy. 77 immediately north of I-59 consistently exceeded the set capacity level (17,800 AADT) at 19,700 AADT indicating a substantial and growing need for road improvement and expansion. Traffic volumes along AL Hwy. 77 have been high in the section to the immediate south of U.S. Hwy. 11 with an LOS D, high density, and a recorded AADT of 16,670 in 2006, suggesting needed improvements and expansion in this area of the city as well. As a proposal for transportation improvements, the portion of AL Hwy. 77 between I-59 and U.S. Hwy. 11 should be planned for roadway expansion and highway access management. Alternative routes connecting AL Hwy. 77 to other areas of the city could be realized through better transportation planning and road networking. The greatest increase in traffic flow along AL Hwy. 77 occurred north of U.S. Hwy. 11 between Clanton and 9th street. Traffic volumes at this location increased from 10,310 in 1996 to 13,250 in 2006. Table T-2 displays traffic volumes for AL Hwy. 77 in Attalla.

Table T-2. Traffic Volumes, AL Hwy. 77: City of Attalla

Location of Traffic Count	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006	# Change	% Change	LOS
N. of I-59 (96)	17,200	17,400	17,660	18,820	20,200	19,700	2,500	14.5%	F
S. of US Hwy. 11 (94)	14,380	14,990	14,680	15,370	16,450	16,670	2,290	15.9%	D
N. of US Hwy. 11 (93)	10,310	10,400	10,700	11,500	12,430	11,780	1,470	14.3%	C
BTW. Clanton str. & 9th str. (93)	10,310	10,400	10,700	11,500	12,430	13,250	2,940	28.5%	B
S. of CR 35 at RR (91)	9,860	9,730	10,100	10,230	9,920	10,730	870	8.8%	A
BTW. US-431 & US-278 (90)	5,310	5,390	5,430	6,150	6,350	6,260	950	17.9%	A

Source: ALDOT website: Traffic Data, Statewide Traffic Volume Map

U.S. Hwy. 431

Federal Highway 431 travels through Attalla's downtown and connects the city to I-59 and Gadsden to the immediate east and Boaz in Marshall County to the north. The route is classified as a 4-lane undivided principal arterial entering into Attalla from the east, becomes 5th avenue downtown, then transitions to a 4-lane divided principal arterial leaving the city to the west. With the exception of I-59, this roadway serves the largest segment of traffic flow through the city. Between 1996 and 2006 U.S. Hwy. 431 showed decreasing traffic volumes, particularly in the downtown area where AADT declined by 920, a decrease of 3%. With a Level of Service C, stable traffic flow, the highway should not need significant improvements in the near future. Maximum capacity for a 4-lane principal arterial is set at 31,000 AADT, suggesting that with a 2006 AADT of 22,500, traffic flow could increase substantially before improvements should be considered. Table T-3 shows traffic volumes for U.S. Hwy. 431 in Attalla from 1996 to 2000.

Table T-3. Traffic Volumes: U.S. Hwy. 431: City of Attalla									
Location of Traffic Count	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006	# Change	% Change	LOS
Intersection I-59 (55)	10,650	9,530	9,860	9,470	9,210	9,640	-1,010	-9.5%	A
BTW. US-11 & 4th str. (53)	23,420	24,390	25,580	22,570	21,530	22,500	-920	-3.9%	C
Intersection US Hwy. 11 (903)	16,400	15,960	16,740	15,160	15,860	16,580	180	1.1%	B
BTW. Walker str. & St. Clair (51)	17,480	17,360	18,980	16,680	18,140	16,620	-860	-4.9%	B
S. of AL Hwy. 77	17,540	17,920	16,930	16,300	16,730	16,200	-1340	-7.6%	A
N. of US Hwy. 278 (904)	11,280	11,740	10,920	11,010	11,020	11,520	240	2.1%	A

Source: ALDOT website: Traffic Data, Statewide Traffic Volume Map

U.S. Hwy. 11

Federal highway U.S. 11 extends northeast by southwest, parallel to I-59, through downtown Attalla, connecting the city to Chattanooga TN and Birmingham AL. The route is classified as a 2-lane minor arterial throughout its length in the city. From 1996 to 2006 traffic volumes decreased along this route slightly and only increased minimally at one other place. Table T-4 examines traffic volumes along U.S. Hwy. 11 for Attalla from 1996 to 2006.

Table T-4. Traffic Volumes: U.S. Hwy. 11: City of Attalla									
Location of Traffic Count	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006	# Change	% Change	LOS
S. of Cullman str. (24)	3,440	3,310	3,260	3,010	3,620	3,430	-10	-0.3%	A
Near Big Wills Creek (26)	7,720	7,740	7,180	7,030	7,570	6,880	-840	-10.9%	A
N. edge of city (905)	2,190	2,300	2,050	2,400	2,260	2,400	210	9.6%	A

Source: ALDOT website: Traffic Data, Statewide Traffic Volume Map

The highest AADT count recorded, in 2006, along this route was 6,880 at Big Wills Creek, indicating that with a maximum capacity of 17,800 AADT, traffic volumes could double and almost triple before capacity would be reached. Level of Service throughout the length of U.S. Hwy. 11 in the city was shown as LOS A, free traffic flow, also determining insignificant need for roadway improvements in the near future.

U.S. Hwy. 278

U.S. Highway 278 branches off from U.S. Hwy. 431 just outside Attalla's northwest city limits and extends westward into Blount and Cullman Counties. The roadway is classified as a 2-lane undivided rural principal arterial highway throughout its length. ALDOT traffic volumes from 1996 to 2006 indicate minor traffic growth along the studied section near the city. Level of Service A suggests little need for near future improvements. Table T-5 exhibits traffic volumes along U.S. Hwy. 278 near Attalla from 1996 to 2006.

Table T-5. Traffic Volumes: U.S. Hwy. 278: City of Attalla									
Location of Traffic Count	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006	# Change	% Change	LOS
Intersection US Hwy 431 (909)	5,740	6,140	6,050	6,480	6,530	6,390	650	11.3%	A
E. of Littleton cut-off (44)	7,900	8,370	8,200	8,580	8,590	8,120	220	2.8%	A
NW. edge of city (908)	7,730	8,080	8,000	8,170	8,180	8,630	900	11.6%	A

Source: ALDOT website: Traffic Data, Statewide Traffic Volume Map.

Traffic Projections

Traffic projections are used to give an indication of future traffic counts given current conditions occurring at the same rate for the same span of time. It is important to remember that these projections are not used to predict future traffic volumes. They only provide an expectation of what could happen if current trends and conditions remain the same.
An example of how traffic count projections are calculated for a 10-year period is shown below:

1. Calculate the difference between the traffic volumes in the past 10 years.
   2005 AADT is 10,230 - 1995 AADT is 10,010. 10,230 – 10,010 = 220.
2. Second, the difference is divided by the earliest AADT examined, which is 1995 data.
   Difference is 220/ AADT 1995 is 10,010. 220 / 10,010 = .0219 or 2.2%, which is the growth rate for the 10-year period.
3. Third, the growth rate is multiplied by the traffic volume of the most recent year.
   Growth rate is 2.2 x 10,230 AADT 2005. .0219 x 10,230 = 224.84. This calculation produces the estimated increase over the next 10-year period, which is 224.84.
4. Lastly, the estimated increase and the most recent AADT are summed.
   Estimated increase 224.84 + 10,230 AADT 2005. 224.84 + 10,230 = 10,455. This calculation gives us the projected traffic count on this section of road for 2015, which is 10,455.

Traffic projections have been calculated for the year 2016 as well as probable Level of Service at these count stations in the city at this time. Traffic volumes in 1996 and 2006 have also been included for comparison purposes.

Traffic projections indicate that Attalla should have fairly free to stable traffic flow into 2016. However, there are a few places where the city may experience significant congestion. Projections along AL Hwy. 77 show traffic counts in the area south of U.S. Hwy 11 increasing from 16,670 AADT, an LOS-D (high density traffic flow) to 18,960 AADT, an LOS-F (forced breakdown) in 2016. High priority improvements are also needed along this highway to the north of I-59 where 2006 counts exceeded capacity at 19,700 AADT and projections show further traffic breakdown at 22,200 AADT in 2016. Traffic counts and projections along U.S. Hwy. 431 indicate notable needs for improvements, particularly in the downtown area near the intersection with U.S. Hwy. 11. However, 2016 projections along this stretch calculate counts equivalent to LOS-B and C (stable traffic flow) suggesting that U.S. Hwy. 431 should hold substantially lower priority status than AL Hwy. 77. Table T-6 displays AADT in 1996 and 2006 as well as 2016 traffic projections and accompanying LOS for the city's major roadways.

Table T-6.Traffic Projections: City of Attalla, 1996-2016					
Roadway	Location of Traffic Count	1996	2006	2016	LOS
I-59	S. edge of city (901)	17,140	22,050	26,960	A
	Intersection AL Hwy. 77 (902)	17,140	22,050	26,960	A
	Intersection I-759 (123)	22,600	29,670	36,740	A
	S. of US Hwy. 278 (124A)	20,860	24,600	28,340	A
	N. edge of city (124)	11,780	15,770	19,760	A
AL Hwy. 77	N. of I-59 (96)	17,200	19,700	22,200	F
	S. of US Hwy. 11 (94)	14,380	16,670	18,960	F
	N. of US Hwy. 11 (93)	10,310	11,780	13,250	C
	BTW. Clanton str. & 9th str. (93)	10,310	13,250	16,190	C
	S. of CR 35 at RR (91)	9,860	10,730	11,600	A
	BTW. US-431 & US-278 (90)	5,310	6,260	7,210	A
U.S. Hwy. 431	Intersection I-59 (55)	10,650	9,640	8,630	A
	BTW. US-11 & 4th str. (53)	23,420	22,500	21,580	C
	Intersection US Hwy. 11 (903)	16,400	16,580	16,760	B
	BTW. Walker str. & St. Clair (51)	17,480	16,620	15,760	B
	S. of AL Hwy. 77 (50)	17,540	16,200	14,860	A
	N. of US Hwy. 278 (904)	11,280	11,520	11,760	A
U.S. Hwy. 11	S. of Cullman str. (24)	3,440	3,430	3,420	A
	Near Big Wills Creek (26)	7,720	6,880	6,040	A
	N. edge of city (905)	2,190	2,400	2,610	A
U.S. Hwy. 278	Intersection US Hwy 431 (909)	5,740	6,390	7,040	A
	E. of Littleton cut-off (44)	7,900	8,120	8,340	A
	NW. edge of city (908)	7,730	8,630	9,530	A

Source: ALDOT website: Traffic Data, Statewide Traffic Volume Map.

Highway Access Management

Highway access management plays an important role in transportation efficiency, management, and safety. Many communities and other developed areas throughout the country have neglected proper access management standards, resulting in mismanaged traffic coordination and unnecessary congestion and gridlock at major intersections. As development continues along the major highway corridors throughout Attalla, the city would benefit substantially from logical and practical highway access management guidelines, serving to ease access and enhance traffic flow at important intersections and other access points. Once established, these guidelines could be used to create a practical set of access management regulations to be included in the city's zoning ordinance and implemented through lawful enforcement of zoning codes.

The basic purpose of highway access management is to improve traffic flow along the highway while maintaining efficient, adequate, and safe vehicular accessibility. Highway access management guidelines included herein comprehensive plan format must not be enforced as law, but are useful in providing basic direction and guidance in establishing practical and effective highway access throughout the city street system. The comprehensive plan is not intended to serve as an exhaustive and complete guidebook or manual for access management, rather it offers a set of basic planning principals drawn in as a basis for more in depth study. These guidelines and

subsequent figures selected from the *Highway Access Management Manual*, produced by the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies, are listed as follows:

Placement of Commercial Activity Centers

As a common pattern in commercial development, commercial activity centers tend to locate around major street corners and intersections. These commercial activity centers, also known as commercial nodes, begin with a location at the corners of intersections and can significantly inhibit traffic flow and access if all four corners are developed with entrance and exit points. In planning for proper access management, this practice should be avoided. Commercial property should be promoted and encouraged to develop as commercial activity centers at only one corner of the intersection, undivided by the major intersection, instead of on all four corners and spread out along the highway. This type of access management permits more highway frontage due to proper separation and distance from the major intersection, enhances traffic circulation throughout the commercial area, promotes flexibility in site design, and creates fewer access problems at the intersection. Figure T-1 shows improper placement of commercial activity centers, while Figure T-2 illustrates proper commercial center placement.

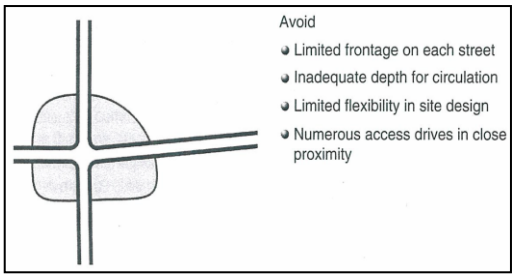


Figure T-1. Improper Commercial Node

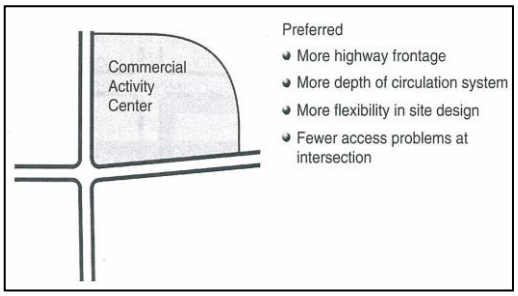


Figure T-2. Proper Commercial Node

Corner Parcel Access

Corner parcel lots, also known as outparcels, enlist high priority and value to businesses due to efficient access and convenient visibility along two major roads instead of a single road. In order to avoid access management problems and congestion at the intersection these parcels need to be tightly regulated with limited access. As a sustainable traffic management practice the preferred strategy is to permit a maximum of two access points, one located on each intersecting highway, into a collectively shared parking area, as opposed to allowing several access points, each with single access into individual parcels with separate parking. This preferred strategy enhances traffic flow and access by utilizing shared parking and keeping access to a minimum along the major roadway, while the non-preferred strategy produces numerous traffic access conflicts and unnecessary congestion. Figure T-3 shows improper corner parcel access with multiple single access points for each parcel and non-shared parking, while Figure T-4 illustrates proper access management with two major access points and shared parking.

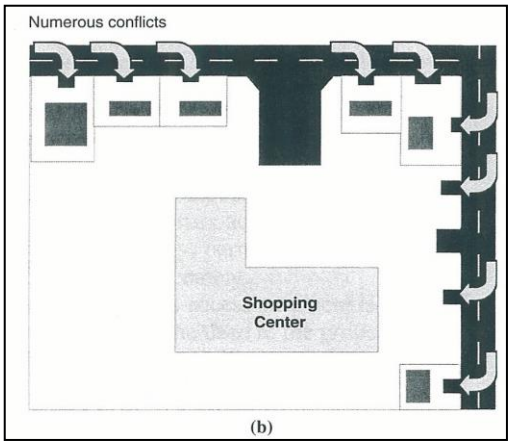


Figure T-3. Improper Corner Parcel Access

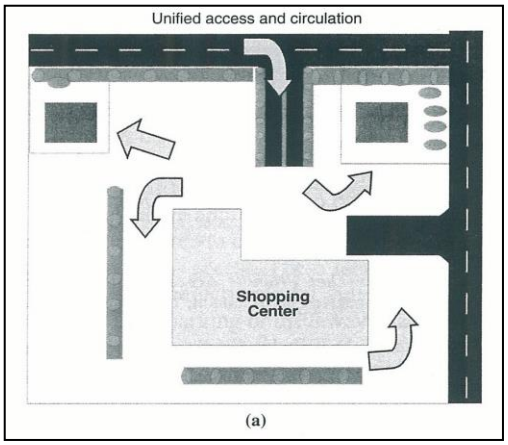


Figure T-4. Proper Corner Parcel Access

Throat Length

Throat length is characterized as the length of roadway or driveway used to connect the highway intersection to the on-site traffic circulation intersection, namely a parking lot parcel or another parallel roadway. Proper throat length is necessary to provide safe vehicular clearance at both intersections and mitigate bunching of vehicles at these access points. Adequate throat length should allow left-turning vehicles sufficient clearance of traffic, in the opposing right hand lane, before meeting on-site circulation. As a general rule, a minimum of two vehicles should be able to remain safely stationary within the throat at any given moment. This practice should substantially reduce congestion and crash rates on the abutting roadway and circulation site. Figure T-5 demonstrates proper throat length between the abutting roadway and on-site circulation.

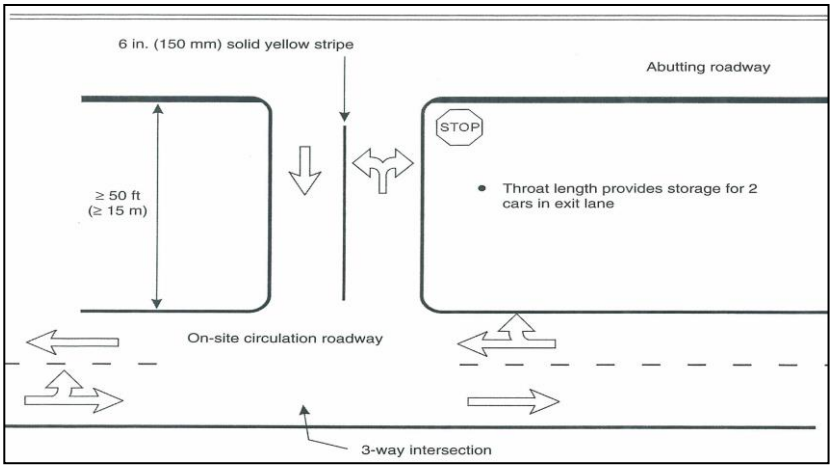


Figure T-5. Proper Throat Length

Grid-pattern Connectivity

The most critical component of highway access management is a unified and well integrated roadway network system. Without such as system, street connectivity fails and the result is increased traffic congestion and reduced safety. The common grid-pattern system is the most basic, yet efficient, safe, and overall useful road network strategy available. This pattern should be the basis for street networking and accompanying city development. Grid pattern connectivity is designed to promote and encourage access to major thoroughfares through connector routes and the local road system instead of giving direct access to individual parcels. In order to free traffic flow and reduce congestion individual parcels should be accessed directly only through connector

and local roads, not arterial roads. Figure T-6 illustrates two significantly different street systems—one without access management and numerous direct access points to individual parcels, and the other with access management showing a supporting street system with direct access only at connector and local street intersections.

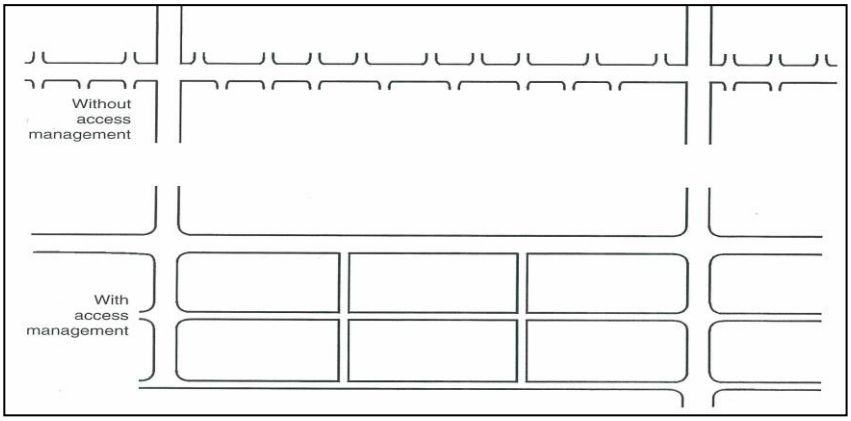


Figure T-6. Street Network With and Without Proper Access Management

Connectivity in Local Neighborhoods

Grid pattern connectivity should also be promoted and encouraged in local neighborhoods in order to create safe and efficient transportation throughout the community. Connectivity hindrances such as dead-ends, cul-de-sacs, and gated communities force drivers to use major roadways for even short trips, thus adding to congestion. A fragmented street system will also increase length of trip and time driving, as well as impede emergency access. As a basic connectivity strategy, cities should create transportation plans and policies to mitigate the use of connectivity hindrances and promote and encourage an integrated vehicular transportation network. Figure T-7 shows improper connectivity, heightening demand for arterial access, while Figure T-8 illustrates proper and efficient connectivity, creating less demand for arterial access.

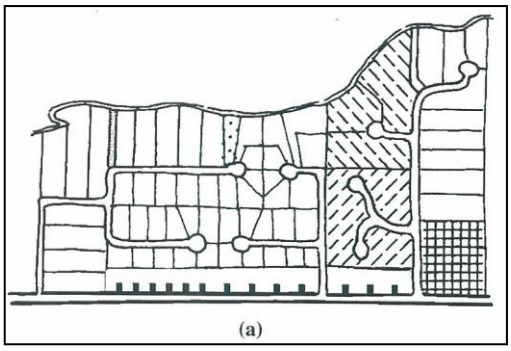


Figure T-7. Improper Connectivity

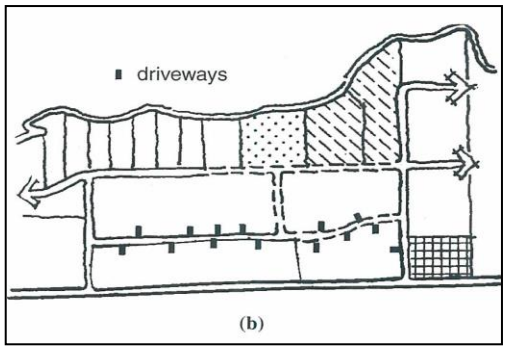


Figure T-8. Proper Connectivity

Frontage Roads

Common alternatives to direct grid access roads consist of frontage roads and service roads. These roads run parallel to the major highway, providing access points only along connectors to the major road. The two main goals of this strategy is 1) to decrease direct access along the major route, thus creating and sustaining uninhibited traffic flow along the major route and 2) diverting and separating business oriented traffic from through routing traffic. The only barrier to using

frontage roads is highly limited access, which is itself the basis. Figure T-9 shows minimum separation between the frontage road and the major roadway along with access to connectors.

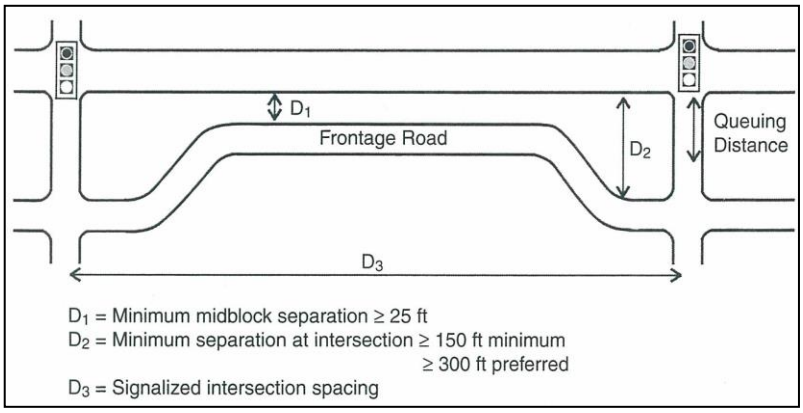


Figure T-9. Minimum Separation for Frontage Roads

Transportation Plan

As a growing and thriving community, Attalla needs to plan for effective and efficient transportation. The primary form of transportation throughout the city is personal vehicular with most traffic generation along the four main routes, Interstate Highway 59, AL Hwy. 77, U.S. Hwy. 11, and U.S. Hwy 278. Interstate Highway 59 forms the eastern border of the city separating Attalla from Rainbow City and Gadsden. Federal Route 278 joins to U.S. Hwy. 431 and AL Hwy. 77 to the west, outside the city limits. ALDOT traffic volumes along routes U.S. Hwy. 431 and AL Hwy. 77 showed these routes nearing or meeting traffic capacity at certain points, indicating that improvements should be planned in the near future. Traffic volumes along other major roads recorded considerably lower capacity levels, suggesting lower priority.

As a geographic incorporation of the Gadsden-Etowah County Metropolitan Planning Area, Attalla transportation plans are guided by the Gadsden-Etowah Metropolitan Planning Organization (GEMPO). GEMPO is required by federal law to maintain and update a long range transportation plan for the City of Gadsden and surrounding cities in Etowah County. This plan assesses community transportation needs and establishes strategic solutions in the form of transportation improvement projects to meet those needs. The following GEMPO transportation improvement projects for the City of Attalla (illustrated on Map#9: *Transportation Plan*) are listed in the plan document as follows:

- Widen AL Hwy. 77 from I-59 Ramps to U.S. Hwy. 11 in Attalla – 2 lanes to 4 lanes
- Widen U.S. Hwy. 278 from U.S. Hwy. 431 to urban boundary – 2 lanes to 4 lanes
- Widen AL Hwy. 77 from U.S. Hwy. 11 to U.S. Hwy. 278 – 2 lanes to 4 lanes
- Widen U.S. Hwy. 431/ U.S. Hwy. 278 from I-59 to Split – 4 lanes to 6 lanes
- Extend Interstate 759 from I-59 west across U.S. Hwy. 11 to connect with AL Hwy. 77 —4 lanes

Attalla has a reasonably well integrated and connected road grid throughout, making vehicular transportation substantially safe and efficient. In order to provide more convenient connections and improve traffic flow, EARPDC recommends constructing new routes at various points in the city (See Map#9: *Transportation Plan*). These recommendations are listed as follows:

- Connect 3rd Street NW to 1st Street NE
- Connect Country Club Road to Holly Avenue SE
- Continue Hammond Avenue to County Club Road
- Extend Peachtree Street SE between Hammond Avenue and Holly Avenue SE
- Extend Line Street between Hammond Avenue and Holly Avenue SE
- Continue W. Covington Avenue to GEMPO planned extension of I-759
- Link Randolph Street SE to Randolph Street SE to fill in the gap
- Extend Industrial Drive to Etowah Street SE

Analytical Summary

The analytical summary for transportation provides a general outline describing road classifications, maximum capacity, capacity assessment, MPO planned improvements, and additional recommendations for the following major routes in the city:

I-59

Classification: Interstate Highway 59 is a four-lane, controlled access interstate highway.
Maximum Capacity: 68,000 AADT (Average Annual Daily Traffic)
Capacity Assessment: ALDOT recorded 29,670 AADT in the area between the intersections of I-759 and AL Hwy.77. This being the highest AADT in the city, capacity in this area could double and not reach capacity level. Level of Service –A (free flow traffic) was determined for the stretch of I-59 through the city.
MPO Planned Improvements: None
Recommendations: No significant improvements needed in the near future

AL Hwy. 77

Classification: 2-lane undivided principal arterial highway through Attalla.
Maximum Capacity: 17,800 AADT
Capacity Assessment: In the years 2002, 2004, and 2006 the section of AL Hwy. 77 immediately north of I-59 consistently exceeded the set capacity level (17,800 AADT) at 19,700 AADT indicating a substantial and growing need for road improvement and expansion. Level of Service at this point was determined at LOS-F (forced breakdown).
Traffic volumes along AL Hwy. 77 have been high in the section to the immediate south of U.S. Hwy. 11 with an LOS-D, high density, and a recorded AADT of 16,670 in 2006, suggesting needed improvements along this section of the highway as well.
MPO Planned Improvements: The Gadsden-Etowah County MPO document (2005): *2030 Long Range Transportation Plan Update* scheduled a Transportation Improvement Project (TIP) to widen AL Hwy. 77 from 2-lanes to 4-lanes, starting at the intersection with I-59 and finishing at the intersection with U.S. Hwy. 11.
Short Term Goal: 2007-2010 Cost: $3,284,500.00
The MPO plan also has scheduled a project to widen AL Hwy 77 from 2-lanes to 4-lanes starting at intersection of U.S. Hwy. 11 and finishing at U.S. Hwy. 278.
Mid Term Goal: 2011-2020 Cost: $24,097,000.00
Recommendations: City should check with Gadsden-Etowah MPO about TIP status and necessary funding.

U.S. Hwy. 431

Classification: The route is classified as a 4-lane undivided principal arterial entering into Attalla from the east, becomes 5th avenue downtown, then transitions to a 4-lane divided principal arterial leaving the city to the west.
Maximum Capacity: 31,000 4-lane undivided principal arterial (eastern part of city), and 33,900 4-lane divided principal arterial (western part of the city)
Capacity Assessment: Maximum capacity for a 4-lane undivided principal arterial is set at 31,000 AADT, suggesting that with a 2006 AADT of 22,500, traffic flow could increase somewhat

significantly before improvements efforts should be considered. The highway in the western part of the city shows no substantial needs for improvements in the near future.
MPO Planned Improvements: The Gadsden-Etowah County MPO document (2005): *2030 Long Range Transportation Plan Update* scheduled a long-range project to widen the highway from 4-lanes to 6-lanes starting at the I-59 intersection and finishing at the U.S. Hwy. 431/U.S. Hwy 278 Split. Long Term Goal: 2021-2030 Cost: $8,793,460.00
Recommendations: City should check with Gadsden-Etowah MPO about TIP status and necessary funding.

U.S. Hwy. 11

Classification: The route is classified as a 2-lane undivided minor arterial throughout its length in the city.
Maximum Capacity: 17,800 AADT
Capacity Assessment: 2006 AADT was calculated between 2,000 and 6,000 at the highest, indicating that traffic volumes could double and still be significantly far from reaching capacity. Level of Service was determined at LOS-A (free traffic flow) throughout
MPO Planned Improvements: None
Recommendations: No significant improvements needed in the near future.

U.S. Hwy. 278

Classification: This route is classified as a 2-lane undivided principal arterial highway
Maximum Capacity: 17,800 AADT
Capacity Assessment: 2006 AADT was calculated at around 8,000, indicating that traffic volumes could double on this stretch of highway before reaching capacity. Level of Service was LOS-A (free traffic flow) throughout.
MPO Planned Improvements: The Gadsden-Etowah County MPO document (2005): *2030 Long Range Transportation Plan Update* scheduled a transportation improvement plan to widen the highway from 2-lanes to 4-lanes starting at the U.S. Hwy 431 split and finishing at the urban boundary.
Short-Term Goal: 2007 to 2010 Cost: $1,747,000.00
Recommendations: City should check with Gadsden-Etowah MPO about TIP status and necessary funding.

MAP 8
FUNCTIONAL
STREET CLASSIFICATION

ATTALLA
ALABAMA

LEGEND

- Interstate
- Principal Arterial
- Minor Arterial
- Urban Collector

Note: Functional Street Classifications Obtained From The Gadsden-Etowah MPO 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan Update, January 2005.

- Attalla City Limits

Scale
2,500 1,250 0 2,500
Feet

N
W E
S

Prepared By The East Alabama Regional Planning And Development Commission, 2006.

(908)
8,630
LOS-A

(44)
8,120
LOS-A

(90)
6,260
LOS-A

(909)
6,390
LOS-A

(904)
11,520
LOS-A

(91)
10,730
LOS-A

(50)
16,200
LOS-A

(903)
16,580
LOS-B

(51)
16,620
LOS-B

(905)
2,400
LOS-A

(55)
9,640
LOS-A

(124)
15,770
LOS-A

(93)
13,250
LOS-B

(93)
11,780
LOS-C

(26)
6,880
LOS-A

(53)
22,500
LOS-C

(124)
24,600
LOS-A

(94)
16,670
LOS-D

(96)
19,700
LOS-F

(123)
29,670
LOS-A

(24)
3,430
LOS-A

(902)
22,050
LOS-A

(901)
22,050
LOS-A

Township 11 South
Township 12 South

Range 5 East
Range 6 East

GADSDEN

RAINBOW CITY

NORTHEAST ALABAMA REGIONAL AIRPORT

MAP 9
TRANSPORTATION PLAN
ATTALLA
ALABAMA

N
W E
S

Scale
2,200 1,100 0 2,200
Feet

Prepared By The East Alabama Regional Planning And Development Commission, 2006.

LEGEND

LOS A - Free Flow

LOS B - Stable Traffic

LOS C - Stable

LOS D - High Density

LOS E - Capacity Level

LOS F - Forced Breakdown

Attalla City Limits

Widen U.S. HWY 278 from 2 lanes to 4 lanes
U.S. HWY 431 to urban boundary

Widen U.S. HWY 431 from 4 lanes to 6 lanes
I-59 to U.S.278 split

Widen AL HWY 77 from 2 lanes to 4 lanes
I-59 ramp to AL HWY 11

Extend I-759 from I-59 to AL HWY 77
- 4 lanes

Widen AL HWY 77 from 2 lanes to 4 lanes
AL HWY 11 to U.S. HWY 278

New Routes (outside plan)

CHAPTER VII. ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

The natural landscape and its features play an important role in the development and planned growth of any community. Features such as floodplains, wetlands, threatened or endangered species habitats, steep slopes, sensitive and rocky soils can be a hindrance to development. Other features such as lakes, streams, rivers, mountains, mineral resources, caves, and forests can act as economic catalysts in the form of resource harvesting, recreational opportunities, and/or eco-tourism. Good planning should recognize these benefits natural amenities provide, utilize them to their full extent, and minimize ecological damages in the process. Misguided and unmitigated development on sensitive lands often results in ecological and economic disasters in the form of landslides, sinkholes, and increased flooding. Through prior identification of these hazards and proper guidance of development, many disasters can be avoided, and community enhancements realized. Sensitive lands could be preserved for parks and open space, adding amenities and character to the community. It is Attalla's best interest to guide and direct what kinds of developments are most suitable for any given area and how much building is feasible. With modern engineering and construction equipment, building in areas once thought impossible are now possible, however, this often is costly and not always the best and most effective option. The natural environment will always be a pivotal factor in development decisions. This chapter examines environmental features, such as soil characteristics, steep slopes, floodplains, water resources, wetlands, wildlife habitats, and threatened and endangered species, in order to identify areas sensitive to development and to give general guidance on assessing their development feasibility.

Overview of Natural Resources and Constraints

Attalla is located in northeastern Appalachian foothills of Alabama in central Etowah County. Big Wills Creek and nearby Lake Neely Henry provide opportunities for water sports and recreation. A substantially large portion of the land in the city centered around Big Wills Creek is in the floodplain while surrounding land is characterized as steep slope unfit for major development (See Map#10: *Environmental Constraints*). The majority of land in Attalla is septic restrictive and steep slope. This land would be acceptable for light development such as parks and recreation and single-family residential using city sewer, but not heavy commercial and industrial use.

Soil Characteristics

Proper knowledge and understanding of soil characteristics is useful in determining environmental constraints and land suitability for specified development intensity. Soil types and classifications are extensively numerous and any given community could discover a myriad of samples to categorize. Therefore the scope of this soil characteristics study is to examine only the most commonly associated soil types, distinguishing environmental constraints such as steep slopes, floodplains, wetlands, areas unfit for septic systems, and low strength soils in the city. Attalla's environmental constraints are generally composed of four broad soil series classifications: 1) Nella Series, 2) Ellisville Series, 3) Conasauga Series, 4) Firestone Series. The *Environmental Constraints* Map (Map 10) identifies and locates the city's environmental constraints based on these and other soil classifications in order to guide and direct land use and development decisions

accordingly. Soil information was made available through the *Soil Survey of Etowah County*, 1978. The following highlights list environmental constraints in the city along with their associated soil series, characteristics, and pertaining development limitations:

- ***Steep Slope***—Nella Series. Series is characterized by deep, well drained, moderately permeable soils on uplands. Slopes range from 2 to 25 percent, but is dominated by 2 to 10 percent (for more detail on slopes see next section). Areas should be restricted to low intensity development such as agricultural or single-family residential for most proper land use. Prior to development, stabilization precautions should be determined and implemented in steep slope areas in order to mitigate landslides and erosion.
- ***Floodplains/Wetlands***—Ellisville Series. Consists of deep, well drained, moderately permeable soils formed from alluvium weathered from uplands of sandstone and shale. These soils are found in floodplains and low stream terraces. Slopes range from 0 to 2 percent. Similar to steep slope areas, floodplains should be restricted to low intensity development such as agricultural or single-family residential for most proper land use. Prior to development, floodplain hazard mitigation strategies must be determined and implemented in order to enhance flood protection and limit potential damage.
- ***Septic Restrictive Areas***—Conasauga Series. Characterized as moderately deep, moderately well drained, slowly permeable soils on uplands. Slopes range from 1 to 35 percent, but dominantly 1 to 5 percent. Due to slow percolation and low depth to bedrock areas with these soils are unfit for septic systems.
- ***Low Strength Areas***—Firestone Series. Characterized as moderately deep, well drained, slowly permeable soils with clayey subsoil. Slope ranges from 2 to 45 percent, but is dominantly 2 to 15 percent. Soil strength in this series is undermined by clayey subsoil, causing rapid shrinking and expanding, thus making the land unfit for major development projects.

Steep Slopes

Steep slopes are an environmental constraint worthy of attention. Many slopes have weak or lose soils unfit for development. Modern engineering practices may be able to overcome these obstacles, but not without major costs, significant time, and careful planning. Development along steep slopes also acerbates storm-water runoff, as paved ground is less capable of absorbing rain and other water based elements. Although criterion for slope development varies, the following general thresholds are used in planning and engineering to determine acceptable and non-acceptable developments:

3 percent
Generally accepted limit for railroads

8 percent
Generally accepted limit for highways, although grades of 6 percent or less are desirable for highways intended to accommodate heavy truck traffic.

10 percent
Generally accepted limit for driveways

15 percent
Point at which engineering costs for most developments become significant and extensive anchoring, soil stabilization, and stormwater management measures must be applied.

25 percent
Generally accepted limit for all development activity.

Attalla has many steep slopes. Much of this mountainous land is in the northern portion of the city, prohibiting development accommodations. Steep slopes usually have slopes of 15 percent or more, making development expensive, time consuming, and risky.

Floodplains

Floodplains are areas highly susceptible to flood conditions occurring during extreme rainfall and should thus be reserved for minimal development. Buildings constructed in floodplains should be placed on significantly tall foundations or built so as to redirect water flow into more suitable areas of the floodplain. As a general rule, development in floodplains should be avoided so as to allow the floodplain to absorb water and in turn recharge groundwater resources. If properly maintained and preserved floodplains can be a valuable resource. Floodplains are rich in nutrients continually cycled through rivers, streams, and lakes, which makes the land primarily suitable for farming and pastureland. The floodplain, secure in its natural state, serves to protect our drinking water, conserve the beauty of our natural resources, and sustain our local ecosystems.

Floodplains are divided into three zones determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). According to FEMA, zones for floodplains are specified as followed:

Zone A

Areas of 100-year base flood elevations and flood hazard factors not determined. These areas are of dark color on the FEMA floodplain map.

Zone B

Areas between limits of the 100-year flood and 500-year flood, or certain areas subject to 100 year flooding with average depths less than one (1) foot or where the contributing drainage area is less than one square mile, or areas protected by levees from the base flood. These areas are of a lighter color than Zone A on the floodplain map.

Zone C

Zone C areas are areas of minimal flooding. These areas are not indicated by color on floodplain maps.

Attalla floodplain areas are located primarily in the vicinity of Big Wills Creek. Developments in these floodplains should create and implement flood mitigation strategies as needed in order to preserve the environment and limit flood damage. Flood prone areas shown on the *Environmental*

Constraints Map (Map#6) are identified as Zone A or Zone B but not specifically shown in their respective zones, rather these zones are illustrated as all encompassing flood zone areas.

Water Resources

Water resources serve a variety of positive functions for the community. A clean and beautiful aquatic environment not only benefits residents environmentally, but also economically. Eco-tourism adds to local revenue and attracts businesses. Developing in a manner that best utilizes this highly valued resource is in the best interest of any community. Overall, quality water resources enhance quality of life. Attalla's primary water body is Big Wills Creek, running from the northern edge of the city, around to the west, then curving east through the middle of the city and onward into the neighboring communities of Gadsden and Rainbow City. Although Big Wills has a substantial water supply, the city does not use water from this source.

The Alabama Environmental Management Act authorizes the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) to establish and enforce water quality standards, regulations and penalties in order to maintain state and federal water quality provisions. From this authorization, the ADEM Administrative Code prohibits the physical, chemical, or biological contamination of state waters through source and non-point source pollution. Point source pollution is defined as pollution originating from a definable source such as a ditch, pipe, concentrated animal feed lot, or container. Non-point source pollution does not originate from a defined source, but can be attributed to agricultural and construction related runoff, and runoff from lawns and gardens.

Wetlands

Since the passage of the Clean Waters Act (CWA) in 1977, wetland preservation has gained in national attention. More than 100 million acres of wetlands in the continental U.S. and Alaska have been preserved. Wetlands function as a vital aquatic system contributing to habitat diversity, flood control, and recharging and cleaning of polluted water. They also provide green space for communities, which drive up neighboring property values. There currently is no solid definition of a wetland. Environments such as ponds, bogs, marshes, swamps, estuaries, or bottomland forest could be considered wetlands, however, identification can also be based on hydrology, soil conditions, and vegetation types. Such a broad understanding has lead to the protection of many normally "dry" lands as wetland in numerous preservation efforts.

Wetlands are protected nationally under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, which requires permits for the discharging and dredging of defined "wetlands." Section 404 is jointly administered by the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Corps administers permits, while the EPA sustains the right to veto any permit issued. Developers should always contact the nearest Corps officials before disturbing considered wetland areas.

Attalla exhibits determined wetland areas primarily along Big Wills Creek. For more detail see Map#10: *Environmental Constraints*.

Wildlife Habitats

Every year millions of people across the U.S. spend time and monetary resources viewing wildlife and enjoying the great outdoors. Nature serves as an escape and refuge from the busy and congested urban environment. The city should consider identifying lands sensitive to environmental degradation and working with the Alabama Land Trust to adequately reserve and manage land for wildlife preservation. The Alabama Land Trust is a cooperative organization that helps landowners protect and manage their land through Land Protection and Land Stewardship Programs. These programs allow landowners, through the use of conservation easements, to set aside or protect areas from encroaching development, protecting valuable farm and forestland, ecologically significant areas, water sources, and natural view-sheds. As of 2007, ALT has preserved about 50,000 acres of open space throughout the state.

With an abundance of natural mountain wilderness land Attalla should consider planning for wildlife preservation in order to promote environmental protection and enhance the city's draw as an outdoor recreational community.

Threatened and Endangered Species

National environmental policies protect this country's natural resources and amenities. The Endangered Species Act (ESA), passed by Congress in 1973, was established to protect species of plants and animals from extinction. Plants and animals listed as threatened or endangered species by the U.S. Department of Interior are to be protected on both public and private land. Endangered species are defined, according to the ESA, as: "any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range." Threatened species are defined as: "any species that are likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future." Plant and animal species may be placed on the threatened and endangered species list if they meet one or more of the following scientific criterion: (1) current or threatened destruction of habitat, (2) overuse of species for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes (3) disease or predation, (4) ineffective regulatory mechanisms, and (5) other natural or manmade factors affecting the species' chances of survival. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is charged with the responsibility of enforcing ESA regulations. Although most forest and lake related activities would not affect endangered species, developers, loggers, and other land-owners should review their plans with the USFWS or the Alabama Department of Natural Resources to verify ESA compliance.

Etowah County is home to a diverse population of plants and animals. Many of these species are ESA listed as threatened and endangered and should be considered for preservation purposes. Threatened species in the county include the following: Flattened Musk Turtle, Mohr's Barbara's Buttons, and Fine-lined Pocketbook Mussel. Endangered species include: Green Pitcher Plant, Alabama Leather Flower, and a variety of invertebrates such as: Southern Clubshell Mussel, Triangular Kidneyshell Mussel, Southern Acornshell Mussel, Ovate Clubshell Mussel, Southern Combshell Mussel, Southern Pigtoe Mussel, and Cumberland Combshell. The *Alabama Best Management Practices for Forestry* guidelines give detailed preservation strategies and protection measures for these species.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Flattened Musk Turtle

The Flattened Musk Turtle is a small freshwater turtle, less than 5 inches in length, with a flattened top shell. The Musk Turtle feeds on invertebrates such as snails and mussels in small to medium size clear, shallow streams. These animals are extremely susceptible to changes in streambed water quality, especially siltation. The Flattened Musk Turtle has been found in numerous Alabama counties, in the north central portion of the state. These counties include Blount, Cullman, Etowah, Jefferson, Marshall, Tuskaloosa, Walker, and Winston.

Plants

Mohr's Barbara Buttons

The plant is a small pink flower produced in several heads in a branched arrangement. The plant grows in moist to wet woodlands near shale-bedded streams. Mechanical site preparations, clear-cutting, and herbicides could be very disruptive to populations. Species is known to occur in Calhoun, Etowah, Cherokee, and Bibb Counties.

Alabama Leather Flower

The flower is a standing herb about 7 to 12 inches tall with a blue, dangling, bell-shaped flower that appears in April and May. The plant grows in wet, silt-clay flats near creeks and streams and is often surrounded by grasses and sedges. Due to its sensitive nature, the Alabama Leather Flower is a poor competitor and suffers when canopy is too much or if the soil is too dry. Mechanical site prep would likely destroy the flower. Species is known to occur in Cherokee, Etowah, and St. Clair Counties.

Green Pitcher Plant

The Green Pitcher Plant is rare carnivorous plant with a tubular, hollow spring leaf and distinct hood, common to pitcher plants. The tube is green, or yellow-green with maroon veins. Insects are attracted to the tube, where they are trapped and then digested when the water level in the tube drains inside. In the summer the tubes dry up and are replaced by flat, sickle-shaped leaves colored pale or reddish at the base. Pitcher plants grow in boggy areas, streambanks and seeps in company with grasses, sedges, sphagnum moss and cinnamon ferns. Fire and burning practices are essential for this plants survival. Fire line construction should be conducted in a manner to avoid alteration to the drainage pattern and water table levels. Other management practices should be

done in a way to mitigate such changes. The Green Pitcher Plant has been known to occur exclusively in the top eastern portion of the state in Cherokee, Etowah, Dekalb, Jackson, and Marshall Counties.

As a part of policy to preserve the natural environment and inherent species diversity, Attalla should implement best management practices for forestry, maintained and updated by the Alabama Forestry Commission, taking the above mentioned species into account. These management practices are not legal regulations, but rather general guidelines for development and construction which best manages environmental protection and impact mitigation. The *Best Management Practices for Forestry* guidelines include preservation and maintenance procedures for the following amenities and tactics: 1) Streamside Management Zones, 2) Stream Crossings, 3) Forest Roads, 4) Timber Harvesting, 5) Reforestation/Stand Management, 6) Forested Wetland Management, 7) and Revegetation/Stabilization.

Analytical Summary

The analytical summary provides a general review of the topics discussed in each chapter and sets forth broad recommendations. Environmental constraints pose significant limitations for land use and development, thus requiring careful consideration of proper planning and mitigation measures. The topics indicated below describe these considerations and offer opportunities for more effective and efficient land use.

Soil Characteristics

- Attalla's land area is generally composed of four broad soil series classifications: 1) Nella Series—Steep slopes, 2) Ellisville Series—flood plains, 3) Conasauga Series—areas requiring sewer, and 4) Firestone Series—areas with low soil strength. The city shows substantial environmental constraints due to the presence of these soil types.

Steep Slopes

- The city has many steep slopes, much of this land is located in mountainous regions in the northern section. Steep slopes usually have slopes of 15 percent or more, making development expensive, time consuming, and risky. Much of this land could be used for agriculture and low density residential.

Floodplains

- Attalla's primary floodplain areas are located near Big Wills Creek. As development continues into these areas strategies and plans for flood mitigation must be developed and implemented as needed. Much of this land could be used for agriculture and low density residential and wildlife preserve.

Water Resources

- The city's major water body is Big Wills Creek which runs east, cutting through the middle of the city. Other nearby regional water resources includes Weiss Lake to the northeast and Neely Henry Lake to the south.

Wetlands

- Attalla's determined wetlands are located near Big Wills Creek. These areas should be identified and preserved entirely as wetlands in their natural state.

Wildlife Habitats

- With an abundance of natural mountain wilderness land, Attalla should consider planning for wildlife preservation in order to promote environmental protection and enhance the city's draw as an outdoor recreational community.

Threatened and Endangered Species

- As a part of policy to preserve the natural environment and inherent species diversity, Attalla should implement best management practices for forestry, maintained and updated by the Alabama Forestry Commission, taking the previously mentioned threatened and endangered

species into account. These management practices are not legal regulations, but rather general guidelines for development and construction which best manages environmental protection and impact mitigation. *Best Management Practices for Forestry* guidelines include preservation and maintenance procedures of the following amenities and tactics: 1) Streamside Management Zones, 2) Stream Crossings, 3) Forest Roads, 4) Timber Harvesting, 5) Reforestation/Stand Management, 6) Forested Wetland Management, 7) and Re-vegetation/Stabilization.

MAP 10

ATTALLA

ALABAMA

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS

Township 11 South
Township 12 South

GADSDEN

RAINBOW CITY

Scale

2,200 1,100 0 2,200

Feet

LEGEND

- Attalla City Limits
- WETLANDS
- STEEP-SLOPE AREAS
- FLOOD PRONE AREAS
- AREAS REQUIRED SEWER
- OPEN PIT MINING
- LOW STRENGTH

NOTE: Soils Data Obtained From The Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department Of Agriculture, U.S. General Soil Map For Alabama.

Prepared By The East Alabama Regional Planning And Development Commission, 2006.

CHAPTER VIII. LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

A comprehensive plan must explore existing land use, development trends, and zoning patterns in order to understand how the city has developed, why it developed as it did, and what development will most likely occur given the current trends. A proper understanding of land use, zoning, and development patterns allows officials to make informed decisions affecting the orderly growth and development of their city.

The purpose of the land use chapter is to guide and direct development with the goal of sustaining orderly and coordinated development in accordance to changing needs, presently and in the future. This chapter examines existing land use, zoning patterns, compares existing land use and zoning patterns, and proposes a future land use plan which gives recommendations for coordinating better land use within the city. The future land use plan and accompanying *Future Land Use Plan* Map (Map#13) is a conceptual future plan to be used in guiding zoning and development decisions. It is not intended to be used as a zoning map or even to reflect similarities to districts on the *Zoning* Map (Map#12), rather it is to be used as a conceptual vision for the community's future.

Definitions

The following land use categories are described below for use in the Attalla Comprehensive Plan.

Single-Family Residential
Areas intended for detached homes designed to house one family, including manufactured homes on individual lots.

Multi-Family Residential
Areas intended for structures that contain two or more independent housing units, including duplexes, townhouses, and apartment buildings.

Manufactured Home Park
Areas intended for manufactured homes not on individual lots.

Commercial
Areas intended for shopping centers, free-standing stores, service establishments, offices, and in some cases residential uses.

Industrial
Areas intended for manufacturing and research and development facilities

Public and Semi-Public
Areas intended for public and semi-public uses including city governmental offices, public schools, churches and cemeteries.

Parks and Recreation
Public areas intended for recreational use including athletic fields, playgrounds, and nature areas.

Agriculture
Areas actively engaged in or suited for farm production under specified conditions.

Undeveloped/Forestry
Includes private and vacated land upon which no development or active use is apparent. Included in this category is roadway, railroad, and utility rights-of-way and forested land, which may or may not be actively engaged in timber production.

Existing Land Use

Existing land use data helps communities determine how a city will develop and what types of development it favors and does not favor. The East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission maps and records data on land use in the city limits. Attalla has approximately 4,490 total acres within the city limits, which includes right-of-ways and bodies of water and 3,703 land acres. Approximately 2,156 acres in the city are undeveloped leaving room for development as environmental constraints allow. For more detail on existing land use see Map#11: *Existing Land Use*. Table LU-1 shows existing land use acreage for the City of Attalla in 2008.

Table LU-1. Existing Land Use Acreage: City of Attalla, 2008

Land Use Category	Acres in City	% of Total Land Area	% of Developed Land Area
Agricultural	230.2	6.2%	10.7%
Commercial	282.4	7.6%	13.1%
Industrial	186.4	5.0%	8.6%
Single-Family Residential	1,185.7	32.0%	55.0%
Multi-Family Residential	50.3	1.4%	2.3%
Park and Recreation	65.4	1.8%	3.0%
Public	156.7	4.2%	7.3%
Undeveloped	1,546.2	41.8%	N/A
Total Land Area	3,703.3	N/A	N/A
Total Developed Land	2,156.3	58.2%	N/A

Source: EARPDC database, 2008.

Agriculture

Agriculture constitutes a relatively small portion of developed land within the city limits at 6% with 230 acres. Much of this land is located in floodplains, areas requiring sewer, and places with low soil strength, restricting development options.

Commercial

Approximately 282 acres (7% of the total land and 13% of developed land) in Attalla is dedicated to commercial development. Much of this land is located in the downtown area and along major

highways such as U.S. Hwy. 11, AL Hwy. 77, and U.S. Hwy. 431. A substantial goal for the city is to promote and enhance commercial development through small business establishments in the downtown. The city should acquire additional land for commercial development along AL Hwy. 77 near I-59 in preparation for growth in this area of the city.

Industrial

Attalla uses about 186 acres for industrial development (5% of the total land use and 8% developed). Much of the city's industry is categorized as light to general manufacturing located along U.S. Hwy 11, and particularly near the intersection with AL Hwy. 77. Due to environmental constraints and close boundaries to neighboring cities, Attalla cannot provide the land necessary to reasonably accommodate heavy industry, therefore, the city should strive to manage and extend light to medium density industry wherever deemed feasible.

Residential

Residential land use in the form of single-family housing is spread throughout the city with various areas of high concentrations in older, historical neighborhoods. Single-family residential is substantially the largest residential use in the city, constituting 1,185 acres and accounting for 55% of total developed land in the city. Multi-family land use throughout the city is sparse, existing in small pockets on the outer edges near the city limits, accounting for only 1% of total developed land use.

Public/Parks and Recreation

Provision of public land use plays an important role in community services. Existing public and semi-public land use is spread consistently throughout the city, with the greatest concentrations in the downtown and along AL Hwy. 77 in the southern portion of Attalla. Public and parks and recreation land uses account for approximately 10% of total developed land use in the city. Approximately 65 acres are used for parks and recreation.

Undeveloped

The single most dominate land use in the city is undeveloped, consisting of 1,546 acres and 41% of total land use. The majority of this land is located in floodplains, steep slopes, or areas requiring sewer, posing significant environmental constraints for development. Much of this land could be considered for parks and recreation expansion.

Zoning Patterns

Zoning plays an important role in the growth and development of the city and its citizens. The zoning ordinance is created to promote desirable standards in land use, prevent land use conflicts, and maintain and guide growth and development in accordance to the comprehensive plan and its goals and objectives for the city. A properly prepared zoning ordinance clarifies to property

owners what can and cannot be developed on their property, so as not to interfere with the rights and privileges of their neighbors. The city's zoning ordinance and zoning map (Map#12: *Zoning*) should be periodically updated to insure it represents the goals, objectives, and policies best suited for the future growth and development of the community as a whole.

The dominant zoning district in Attalla is single-family at 27%. Manufactured home districts follow at a distant 15%, along with highway commercial at 13%. Approximately 58% of the city is zoned for residential purposes, 21% commercial, and 20% industrial, suggesting that Attalla should consider expanding businesses in order provide services and job opportunities for its residents. Table LU-2 examines zoning acreage and percent of total for Attalla in 2008.

Table LU-2. Zoning Acreage: City of Attalla, 2008

Zoning	District Classification	Acres Zoned	% of Total	Acres Zoned	% of Total
B-1	Neighborhood Business	42.4	0.9%	944.6	21.0%
B-2	Central Business	94.9	2.1%		
H-C	Highway Commercial	620.7	13.8%		
RSC	Regional Shopping Center	186.6	4.2%		
M-1	Light Manufacturing	359.4	8.0%	914.0	20.3%
M-2	General Manufacturing	554.6	12.3%		
R-1	Single Family Residential	1,245.8	27.7%	2,632.1	58.5%
R-2	Two Family Residential	391.4	8.7%		
R-3	Multi-Family Residential	298.6	6.6%		
R-4	Manufactured Home	696.3	15.5%		
Total		4,490.7	100.0%	4,490.7	100.0%

Source: EARPDC database, 2008.

Existing Land Use and Zoning Patterns

A comparison of land use and zoning is beneficial in determining land use and zoning patterns. Zoning should reflect community needs and guide land use and development throughout the city. Comparing these elements of the plan based on percent of land used and land zoned for specific purposes is useful in determining current development patterns and directing how the city should grow. Figure LU-1 compares percent land use to its respective available zoning for Attalla in 2008.

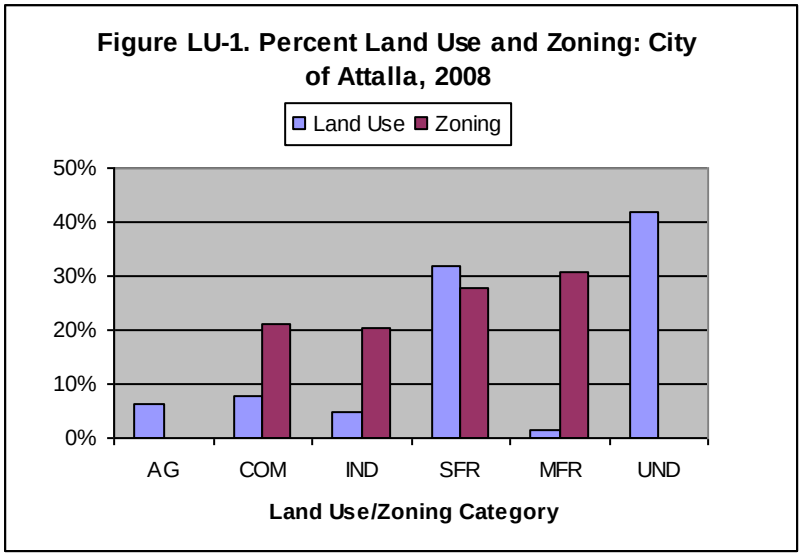


Figure LU-1. Percent Land Use and Zoning: City of Attalla, 2008

In 2008, single-family residential was the dominant land use at 31% for Attalla. Approximately 27% of the city is zoned for single-family suggesting that the city provides insufficient expansion for this type of land development.

However, single-family residences may be constructed in the abundance of multi-family districts. This has been the common development trend. Single-family land use consists of primarily R-1, single-family zoned land (27%). Multi-family land use and zoning consists of densities for two-family (R-2), multi-family (R-3), and manufactured home (R-4). These land uses are not permitted in single-family zoning districts and are categorized and identified in Figure LU-1 and on the existing land use map as multi-family (Map #11). Multi-family land use accounts for a minor 1% of the total land use, while multi-family zoning accounts for approximately 30%. This indicates that multi-family land use is significantly underutilized. As a planning priority, the city should explore options of advocating this development in order to better utilize these districts and use the land more efficiently. The city also provides substantial expansion for commercial development at 7% total land use and 21% zoning. Industry should be well provided for with 5% land use and 20% zoning. Since Attalla needs to develop more compactly than other communities, agriculture should continue to be a less demanding priority.

Future Land Use Plan

As a community grows and expands, a plan for land use and development is critical for guiding the city in a manner that logically and efficiently meets city goals and objectives. The City of Attalla desires to grow in a manner that effectively and efficiently utilizes land and community resources. The future land use plan and accompanying map (See Map#13: *Future Land Use Plan*) provides general guidance in this directive.

As previously discussed, Attalla is limited in development options due to bordering cities to the east and south and steep slopes in the north and western parts. As a part of its future land use plan, the city should continue to promote and enhance commercial development along its major corridors U.S. Hwy. 431, AL Hwy. 77, and U.S. Hwy. 11. Interstate 59, as an integral connection to major metro areas, will play a vital role in economic development for the city. The following highlights are general recommendations for land use planning and development in the city:

- Due to limitations on expansion Attalla should use land more efficiently by building more compactly, particularly in the downtown.
- In order to diversify housing options and build more compactly, multi-family land use should be promoted and encouraged in the downtown.
- Mixed use development should also be advocated and advanced in order to promote loft housing options above commercial uses in the downtown.
- The most intensive commercial use in the form of highway commercial should only be established along major roadways in Attalla such as U.S. Hwy. 431, AL Hwy. 77, and U.S. Hwy. 11 in order to preserve and protect small scale neighborhoods in the downtown.
- Regional shopping center zoning should be dedicated to areas near I-59, particularly at the intersection with AL Hwy. 77, where the most intensive commercial development is expected to occur.
- Light to medium industrial expansion should be promoted and encouraged along U.S. Hwy 11, particularly near the intersection with AL Hwy. 77.
- Wetlands and extreme flood prone areas should be preserved for parks and recreation and where feasible, low-density residential. Intensive commercial and industrial developments

locating in these areas need to first conduct substantial flood hazard mitigation procedures in accordance with ADEM regulations.

- Adequate expansion land for public facilities should be reserved for important community facilities, particularly Etowah High School and Curtiston Primary School in Attalla.

Analytical Summary

The analytical summary provides a general review of the topics discussed in each chapter and sets forth broad recommendations in *italics*.

Agriculture

- Agriculture constitutes a relatively small portion of developed land within the city limits at 6% with 230 acres. Much of this land is located in floodplains, areas requiring sewer, and places with low soil strength, restricting development options.

Commercial

- *Continue to annex more land into the city to be used for commercial purposes, particularly along the major roadways.* Approximately 282 acres (7% of the total land and 13% of developed land) in Attalla is dedicated to commercial development. Much of the commercial land located in the downtown area and along major highways U.S. Hwy. 11, AL Hwy. 77, and U.S. Hwy 431 is zoned for highway commercial development in preparation for high intensity commercial growth.

Industrial

- *Promote and encourage small to medium scale industrial development*. Attalla uses about 186 acres for industrial development (5% of the total land use and 8% developed). Much of the city's industry is categorized as light to general manufacturing located along U.S. Hwy 11, and particularly near the intersection with AL Hwy. 77. These areas are also zoned accordingly in preparation for this scale industrial growth.
- Due to environmental constraints and close boundaries to neighboring cities, Attalla cannot provide the land necessary to reasonably accommodate heavy industry, therefore, the city should strive to manage and extend light to medium density industry wherever deemed feasible, preferably along major routes providing efficient transportation and highway access.

Residential

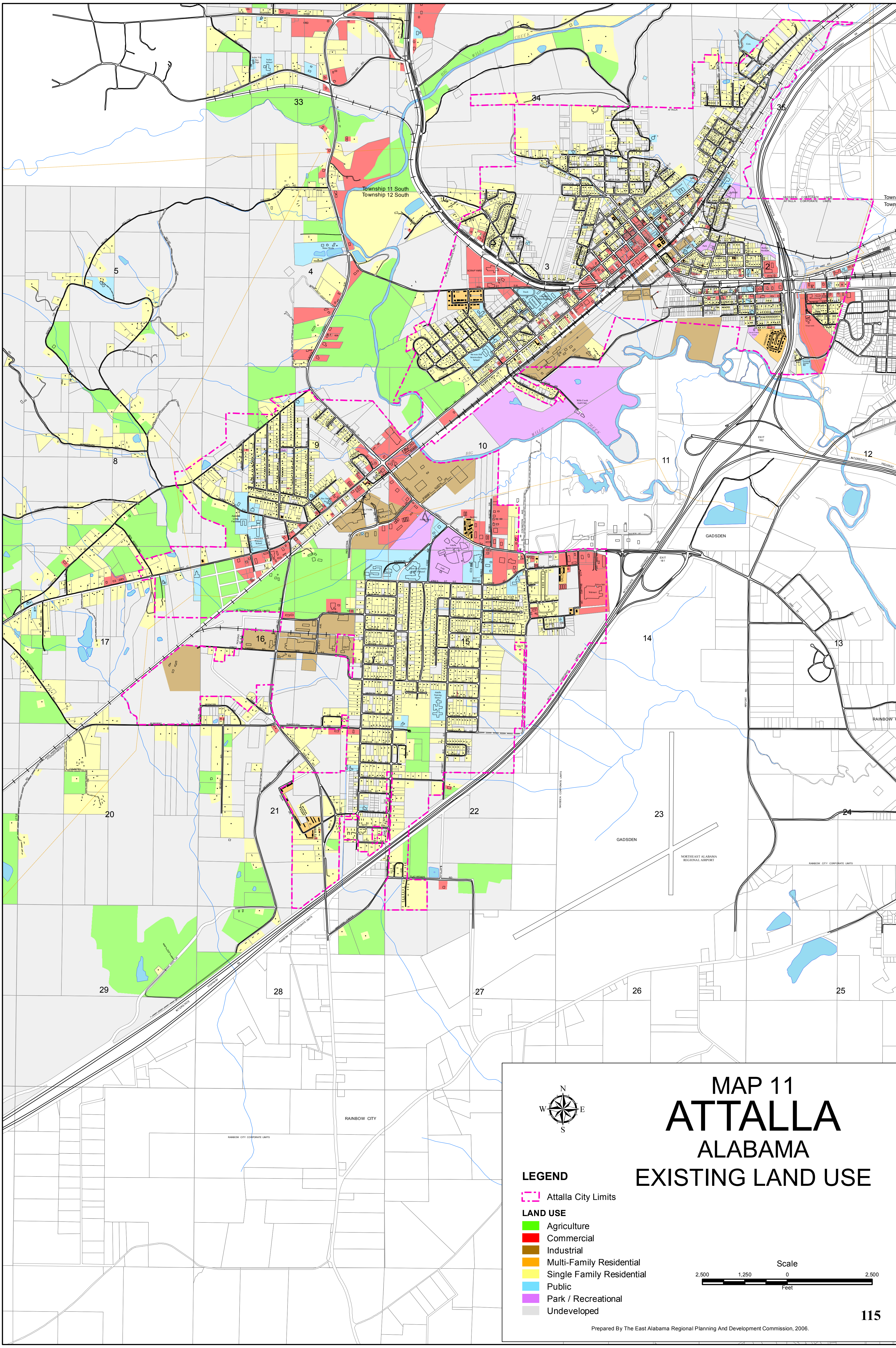
- *Preserve and enhance small-scale, compact residential development throughout the city*. Residential land use in the form of single-family housing is spread throughout the city with various areas of high concentrations in older, historical neighborhoods. Single-family residential is substantially the largest residential use in the city, constituting 1,185 acres and accounting for 55% of total developed land in the city. Multi-family land use throughout the city is sparse, existing in small pockets on the outer edges near the city limits, accounting for only 1% of total developed land use.

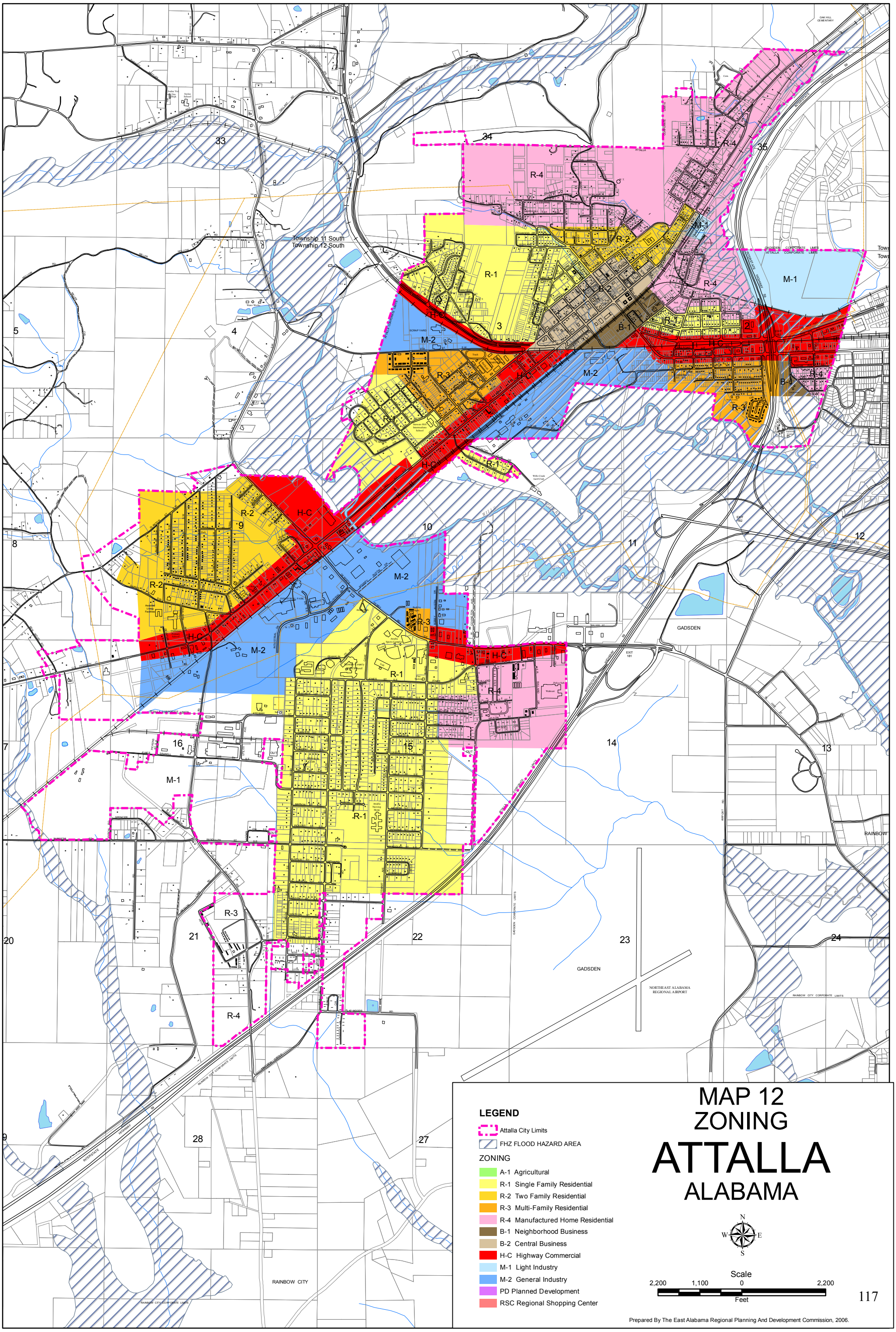
Public/Parks and Recreation

- Provision of public land use plays an important role in community services. Existing public and semi-public land use is spread consistently throughout the city, with the greatest concentrations in the downtown and along AL Hwy. 77 in the southern portion of Attalla. Public and parks and recreation land uses account for approximately 10% of total developed land use in the city. Approximately 65 acres are used for parks and recreation.

Undeveloped

- The single most dominate land use in the city is undeveloped, consisting of 1,546 acres and 41% of total land use. The majority of this land is located in floodplains, steep slopes, or areas requiring sewer, posing significant environmental constraints for development. Much of this land could be considered for parks and recreation expansion.


MAP 11
ATTALLA
ALABAMA
EXISTING LAND USE
LEGEND
Attalla City Limits
LAND USE
Agriculture
Commercial
Industrial
Multi-Family Residential
Single Family Residential
Public
Park / Recreational
Undeveloped
Scale
2,500 1,250 0 2,500
Feet
N
S
E
W
Prepared By The East Alabama Regional Planning And Development Commission, 2006.
GADSDEN
RAINBOW CITY
NORTHEAST ALABAMA REGIONAL AIRPORT
Township 11 South
Township 12 South


Township 11 South
Township 12 South
R-1
R-2
R-3
R-4
M-1
M-2
H-C
B-1
B-2
GADSDEN
RAINBOW CITY
NORTHEAST ALABAMA REGIONAL AIRPORT
LEGEND
Attalla City Limits
FHZ FLOOD HAZARD AREA
ZONING
A-1 Agricultural
R-1 Single Family Residential
R-2 Two Family Residential
R-3 Multi-Family Residential
R-4 Manufactured Home Residential
B-1 Neighborhood Business
B-2 Central Business
H-C Highway Commercial
M-1 Light Industry
M-2 General Industry
PD Planned Development
RSC Regional Shopping Center
MAP 12
ZONING
ATTALLA
ALABAMA
Scale
2,200 1,100 0 2,200
Feet
Prepared By The East Alabama Regional Planning And Development Commission, 2006.

MAP 13

ATTALLA

ALABAMA

FUTURE LAND USE PLAN

LEGEND

- Attalla City Limits
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Single Family Residential
- Multi-Family Residential
- Park / Recreational
- Public
- Undeveloped
- Gadsden City Limits
- Rainbow City City Limits

Scale

2,000 1,000 0 2,000

Feet

N

W E

S

Prepared By The East Alabama Regional Planning And Development Commission, 2008.

CHAPTER IX: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Introduction

The City of Attalla is committed to growing and developing as a sustainable and historically unique Alabama community. Attalla offers a rich history in southern railroad networks and most significantly is the birthplace of Alabama Power, a Southern Company. The city is esteemed as the first in the country to receive electrical street lighting generated by the world's first hydroelectric power plant, built on Big Wills Creek in 1902. From this invention, four years later in 1906, Alabama Power was born and is today the city's leading electrical power provider. Geographically Big Wills separates the City of Attalla into two sections—the downtown area in the north and Camp Sibert to the south. This location allowed the plant to distribute power fairly evenly throughout the city.

Attalla is also unique in its land size and population and housing densities. In comparison to other communities of similar population size in Etowah County, namely Rainbow City and Southside, Attalla's land area in the city limits (approximately 6 square miles) is exceptionally small, thus placing limits on development and expansion. The city's land also poses significant environmental constraints in the form of floodplains and steep slopes. These factors have lead Attalla to develop and build more compactly than other communities, particularly in residential development. Current city zoning establishes substantially large high-density residential districts in order to efficiently utilize land, resulting in homes with relatively small lot sizes and small-scale neighborhoods with a type of "village" character. These districts are located primarily in the northern and central parts of the city, with some to the south near the Camp Sibert area. As a general planning principal, these areas should be preserved in accordance with the city's zoning ordinance. The city should also consider how to improve housing conditions and meet other residential needs in these areas.

The city's exceptional transportation network, with three federal highways, one state route, and one interstate, provides numerous opportunities for commercial and industrial development. Much of the land along these routes is zoned highway commercial and light to medium industry in preparation for this type of growth and development. The city also offers rail transport running parallel to U.S. Hwy. 11, the central "spine" of the network. In order to increase employment and revenue, the city should continue annexing land along these major roads and zone accordingly. New commercial development and existing business downtown should be planned for as well through determined cosmetic façade improvements and repairs.

Community facilities also play a significant role in Attalla's future. The city's fire and police departments have been highly rated for their dedication, efficiency and service to the community. Education also factors into Attalla's quality community services as major consolidation and expansion plans are currently in motion. As part of a two-year facility expansion plan, Attalla will join Stowers Hill Intermediate School with Curtiston Primary School. Upon completion of the consolidation, Stowers Hill will be shut down, moving grades 3 through 5 to Curtiston, thus forming a K-5 facility. This plan will allow the two schools to better utilize educational facilities and reduce costs.

Vision Statement

Attalla has a vision of growing and prospering as a successful Alabama community. This vision can be expressed and encompassed in a city approved vision statement which reads as follows: *The City of Attalla will strive to grow and develop as an attractive, historic Alabama community offering quality small-town living and social charm. With convenient access to several major transportation routes and close proximity to major metro markets, the city will promote and prepare for substantial commercial growth and light to moderate industry, particularly along these roadways. In addition to this development along the highways, Attalla will protect and enhance its historic downtown quality and unique close-knit residential village character as a means to economic growth and neighborhood preservation.*

In order to achieve this vision, Attalla needs to establish appropriate goals and objectives, a means of attaining those goals and objectives, and a methodology to evaluate progress. This chapter identifies goals, objectives, strategies, and work activities/projects for planning and guiding city improvements, growth, and expansion. It also utilizes performance indicators for measuring progress toward goals and objectives, and gives further recommendations for accomplishing them.

Goal-Setting Process

In February of 2005, the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission (EARPDC) and the Attalla Planning Commission began work on the Attalla Comprehensive Plan Update. The first meeting conducted was an initial public meeting in which the planning process was introduced and a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) Analysis for the community was performed. From this analysis, EARPDC and the planning commission formed a basis in which to identify community needs and in determining goals and objectives. EARPDC and the planning commission then met on a bi-monthly or tri-monthly basis as needed in order to establish goals and objectives and to subsequently generate a future land use plan and map to guide land use and development.

Goals and Objectives

The primary directive of the comprehensive plan is the formation of goals and objectives for city improvement, growth, and expansion, and the development of a plan in which to accomplish them. The purpose of this chapter, and the subsequent implementation chapter, is to provide a methodological planning roadmap with practical applications for attaining established city goals and objectives. The following definitions provide a framework through which goals and objectives can be achieved and evaluated.

Definitions

Goals

Goals in this chapter have been identified with the purpose of promoting community vision, through considerably broad-based perspectives.

Objectives
Broadly define how the goals are to be accomplished.

Strategies
Provide a basic mechanism for accomplishing the stated objectives.

Work Activities/Projects
These actions are specifically defined, applicable, practical, and measurable steps to be performed or activated throughout the implementation process (this process is described in greater detail in the subsequent implementation chapter). Such activities/projects are to be understood as viable alternatives/options working for goal attainment and thus are substantially more specified than goals and objectives. The work activities/projects listed in the Implementation Schedule of Chapter X: Implementation will be those decided by the planning commission and city council to be implemented.

Importance
The importance for any given goals, objectives, and strategies is explained under the subheading entitled as such. Importance can be justified through statistical analysis or as an established community priority.

Additional Recommendations
Additional recommendations are also advocated as useful and complementary strategy implementation tools.

Performance Indicators
Specified, quantitative, targeted goals or measures used in measuring progress toward goal achievement, yet more substantially for strategy initiation and evaluation.

The goals and objectives listed below, as well as proceeding strategies and work activities/projects (shown as bulleted), have been established and approved by the Attalla Planning Commission and the Attalla City Council as a practical methodology for the future improvement, growth, and development of the City of Attalla:

Goal #1: Promote and Enhance Commercial Development

Objective #1: Improve the Aesthetic Appearance and Facades of Commercial Structures in the Downtown

Strategy: Create and Implement a Downtown Improvement Plan
- Identify commercial structures needing significant improvements on the city base map, establish priority projects, and list items for improvement
- Cooperate and create incentives for small business owners to enhance the aesthetic appearance of their storefronts

- Seek and apply for local downtown redevelopment grants and assistance

Importance: As commercial development increases along the major highways throughout the city, businesses in the downtown will struggle to maintain adequate business, unless they offer a positive, attractive, and unique atmosphere for local shopping.

Additional Recommendations: Commercial/Industrial Development Board to work with the Etowah County Chamber of Commerce to draw new businesses to Attalla and retain existing. Designate areas for commercial development on the *Future Land Use Plan* (Map #13) in the comprehensive plan. Attalla could also utilize the resources of the Auburn Design Studio's Small Town Design Initiative (STDI), with home offices in Birmingham. STDI could help the city develop a physical master plan for the downtown through a community design charrette process, involving local stakeholders and public input in the plan. Established in 1999, STDI has worked for and created design plans for over 40 small Alabama communities with populations ranging from 4,800 to as small as 400, the average size being between 1,200 and 4,800.

Performance Indicator: Create downtown improvement plan by 2010 and implement plan in 2012. Enhance commercial facades of 5 businesses in the downtown by the year 2014.

Objective#2: Promote and Enhance Highway Commercial Development

Strategy: Continue Annexation of Land for Highway Commercial along major routes and near Interstate 59 interchange

Importance: Attalla needs to expand its borders and draw in potential commercial development in order to increase and employment and revenue to the city.

Additional Recommendations: Designate land for commercial development on the *Future Land Use Plan* Map in the comprehensive plan and plan city growth accordingly

Goal #2: Promote and Enhance Industrial Development

Objective: Promote and Enhance Light to Medium Scale Industrial Development along Major Highway Routes

Strategy: Create and Implement an Industrial Recruitment Strategy

- Identify land along U.S. Hwy. 11 and U.S. Hwy. 431 suitable for medium to small-scale industrial development, considering important criteria such as environmental constraints, necessary infrastructure, and adjacent land use
- Provide the necessary infrastructure to support appropriate industrial development
- Cooperate and partnership with the Etowah County Chamber of Commerce and Industrial Development Board to promote industry throughout the city
- Cooperate and partnership with local educational institutions, such as Gadsden State Community College and the Etowah County Career Technical Training Center, to develop and

enhance curriculum and program extensions supportive of regionally marketed industrial development opportunity in the city

Importance: Attalla offers opportunity for small to medium scale industrial development, which the city should strive to promote and encourage by properly utilizing its local educational institutions and development authorities.

Additional Recommendations: Designate land for industrial development on the *Future Land Use Plan* Map in the comprehensive plan and plan city growth accordingly.

Performance Indicator: Create an industrial recruitment strategy by 2012 and implement the strategy by 2015.

Goal #3: Promote and Enhance Residential Development

Objective: Improve City Housing Conditions

Strategy: Promote and Enhance Quality Affordable Housing throughout the City

- Create a housing improvement plan for the community—identifying structures in need of improvements, establishing priority areas, and listing items needing improvements.
- Hold a series of public meetings to discuss housing redevelopment options and the housing improvement plan.

Importance: According to an EARPDC housing conditions study, conducted in 2007, approximately 40% of the city's housing was in deteriorating condition, and 3% recorded dilapidated status. Manufactured homes reported the greatest need with about 65% of homes in deteriorating condition and 7% dilapidated.

Additional Recommendations: Make provisions for brick and stone masonry in the Attalla Zoning Ordinance. One method for accomplishing this is to introduce new regulations stating that each housing unit in designated residential areas be constructed with a specified percentage of brick or stone masonry. Attalla's housing authority could work with trade associations such as *Brick SouthEast*, a brick manufacturing trade association based in Atlanta, GA, to adopt and implement an optional stone and brick masonry directed zoning ordinance. Create and distribute educational material to developers interested in building quality affordable housing using brick and stone masonry. The city should also designate areas on the *Future Land Use Plan* (Map #13) in the comprehensive plan for quality affordable housing.

Performance Indicator: Housing Improvement Plan created by 2010 and implemented by 2012.

Goal#4: Promote and Enhance Community Facilities

Objective #1: Improve Fire Department Services

Strategy: Maintain Adequate Staffing at all Fire Department Stations

- Seek funding through FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) to staff Fire Station #3 in the south-central section of the city, near Curtiston.

Importance: Fire Station No. 3 is currently a vacant facility and needs to be properly staffed in order for the fire department to provide better emergency services to the community.

Performance Indicator: A FEMA grant is currently in the approval process. Grant should be approved and administered, providing adequate staff in 2009. Continue staffing.

Objective #2: Improve City Administration Services

Strategy: Expand City Administration Offices

- Determine and inventory offices in need of expansion
- Relocate offices in need of expansion to vacant 4th Street Elementary School

Importance: Current office space in City Hall is deemed insufficient for proper service to the community through staff functions.

Additional Recommendations: As Attalla grows and develops the city could consider moving all city offices to the 4th Street Elementary School and reusing City Hall for library or police department expansion.

Performance Indicator: Inventory office expansion needs by 2011 and relocate offices, as necessary, by 2012.

Strategy: Provide a Mechanism for Securing State and Federal Grants for Community Improvement

- Hire a full-time grant writer (knowledgeable in community growth and development issues) to research and write grants for community development
- Cooperate or contract with an outside agency or organization to research and write grants for community development

Importance: The city needs a grant writer or cooperation with a grant writing agency in order to apply for and secure grants for economic development. A grant writer or responsible agency would help the community take advantage of local, state, and federal funding opportunities and promote the city to local investors.

Performance Indicator: Grant writer hired and on city staff by 2010. Continue staffing.

Objective#3: Improve Educational Facilities

Strategy: Relocate Stowers Hill Intermediate School (Grades 3-5) to Curtiston Primary School

- Relocate staff, students, and materials from Stowers Hill to Curtiston
- Vacate old building

Importance: Relocating Stowers Hill to Curtiston would consolidate the school's resources and reduce costs considerably.

Performance Indicator: Three-year plan. 2008 to 2010 relocate staff, students, and materials from Stowers Hill to Curtiston.

Objective#4: Improve City Utility Infrastructure

Strategy: Inventory and Update City Sewer Lines

Importance: Attalla's city sewer line network is considerably old and in need of inventory and possible repair and replacement in certain areas. The city should inventory line locations and conditions in order to keep accurate records and plan for necessary repairs and replacements, thus mitigating the chance occurrence of substantial problems.

Performance Indicator: Inventory and Update Sewer Lines by 2015 and continue.

Goal#5: Promote and Enhance Transportation Infrastructure

Objective: Improve the City's Road Network

Strategy: Cooperate with the Gadsden/Etowah County Metropolitan Planning Commission (GEMPO) to Facilitate Road Improvements and Expansion Throughout the City

Importance: Attalla should work with GEMPO to facilitate road improvements which integrate into Etowah County's transportation network plans, enhancing transportation throughout the county.

Performance Indicator: City to cooperate and plan transportation improvements with GEMPO—2008 on a continuing and consistent basis.

Goal#6: Promote and Enhance Environmental Preservation

Objective: Promote and Enhance Parks and Recreation Opportunities

Strategy: Construct and Promote a Canoeing/Hiking Trail along Big Wills Creek

Importance: Although the city excels in parks and recreation facilities, the city could take advantage of Big Wills Creek, a major water resource, by constructing a canoeing and hiking trail along the creek. This project would allow the city to better utilize this valuable water resource.

Additional Recommendations: To create a sufficient canoe trail, the city should acquire land and build docking and loading stations along the creek to accommodate canoes and other boating recreation. The city should also dedicate floodplains along Big Wills Creek for parks and recreation and illustrate this land use on the future land use plan of the comprehensive plan.

Performance Indicator: Construct Canoeing/Hiking Trail by 2012.

Goal#7: Promote and Enhance Land Use and Development

Objective#1: Reserve Land for Commercial Development

Strategy: Designate Land for Commercial Development on the Future Land Use Plan Map in the Comprehensive Plan and Plan City Growth Accordingly

Objective#2: Reserve Land for Industrial Development

Strategy: Designate Land for Industrial Development on the Future Land Use Plan Map in the Comprehensive Plan and Plan City Growth Accordingly

Objective#3: Reserve Land for Residential Development

Strategy: Designate Land for Residential Development on the Future Land Use Plan Map in the Comprehensive Plan and Plan City Growth Accordingly

Objective#4: Reserve Land for Public Uses and Parks and Recreation

Strategy: Designate Land for Public Uses and Parks and Recreation on the Future Land Use Plan Map in the Comprehensive Plan and Plan City Growth Accordingly

Priority Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

The final stage of goal and objective formulation is to establish priority goals and objectives which the city plans to implement as a part of the comprehensive plan. These priority goals and objectives have been recognized and approved by the Attalla Planning Commission and the Attalla City Council as high priority city policy and planning initiatives. Goals and objectives are listed, in no particular order, as follows:

Goal#1: Promote and Enhance Commercial Development

Objective#1: Annex Land along Major Highway Routes, particularly along AL Hwy. 77, for Commercial and Industrial Growth

Objective#2: Improve the Aesthetic Appeal and Facades of Commercial Structures in the Downtown

- **Strategy: Create and Implement a Downtown Improvement Plan**

Goal#2: Promote and Enhance Residential Development

Objective: Improve City Housing Conditions

- **Strategy: Create and Implement a Housing Improvement Plan**

Goal#3: Promote and Enhance Community Facilities

Objective#1: Improve Fire Department Services

- **Strategy: Maintain Adequate Staffing at all Fire Department Stations—Seek FEMA funding to Staff Fire Station No. 3**

Objective#2: Improve City Administration Services

- **Strategy#1: Expand City Administration Offices—Relocate City Hall Offices to vacant 4th Street Elementary School**
- **Strategy:#2: Hire a Full-time or Part-time Grant Writer**

Objective#3: Improve Educational Facilities

- **Strategy: Relocate Stowers Hill Intermediate School (Grades 3-5) to Curtiston Primary School**

Objective#4: Improve City Utility Infrastructure

- **Strategy: Inventory and Update City Sewer Lines**

CHAPTER X: IMPLEMENTATION

The most important and difficult aspect of any planning effort is plan implementation. Successful implementation of a plan is especially difficult where it requires the cooperative action of multiple entities, some of which may have varying degrees of commitment to and responsibility for the success of the planning effort. Other common obstacles to successful plan implementation include funding constraints, insufficient access to needed technical support and resources, and conflicting interpretations of problems and needs. All of these impediments, to some degree, are relevant to comprehensive planning implementation.

This comprehensive plan acknowledges that the City of Attalla has limited resources and competing planning priorities. However, city administration has sufficient technical expertise and capacity to react quickly to the complex issues affecting the city. This plan also recognizes that the city must depend upon the cooperation of other independent boards and agencies to implement those aspects of the plan that the city cannot directly control. Finally, Attalla must respond to a wide range of changing needs, all of which must be considered when determining priorities for local action. It is difficult to foresee the critical issues that will arise tomorrow, but the comprehensive plan is useful in guiding and directing policy toward a more sustainable community. The city must retain the ability to establish its own priorities in any given year to satisfy its own needs. As a result, full implementation of this plan will not happen quickly and may take longer to achieve than initially expected.

The purpose of this chapter is to identify some of the optional strategies and resources at the disposal of the local governments to implement the general recommendations of this plan. The proposed implementation schedule near the end of this chapter is intended to serve as a general organizational strategy for plan implementation. Although specific timeframes are identified for each recommended action, actual implementation may occur under different time frames and under varying methodologies, as may be dictated by financial constraints or competing needs and priorities.

City Administration

The City of Attalla has a Mayor and full-time support staff to handle the city's daily administrative needs. The administrative staff can use the comprehensive plan as a general guide for coordinating expansion of the city's public facilities and services to address future growth needs. However, it must be recognized that, due to the city's relatively small size and lack of large, stable sources of revenue, the administrative staff's capacity to fully monitor and implement the plan is somewhat constrained. Support and assistance from every level of city government will be needed to ensure that the policies and programs recommended by this plan are fully implemented. The city can also seek assistance from support agencies-such as the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission, and USDA Rural Development-for technical assistance in implementing the goals and objectives of the plan.

Codes and Ordinances

Basic local development codes include zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, and building codes. These codes and regulations help local governments manage growth and development and are important local tools to support plan implementation efforts. Local governments can and do adopt other special ordinances to address specific community needs, but such ordinances may require special legislation to implement. This section discusses in detail those development codes that municipalities are authorized to adopt and implement under existing state law.

Zoning

Zoning ordinances are adopted by local governments to control the location, intensity, and character of land uses in the community. They also help communities prevent conflicts between neighboring property owners resulting from land development activities, and they help protect the public from any excessive environmental impacts that may result from private development activities. Local governments derive their zoning powers from the state through the Code of Alabama (Title 11, Chapter 52, Article 4). The primary purpose of local zoning ordinances is to promote public health, safety, and general welfare by fostering coordinated land development in accordance with the comprehensive plan. Adopting a zoning ordinance is an effective means of implementing land use and development recommendations contained in the comprehensive plan. Generally speaking, zoning ordinances adopted by local governments must be prepared in accordance with a comprehensive plan, as required under Title 11, Chapter 52, Section 72 of the Code of Alabama, 1975.

Subdivision Regulations

While zoning ordinances control the nature and intensity of land uses, subdivision regulations govern the manner by which land is divided in preparation for development. Subdivision regulations contain standards for subdivision design, lot layout, and the placement and construction of public facilities within subdivisions. Although most subdivisions in small communities are residential in nature, the regulations should be developed to also address commercial or industrial subdivisions.

Municipal governments in Alabama are authorized to adopt and enforce subdivision regulations under Title 11, Chapter 52, Section 31 of the Code of Alabama, 1975. The Code further authorizes cities to enforce their local subdivision regulations within a planning jurisdiction in the surrounding unincorporated areas, up to five miles beyond the city limits. In the East Alabama region, many municipalities exercising their extraterritorial subdivision powers do so only within their police jurisdiction boundaries, which may be either 1.5 or 3 miles from the city limits (depending on the population of the city). However, the City of Attalla does not have a police jurisdiction so powers of authority can only be extended to the city limits.

Building Codes

Local building codes establish basic minimum construction standards for buildings, including homes and commercial and industrial buildings. The purpose of a building code is to ensure quality development and protect public safety. By adopting building codes, local governments can require developers and contractors to secure building permits before undertaking construction activities. Applicants for building permits also can be required to provide evidence that they have received County Health Department approval for on-site septic systems, thereby providing an effective mechanism to ensure compliance with local health regulations. Cities and counties in Alabama are authorized, under Title 41, Chapter 9, Section 166 of the Code of Alabama, 1975, to adopt minimum building standards that have been adopted by the Alabama Building Commission.

Financing

Financial constraints can be the greatest obstacle to plan implementation in smaller communities. Many communities must wait for funding to become available in its entirety before a plan or project can be implemented. Attalla must actively continue its efforts to secure outside financial support for plan implementation in order to meet its goals and objectives to prepare for growth and development and to promote its community vision for the future. A number of financial assistance sources exist to help small communities in terms of planning and development. The most significant sources are listed as follows:

1. Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) administered for the state by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) and federally funded through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which can be used to finance water and sewer improvements and housing rehabilitation in low-to-moderate income areas.

2. The Economic Development Administration (EDA), established under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, was formed to help communities generate jobs, retain existing jobs, and stimulate industrial and commercial growth in economically distressed areas of the United States. In continuing its mission, EDA operates on the principal that distressed communities must be empowered to develop and implement their own economic development strategies. The communities in the East Alabama Region are recognized by EDA as part of an Economic Development District, which enables them to receive EDA grant funding for infrastructure improvements, which support projects used to create new local jobs. Investment programs provided by EDA include the following: Public Works and Economic Development Program, Economic Adjustment Assistance Program, Research and National Technical Assistance, Local Technical Assistance, Planning Program, University Center Economic Development Program, Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms Program.

3. The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), which provides funding support for community improvement projects in economically distressed areas of the Appalachian Region.

4. The East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission (EARPDC), which offers revolving loan funds to provide gap financing for local businesses. The EARPDC also provides matching funds to communities that use the commission's services for planning projects, such as the preparation of this plan, zoning ordinance preparation, and preparation of subdivision regulations.

5. The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT), which constructs new highways, offers special Transportation Enhancement Grants through the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, and runs a Safety Management Program.

6. The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC), which provides special grants to restore local historic buildings and structures and assists in surveying historic properties and preparing applications for inclusion in the National Historic Register.

7. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), which helps finance public water extensions through a special low-interest loan fund and finances special water and sewer demonstration projects.

8. The Small Business Administration (SBA), which provides technical assistance to entrepreneurs in rural areas through the local Small Business Development Centers.

9. US Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA), which offers a range of grant and loan programs to help finance housing improvement projects, economic development initiatives, infrastructure improvement projects, and city jail expansions and construction.

10. The local Community Action Agencies, which conduct a wide range of programs to assist low and moderate income households throughout the rural areas, in such areas as heating assistance, Head Start, and weatherization programs.

11. The local Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) and Industrial Development Authorities (IDA), which sponsor and finance economic development efforts and initiatives within their jurisdictions.

12. Alabama Power, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), and the Rural Electric Cooperatives (REC), which finance and provide technical assistance for a wide range of local economic development initiatives.

13. Rural Alabama Initiative (RAI) is a grant program, funded by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and administered through the Economic and Community Development Institute (ECDI). ECDI has the mission to improve the quality of life of Alabama citizens by promoting continuing economic and community development policy and practice through communication, education, research, and community assistance. Through RAI the Institute provides a mechanism for rural communities to attain monetary assistance for community development goals. The main goal of RAI is to assist communities that seek economic prosperity and a better quality of life.

14. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offers grant and technical assistance to small communities through a variety of environmental preservation, protection, and education programs, fellowships, and research associateships. Grant programs administered under EPA include: The Brownfields Grant Program, Environmental Education Grants Program, Environmental Information Exchange Network Grant Program, Environmental Justice Grants Program, Environmental Justice Through Pollution Prevention Program, National Center for Environmental Research, Pollution Prevention Incentives for States, Water Grants, and Watershed Funding.

15. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides grants and technical assistance to small communities through a variety of emergency management, prevention, and education programs. Grant programs administered under FEMA include: The Buffer Zone Protection Program, Emergency Management Performance Grant, Homeland Security Grant Program, Intercity Bus Security Grant Program, Operation Stonegarden, Port Security Grant Program, Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program, Transit Security Grant Program, Trucking Security Grant Program, UASI Non-profit Security Grant Program.

16. Alabama League of Municipalities (ALM) assists municipalities in Alabama in funding local projects and purchases. This organization has established the AM Fund, administered by the Alabama Municipal Funding Corporation, to provide low-cost, tax-exempt financing to Alabama communities. Municipalities borrow from the AM Fund at a low tax-exempt interest rate to fund almost any municipal project and equipment purchase. Goals determined thorough the administration of AM Fund incorporate the following:
    - Share issuance costs that reduce individual borrower's costs
    - Participate in bond issues of sufficient size to enable the borrowers to achieve attractive interest rates
    - Minimize staff time by using straightforward loan documentation

Attalla should continue to explore project-financing opportunities with all of these entities when undertaking projects to implement this comprehensive plan. The city should also consider developing public-private partnerships. Of course, outside financing usually will not cover all of the costs associated with a project. The city must be prepared to provide local matching funds, where needed to leverage outside grants, to cost share with private partnerships, and to undertake projects that cannot be funded by outside sources.

Priority Goals, Objectives, and Strategies Review

To initiate the implementation process the City of Attalla established priority goals and objectives drawn from the list of goals and objectives in the previous chapter. In review, these priority goals, objectives, and strategies are listed, in no particular order, as follows:

Goal: Promote and Enhance Commercial Development

Objective: Improve the Aesthetic Appeal and Facades of Commercial Structures in the Downtown

- **Strategy:** Create and Implement a Downtown Improvement Plan

Objective: Annex land along Major Highway Routes, particularly along AL Hwy. 77, for Commercial and Industrial Growth

Goal: Promote and Enhance Residential Development
Objective: Improve City Housing Conditions
- **Strategy:** Create and Implement a Housing Improvement Plan

Goal: Promote and Enhance Community Facilities
Objective: Improve Fire Department Services
- **Strategy:** Maintain Adequate Staffing at all Fire Department Stations—Seek FEMA funding to Staff Fire Station No. 3

Objective: Improve City Administration Services
- **Strategy:** Expand City Administration Offices—Relocate City Hall Offices to vacant 4th Street Elementary School
- **Strategy:** Hire a Full-time or Part-time Grant Writer

Objective: Improve Educational Facilities
- **Strategy:** Relocate Stowers Hill Intermediate School (Grades 3-5) to Curtiston Primary

Objective: Improve City Utility Infrastructure
- **Strategy:** Inventory and Update City Sewer Lines

Implementation Schedule

Once prioritized, these goals and objectives were then translated into specific work activities and projects to be implemented and/or continued indefinitely as an integral aspect of the comprehensive plan. One way to promote plan implementation is to create a plan implementation schedule. The implementation schedule lists work activities and projects to be undertaken during a five to ten-year period. The schedule should formulate the timeframe within which each work activity or project should be undertaken, establish which local entity is responsible for carrying out the activity, and identify potential partners and funding resources in implementing the work activity/project. Table I-1 examines Attalla's implementation schedule for projects to be implemented from 2008 through 2015 and continuing indefinitely for ongoing work activities.

Table I-1. Implementation Schedule: City of Attalla, 2008-2015

Timeframe	Work Activity/Project	Implementing Agency	Potential Partners/ Funding Sources
2010-Cont.	Hire or Contract a Full or Part Time Grant Writer	City of Attalla	EARPDC/RAI/ALM
2010-2012	Create and Implement Housing Improvement Plan	City of Attalla	EARPDC/USDA/ ADECA/ALM
2010-2012	Create and Implement Downtown Improvement Plan	City of Attalla	EARPDC/USDA/ ADECA/ALM
2008-2010	Relocate Stowers Hill Intermediate School to Curtiston Elementary School	Attalla School Board	RAI
2011-2012.	Relocate City Hall to vacant 4th Street Elementary School	City of Attalla	RAI/ALM
2009-Cont.	Staff Fire Station No. 3	City of Attalla	FEMA
2015-Cont.	Inventory and Update City Sewer Lines	City of Attalla	EDA/USDA/ADEM/ GEMPO/ALM

Source: Goals and Objectives Chapter of Attalla Comprehensive Plan, 2008.

Implementation Strategies

Implementation of work activities and projects require thorough planning and investment of resources from city administration, departments, and local agencies. The work activities and projects listed in the implementation schedule have been examined in greater detail, as shown below, in order to: 1) review and verify their importance as top city priorities and centrality to the vision statement and goals and objectives, 2) examine implementation strategies (including financing), 3) and explore results and potential benefits to the community.

1. **Work Activity/ Project: Hire or Contract a Full or Part-time Grant Writer**
   Priority: Attalla should hire or contract a full-time or part-time grant writer in order to research grant funding opportunities and write grants for community development. As a community with limited resources, but significant potential, Attalla should actively explore ideas and possibilities for community development.
   Implementation Strategy: Since Attalla has limited monetary resources the city should contract a grant writer or cooperate with an agency specializing in community development. The city could do this by working with local agencies such as EARPDC or various private consultants. Attalla could also cooperate with the Rural Alabama Initiative to attain financial assistance for this activity and/or the Alabama League of Municipalities for loan assistance.
   Results: A grant writer will help Attalla take advantage of local, state, and federal funding opportunities for community development. Successful community development works to promote the city to local investors and in attracting outside interests. Performance indicator suggests hiring a grant writer by 2010.

2. **Work Activity/Project: Create and Implement a Housing Improvement Plan**
   Priority: According to an EARPDC housing conditions study, conducted in 2007, approximately 40% of the city's housing was in deteriorating condition, and 3% recorded dilapidated status. Manufactured homes reported the greatest need with about 65% of homes in deteriorating condition and 7% dilapidated. Although dilapidated status is a wide-ranging category, the city would greatly benefit from creating and implementing a housing improvement plan.
   Implementation Strategy: Identify structures in need of improvements on a city base map, establish priority areas, list items needed for improvement, and estimate funding costs. The city should also hold a series of public meetings to discuss housing redevelopment options and the housing improvement plan. Funding for the project could be appropriated through ADECA or USDA while technical assistance could be provided by EARPDC or local consultants.
   Results: A significant and measurable improvement to physical housing conditions in appearance and structural integrity throughout the city. As a performance indicator the project plan should be created by 2010 and implemented by 2012. The city should also strive to improve housing conditions from 57% in good condition (2007) to 75% in good condition by 2013.

3. **Work Activity/Project: Create and Implement a Downtown Improvement Plan**
   Priority: Downtown Attalla provides a unique shopping experience, particularly for customers who enjoy antique shopping and collecting. In order for the city to capitalize on this potential draw the downtown must offer a positive and attractive environment, compelling customers to stop and browse the stores. Furthermore, as commercial development increases along the major highways throughout the city, businesses in the downtown will struggle to maintain adequate business, unless they offer a positive, attractive, and unique atmosphere for local shopping.
   Implementation Strategy: The implementation strategy for improving aesthetic appearances in the downtown could be formed through a downtown improvement plan. The plan could identify structures in need of improvements on a city base map, establish priority projects, improvement needs, and work with property owners to provide incentives and seek funding through local downtown redevelopment grants and assistance.
   Result/s: To considerably and noticeably improve the aesthetic appearance of the built and natural environment in the commercial downtown. Tree and brush planting could be planned for certain areas to enhance natural appeal. A performance indicator could be established as to enhance or improve commercial facades of 5 businesses in the downtown by the year 2014.

4. **Work Activity/Project: Relocate Stowers Hill Intermediate School to Curtiston Elementary School**
   Priority: In an effort to consolidate resources and improve education Stowers Hill will combine with Curtiston, leaving the Stowers Hill building vacant.
   Implementation Strategy: The beginning phase of the plan is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2008 with completion scheduled in 2010. The School Board will use bond issues and money from the city to accomplish needed objectives. Grant money could also be obtained through RAI as an educational enhancement grant.
   Result/s: Improving education by providing better facilities and reduced costs for the school is the main goal. As an established performance indicator, combining should be completed in the summer of 2010.

5. **Work Activity/Project: Relocate City Hall Offices to vacant 4th Street Elementary School**
   Priority: Current office space in City Hall is deemed insufficient for proper service to the community through staff functions. Sufficient expansion to the current building is substantially limited. The 4th Street Elementary School building would meet expansion needs for considerable future duration.
   Implementation Strategy: Inventory city administration office expansion needs and relocate new offices to 4th Street Elementary. Funding for the project could be appropriated through RAI as a community development grant or through ALM as a tax-free low interest loan.
   Result/s: The city will receive an improved and substantially larger building to expand offices and carry out necessary city functions. As an established performance indicator, the city should inventory resources and move offices into the new building in 2011.

6. **Work Activity/Project: Staff Fire Station No. 3**
   Priority: Fire Station No. 3, in the south central portion of the city, near the industrial park, is currently unstaffed. The city needs to utilize this structure in order to provide better fire protection and services to the community.
   Implementation Strategy: The fire department submitted an emergency management performance grant to FEMA (currently under review) to provide initial staffing for fire station no. 3. As a performance indicator the grant should be approved and department receive funding in 2008 then continue receiving monetary assistance from city revenue for department staff and functions.
   Result/s: Adequate and proper functioning of fire station no.3 with the main goal of improving fire protection and prevention services for the community.

7. **Work Activity/Project: Inventory and Update City Sewer Lines**
   Priority: Attalla's city sewer line network is considerably old and in need of inventory and possible repair and replacement in certain areas. The city should inventory line locations, line size and conditions in order to keep accurate records and plan for necessary repairs and replacements, thus mitigating the chance occurrence of substantial problems.
   Implementation Strategy: The city should create and continuously update a sewer map showing line size locations, distribution, and mark areas for improvement. The city could utilize GIS capabilities to identify lines and distribution or cooperate with a specialist agency to provide this service through periodic contract as updates are needed.
   Result/s: As a performance indicator the city should inventory and update sewer lines by 2015 and continue updates as needed.

The planning commission and/or city council, or a special committee, should review the comprehensive plan and identify any actions that need to be taken to implement the plan. Action items may require relatively little commitment of time and financial resources, such as updating certain provisions of the zoning ordinance or conducting seminars and round table discussions on topics important to the city's future. The city then can prioritize projects requiring financial investment, make a list of prioritized projects and their associated tasks, and plug the estimated costs of those projects/tasks into a multi-year table. Such an activity will help the city insure that it does not over-commit its funds and addresses the most pressing needs first. The city reserves the right to review and to determine removing projects that have been completed, re-prioritizing projects if needed, shifting projects that have been delayed to later fiscal years, and adding projects to be undertaken in fiscal year 2015. This update should be performed each year to ensure that the city has a current report on project status and is able to address unforeseen events.

Plan Adoption and Amendment

According to Title 11, Chapter 52, Section 8 of the Code of Alabama, 1975, the municipal planning commission is authorized to prepare and adopt a local comprehensive plan. The comprehensive plan can be adopted by resolution in whole or in successive chapters or elements, as provided in Title 11, Chapter 52, section 10 of the Code of Alabama, 1975. However, prior to adoption or disapproval of the plan by the planning commission, the planning commission or the city council must publish notice of and conduct a public hearing to solicit comments on the proposed plan from concerned citizens. State law does not specify the format to be used for

notification or conduct of the required public hearing. However, common sense dictates that the hearing should be notified and conducted in accordance with the standard procedures used by the planning commission or city council, as may be applicable.

Once the plan has been adopted in accordance with state law, the planning commission is empowered to assume additional administrative authorities. These authorities are specified in Title 11, Chapter 52, Section 11 of the Code of Alabama, 1975. According to this statute, no street, square, public building or structure, park or other public way, ground or open space, or public utility can be constructed or authorized in the community without approval by the planning commission. The planning commission must review the proposed community facility improvement for consistency with the adopted comprehensive plan. If the planning commission determines that the proposed improvement is not consistent with the plan, it may disapprove the improvement. Such a vote can be overturned by a two-thirds majority vote of all city council members.

As this provision of Alabama law illustrates, the comprehensive plan is an important document. It serves as a legal support for local zoning authority, and it governs the expansion of public facilities and infrastructure in the community. Therefore, it is important to remember that the adoption of a comprehensive plan document is not the end of the planning process. It is merely the beginning of an ongoing dedicated planning effort. The local government must be committed to a plan monitoring, review, and implementation effort if the plan is to achieve its stated objectives. In addition, the plan should be reviewed and revised periodically in response to growth and changing conditions in the community. While Alabama law does not prescribe a revision schedule for local government comprehensive plans, communities should update the plan at least once every ten years to incorporate more recent data from the latest U.S. Census. New census data is needed to determine growth and population trends used by the plan. More frequent updates should be conducted if the community experiences rapid growth or change, or if the community proposes to undertake a significant public investment to stimulate future growth or change.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Detailed Population Statistics

Historical Population Trends

Table P-1. Historical Population Trends: Attalla, Etowah County, and Alabama						
Year	Attalla	% Change	Etowah County	% Change	Alabama	% Change
1910	2,513	NA	39,109	NA	2,138,093	NA
1920	3,462	37.8%	47,275	20.9%	2,348,174	9.8%
1930	4,585	32.4%	63,399	34.1%	2,646,248	12.7%
1940	4,885	6.5%	72,580	14.5%	2,832,961	7.1%
1950	7,537	54.3%	93,892	29.4%	3,061,743	8.1%
1960	8,257	9.6%	96,980	3.3%	3,266,740	6.7%
1970	7,510	-9.0%	94,144	-2.9%	3,444,165	5.4%
1980	7,737	3.0%	103,057	9.5%	3,893,888	13.1%
1990	6,859	-11.3%	99,840	-3.1%	4,040,587	3.8%
2000	6,677	-2.7%	103,459	3.6%	4,447,100	10.1%

Source: U.S. Census of Population 1990 and 2000, 1997 Attalla Comp. Plan

Place of Birth

Table P-2. Place of Birth: Attalla					Change 1990-2000	
Born in	1990	% of Total	2000	% of Total	#Change	%Change
State of Residence	5,919	86.3%	5,493	82.3%	-426	-7.2%
Another State	902	13.2%	1,065	16.0%	163	18.1%
A Northeastern State	102	11.3%	96	9.0%	-6	-5.9%
A Midwestern State	203	22.5%	208	19.5%	5	2.5%
A Southern State	518	57.4%	685	64.3%	167	32.2%
A Western State	79	8.8%	76	7.1%	-3	-3.8%
Born outside U.S.	38	0.6%	28	0.4%	-10	-26.3%
Puerto Rico	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
U.S. Island Areas	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Abroad of U.S. Parents	38	100.0%	28	100.0%	-10	-26.3%
Foreign-born	0	0.0%	91	1.4%	91	100.0%
Total	6,859		6,677		-182	-2.7%

U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 SF 3.

Place of Residence

Table P-3. Place of Residence: Attalla					Change 1990-2000	
Resided in	1985	% of Total	1995	% of Total	#Change	%Change
Same House in...	3,927	60.8%	3,661	59.2%	-266	-6.8%
Different House in….	2,537	39.2%	2,521	40.8%	-16	-0.6%
Same County	1,912	75.4%	1,733	68.7%	-179	-9.4%
Same State	235	9.3%	356	14.1%	121	51.5%
Other State	390	15.4%	397	15.7%	7	1.8%
Northeastern State	46	11.8%	58	14.6%	12	26.1%
Midwestern State	163	41.8%	41	10.3%	-122	-74.8%
Southern State	172	44.1%	279	70.3%	107	62.2%
Western State	9	2.3%	19	4.8%	10	111.1%
Puerto Rico	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
U.S. outlying area	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Foreign Country	0	0.0%	35	1.4%	35	100.0%
Total	6,464		6,182		-282	-4.4%

U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 SF 3.

Age Distribution

Table P-4. Age Distribution: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama									
Age Group	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	%Change
Less than 5	395	495	25.3%	5,919	6,686	13.0%	280,785	294,822	4.5%
% of Total	5.8%	7.4%		6.0%	6.5%		6.9%	6.6%	
5 to 17	1,334	1,170	-12.3%	18,598	18,000	-3.2%	779,216	827,790	6.2%
% of Total	19.4%	17.5%		18.6%	17.4%		19.3%	18.6%	
18 to 24	759	579	-23.7%	9,651	8,944	-7.3%	434,617	437,088	0.6%
% of Total	11.1%	8.7%		9.7%	8.6%		10.8%	9.8%	
25 to 44	1,795	1,808	0.7%	28,612	28,347	-0.9%	1,237,765	1,294,710	4.6%
% of Total	26.2%	27.1%		28.7%	27.4%		30.6%	29.1%	
45 to 64	1,468	1,490	1.5%	21,188	24,895	17.5%	785,598	1,012,662	28.9%
% of Total	21.4%	22.3%		21.2%	24.1%		19.4%	22.8%	
65+	1,108	1,135	2.4%	15,872	16,587	4.5%	522,606	580,028	11.0%
% of Total	16.2%	17.0%		15.9%	16.0%		12.9%	13.0%	
Total	6,859	6,677	-2.7%	99,840	103,459	3.6%	4,040,587	4,447,100	10.1%
Median Age	35.3	38.1	7.9%	36	38.3	6.4%	33	35.8	8.5%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 SF 1.

Marital Status

Table P-5. Marital Status (Age 15 and Older): Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama									
Marital Status	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change
Never Married	1,067	977	-8.4%	15,568	16,884	8.5%	754,868	839,185	11.2%
% of Total	20.1%	18.4%		19.8%	20.3%		23.9%	23.9%	
Married (except separated)	2,861	2,848	-0.5%	46,764	47,856	2.3%	1,791,644	1,953,261	9.0%
% of Total	54.0%	53.6%		59.5%	57.5%		56.6%	55.6%	
Separated	98	180	83.7%	1,286	1,729	34.4%	68,002	75,988	11.7%
% of Total	1.8%	3.4%		1.6%	2.1%		2.1%	2.2%	
Widowed	673	531	-21.1%	8,171	7,524	-7.9%	276,267	274,547	-0.6%
% of Total	12.7%	10.0%		10.4%	9.0%		8.7%	7.8%	
Divorced	604	775	28.3%	6,850	9,249	35.0%	273,511	371,218	35.7%
% of Total	11.4%	14.6%		8.7%	11.1%		8.6%	10.6%	
Total	5,303	5,311	0.2%	78,639	83,242	5.9%	3,164,292	3,514,199	11.1%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 SF 3.

Race Distribution

Table P-6. Racial Distribution: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama									
Racial Characteristics	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change
White	5,801	5,523	-4.8%	85,274	85,640	0.4%	2,975,797	3,162,808	6.3%
% of Total	84.6%	82.7%		85.4%	82.8%		73.6%	71.1%	
Black	1,032	899	-12.9%	13,799	14,672	6.3%	1,020,705	1,155,930	13.2%
% of Total	15.0%	13.5%		13.8%	14.2%		25.3%	26.0%	
Other	26	255	880.8%	767	3,147	310.3%	44,085	128,362	191.2%
% of Total	0.4%	3.8%		0.8%	3.0%		1.1%	2.9%	
Total	6,859	6,677	-2.7%	99,840	103,459	3.6%	4,040,587	4,447,100	10.1%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 SF 1.

Gender Distribution

Table P-7. Gender Distribution: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama									
Gender Distribution	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change
Male	3,235	3,110	-3.9%	47,065	49,433	5.0%	1,935,936	2,144,463	10.8%
% of Total	47.2%	46.6%		47.1%	47.8%		47.9%	48.2%	
Female	3,624	3,567	-1.6%	52,775	54,026	2.4%	2,104,651	2,302,637	9.4%
% of Total	52.8%	53.4%		52.9%	52.2%		52.1%	51.8%	
Total	6,859	6,677	-2.7%	99,840	103,459	3.6%	4,040,587	4,447,100	10.1%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 SF 1.

Population Density

Table P-8. Population Density and Area: Attalla and Vicinity					
Geographic Area	Total Area	Total Land Area	Pop. Per sq. mile	Housing Units Per sq. mile	Total Population
Attalla 1990	6.0	6.0	1,143.2	479.0	6,859
2000	6.6	6.6	988.0	436.8	6,677
%Change	10.0%	10.0%	-13.6%	-8.8%	-2.7%
Rainbow City 1990	24.3	24.1	318.4	131.6	7,673
2000	25.3	25.1	333.0	151.1	8,607
%Change	4.1%	4.1%	4.6%	14.8%	12.2%
Glencoe 1990	14.3	14.2	298.0	113.6	4,663
2000	16.1	16.0	319.5	132.2	4,936
%Change	12.6%	12.7%	7.2%	16.4%	5.9%
Southside 1990	18.6	18.4	295.4	106.5	5,556
2000	19.1	18.9	368.3	145.7	7,057
%Change	2.7%	2.7%	24.7%	36.8%	27.0%

Source: U.S. Census 1990, SF 3 and EARPDC database, 2000.

Appendix B: Detailed Economy Statistics

Educational Attainment

Table E-1. Educational Attainment: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama									
Educational Level	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change
Less Than 9th Grade	765	498	-34.9%	9,516	6,023	-36.7%	348,848	240,333	-31.1%
% of Total Pop. 25 Years +	17.5%	11.2%		14.5%	8.6%		13.7%	8.3%	
9th to 12 Grade, No Diploma	1,065	883	-17.1%	14,072	12,092	-14.1%	494,790	473,748	-4.3%
% of Total Pop. 25 Years +	24.4%	19.9%		21.4%	17.3%		19.4%	16.4%	
High School Graduate	1,387	1,599	15.3%	20,194	22,531	11.6%	749,591	877,216	17.0%
% of Total Pop. 25 Years +	31.7%	36.1%		30.7%	32.3%		29.4%	30.4%	
Some College, No Degree	645	859	33.2%	11,301	15,137	33.9%	427,062	591,055	38.4%
% of Total Pop. 25 Years +	14.8%	19.4%		17.2%	21.7%		16.8%	20.5%	
Associate Degree	158	290	83.5%	3,900	4,674	19.8%	126,450	155,440	22.9%
% of Total Pop. 25 Years +	3.6%	6.5%		5.9%	6.7%		5.0%	5.4%	
Bachelors Degree	220	203	-7.7%	4,076	5,679	39.3%	258,231	351,772	36.2%
% of Total Pop. 25 Years +	5.0%	4.6%		6.2%	8.1%		10.1%	12.2%	
Graduate or Professional	131	101	-22.9%	2,613	3,693	41.3%	140,997	197,836	40.3%
% of Total Pop. 25 Years +	3.0%	2.3%		4.0%	5.3%		5.5%	6.9%	
Persons 25 Years and Over	4,371	4,433	1.4%	65,672	69,829	6.3%	2,545,969	2,887,400	13.4%
% of Total Population	57.0%	51.5%		65.8%	67.5%		63.0%	64.9%	

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 SF 3.

Household Income

Table E-2. Household Income Distribution: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama									
Income Level	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	%Change
Less Than $15 K	1,015	801	-21.1%	13,519	9,787	-27.6%	498,957	391,406	-21.6%
% of Total	40.0%	30.1%		35.2%	23.5%		33.1%	22.5%	
$15 - $29,999	720	604	-16.1%	10,772	10,199	-5.3%	412,393	378,264	-8.3%
% of Total	28.4%	22.7%		28.0%	24.5%		27.4%	21.8%	
$30 - $44,999	452	420	-7.1%	7,401	7,673	3.7%	284,506	318,861	12.1%
% of Total	17.8%	15.8%		19.2%	18.4%		18.9%	18.4%	
$45 - $74,999	281	574	104.3%	5,521	8,981	62.7%	231,304	381,959	65.1%
% of Total	11.1%	21.5%		14.4%	21.6%		15.4%	22.0%	
$75+	71	265	273.2%	1,240	4,994	302.7%	78,849	266,895	238.5%
% of Total	2.8%	9.9%		3.2%	12.0%		5.2%	15.4%	
Total Households	2,539	2,664	4.9%	38,453	41,634	8.3%	1,506,009	1,737,385	15.4%
Median Income	$20,176	$27,444	36.0%	$22,314	$31,170	39.7%	$23,597	$34,135	44.7%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 SF 1 and 2000 SF 3.

Commuting Patterns

Table E-3. Commuting Patterns: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama									
Geographic Area	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change
Working in Place of Residence	765	528	-31.0%	13,592	10,840	-20.2%	596,516	569,905	-4.5%
% of Total	27.9%	19.8%		45.4%	35.9%		53.2%	47.8%	
Working Outside Place of Residence	1,975	2,138	8.3%	16,365	19,351	18.2%	525,480	621,853	18.3%
% of Total	72.1%	80.2%		54.6%	64.1%		46.8%	52.2%	
Total Place	2,740	2,666	-2.7%	29,957	30,191	0.8%	1,121,996	1,191,758	6.2%
Working in County of Residence	2,362	2,130	-9.8%	32,370	32,082	-0.9%	1,363,133	1,421,356	4.3%
% of Total	88.4%	80.5%		81.5%	76.6%		81.5%	78.0%	
Working Outside County of Residence	311	516	65.9%	7,328	9,800	33.7%	310,438	400,437	29.0%
% of Total	11.6%	19.5%		18.5%	23.4%		18.5%	22.0%	
Total County	2,673	2,646	-1.0%	39,698	41,882	5.5%	1,673,571	1,821,793	8.9%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 STF 3.

Labor Force Participation and Unemployment

Table E-4. Labor Force Participation: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama									
Labor Classification	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change
Total Persons 16+	5,339	5,233	-2.0%	78,517	81,735	4.1%	3,103,529	3,450,542	11.2%
In Labor Force	3,007	2,862	-4.8%	44,211	46,225	4.6%	2,832,419	2,061,169	-27.2%
% in Labor Force	56.3%	54.7%	-2.8%	56.3%	56.6%	0.5%	91.3%	59.7%	-34.6%
Armed Forces	8	0	-100.0%	117	45	-61.5%	24,980	14,069	-43.7%
% in Armed Forces	0.3%	0.0%	-100.0%	0.3%	0.1%	-66.7%	0.9%	0.7%	-22.2%
Civilian Labor Force	2,999	2,862	-4.6%	44,094	46,180	4.7%	1,870,381	2,047,100	9.4%
Employed	2,763	2,733	-1.1%	40,902	43,426	6.2%	1,741,794	1,920,189	10.2%
Unemployed	236	129	-45.3%	3,192	2,754	-13.7%	128,587	126,911	-1.3%
% Unemployed	7.8%	2.5%	-67.9%	7.2%	3.4%	-52.8%	4.5%	3.7%	-17.8%
Not in Labor Force	2,332	2,371	1.7%	34,306	35,510	3.5%	1,208,168	1,389,373	15.0%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 STF 3.

Establishment and Employment by Industrial Sector

Table E-5. Establishment and Employment by Industry: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama, 2002						
Industry	Attalla		Etowah County		Alabama	
	Est.	Emp.	Est.	Emp.	Est.	Emp.
Mining	X	X	X	X	282	7,508
% of Total	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.5%
Utilities	X	X	X	X	503	16,014
% of Total	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	1.1%
Construction	X	X	X	X	9,345	98,555
% of Total	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.6%	6.6%
Manufacturing	Z	Z	138	6,504	5,119	284,127
% of Total	0.0%	0.0%	8.5%	24.1%	5.8%	19.0%
Wholesale Trade	17	445	119	1,333	5,747	74,915
% of Total	17.2%	38.9%	7.4%	4.9%	6.5%	5.0%
Retail Trade	37	358	454	4,581	19,608	222,416
% of Total	37.4%	31.3%	28.0%	16.9%	22.1%	14.9%
Trans/Comm.	3	X	36	452	4,731	91,960
% of Total	3.0%	0.0%	2.2%	1.7%	5.3%	6.2%
FIRE	6	22	75	350	9,971	95,551
% of Total	6.1%	1.9%	4.6%	1.3%	11.3%	6.4%
Services	36	320	797	13,807	33,257	600,844
% of Total	36.4%	27.9%	49.2%	51.1%	37.6%	40.3%
Totals	99	1,145	1,619	27,027	88,563	1,491,890

Source: U.S. Economic Census, 2002.

Occupational Status

Table E-6. Occupational Status: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama, 2000						
Occupation	Attalla	% of Total	Etowah County	% of Total	Alabama	% of Total
Management / Business	211	7.7%	3,655	8.4%	211,869	11.0%
Professional / Related	311	11.4%	7,312	16.8%	354,456	18.5%
Service	506	18.5%	5,969	13.7%	259,106	13.5%
Sales and Office	624	22.8%	11,138	25.6%	512,117	26.7%
Construction / Extraction	308	11.3%	5,290	12.2%	217,200	11.3%
Production / Transportation	773	28.3%	10,062	23.2%	365,441	19.0%
Total	2,733		43,426		1,920,189	

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 2000 STF 3.

Poverty Status

Table E-7. Poverty Status: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama									
Poverty Status by Age	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change
5 and under	131	161	22.9%	1,832	2,024	10.5%	87,462	82,914	-5.2%
% of Total	10.3%	13.3%		11.3%	12.7%		12.1%	11.9%	
6 to 17	212	213	0.5%	3,215	3,359	4.5%	166,174	154,967	-6.7%
% of Total	16.7%	17.6%		19.8%	21.1%		23.0%	22.2%	
18 to 64	663	623	-6.0%	8,030	8,388	4.5%	350,179	373,940	6.8%
% of Total	52.1%	51.5%		49.4%	52.6%		48.4%	53.6%	
65 and above	267	213	-20.2%	3,165	2,167	-31.5%	119,799	86,276	-28.0%
% of Total	21.0%	17.6%		19.5%	13.6%		16.6%	12.4%	
Total	1,273	1,210	-4.9%	16,242	15,938	-1.9%	723,614	698,097	-3.5%
% Below Poverty Level	19.0%	18.6%	-0.4%	16.5%	15.7%	-0.8%	18.3%	16.1%	-2.2%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 STF 3.

Public Assistance

Table E-8. Public Assistance Status: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama									
Status	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change
Public Assistance Income	356	71	-80.1%	3,468	944	-72.8%	130,616	38,964	-70.2%
% of Total	14.0%	2.7%		9.0%	2.3%		8.7%	2.2%	
No Public Assistance Income	2,183	2,593	18.8%	34,985	40,690	16.3%	1,375,393	1,698,421	23.5%
% of Total	86.0%	97.3%		91.0%	97.7%		91.3%	97.8%	
Totals	2,539	2,664	4.9%	38,453	41,634	8.3%	1,506,009	1,737,385	15.4%
% Below Poverty Level	19.0%	18.6%	-0.4%	16.5%	15.7%	-0.8%	18.3%	16.1%	-2.2%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 STF 3.

Appendix C: Detailed Housing Statistics

Housing Types

Table H-1. Housing Types: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama									
Housing Types	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change
Single-family	2,182	2,430	11.4%	32,378	34,855	7.7%	1,171,201	1,338,832	14.3%
% of Total	75.9%	81.6%		77.5%	75.8%		70.1%	68.2%	
Multi-family	320	341	6.6%	4,902	5,011	2.2%	266,351	300,569	12.8%
% of Total	11.1%	11.4%		11.7%	10.9%		15.9%	15.3%	
Mobile home	333	208	-37.5%	4,166	6,056	45.4%	217,784	319,212	46.6%
% of Total	11.6%	7.0%		10.0%	13.2%		13.0%	16.3%	
Other	39	0	-100.0%	341	37	-89.1%	15,043	5,098	-66.1%
% of Total	1.4%	0.0%		0.8%	0.1%		0.9%	0.3%	
Total Units	2,874	2,979	3.7%	41,787	45,959	10.0%	1,670,379	1,963,711	17.6%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 STF 1.

Tenure and Occupancy Status

Table H-2. Tenure and Occupancy Status: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama									
Tenure & Occupancy	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change
Occupied	2,567	2,687	4.7%	38,675	41,615	7.6%	1,506,790	1,737,080	15.3%
% of Total	89.3%	90.2%		92.6%	90.5%		90.2%	88.5%	
Owner-occupied	1,768	1,733	-2.0%	28,612	30,957	8.2%	1,062,148	1,258,686	18.5%
% of Total	68.9%	64.5%		74.0%	74.4%		70.5%	72.5%	
Renter-occupied	799	954	19.4%	10,063	10,658	5.9%	444,642	478,394	7.6%
% of Total	31.1%	35.5%		26.0%	25.6%		29.5%	27.5%	
Vacant	307	292	-4.9%	3,112	4,344	39.6%	163,589	226,631	38.5%
% of Total	10.7%	9.8%		7.4%	9.5%		9.8%	11.5%	
Total Units	2,874	2,979	3.7%	41,787	45,959	10.0%	1,670,379	1,963,711	17.6%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 STF 1.

Vacancy Status

Table H-3. Vacant Housing Unit Status: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama									
Vacancy Status	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change
For rent, only	108	105	-2.8%	1,010	1,239	22.7%	45,871	64,037	39.6%
% of Total	35.2%	36.0%		32.5%	28.5%		28.0%	28.3%	
For sale, only	35	41	17.1%	414	781	88.6%	19,845	31,121	56.8%
% of Total	11.4%	14.0%		13.3%	18.0%		12.1%	13.7%	
Rented or sold	55	56	1.8%	463	655	41.5%	16,058	18,507	15.3%
% of Total	17.9%	19.2%		14.9%	15.1%		9.8%	8.2%	
Miscellaneous	11	14	27.3%	147	322	119.0%	35,904	54,593	52.1%
% of Total	3.6%	4.8%		4.7%	7.4%		21.9%	24.1%	
Other Vacant	98	76	-22.4%	1,078	1,347	25.0%	45,911	58,373	27.1%
% of Total	31.9%	26.0%		34.6%	31.0%		28.1%	25.8%	
Total Vacant	307	292	-4.9%	3,112	4,344	39.6%	163,589	226,631	38.5%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 STF 1.

Household Size

Table H-4. Household Size: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama									
Household Size	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change
1 Persons	637	812	27.5%	9,254	10,973	18.6%	354,918	453,927	27.9%
% of Total	25.1%	30.2%		24.1%	26.4%		23.6%	26.1%	
2 Persons	753	838	11.3%	12,573	14,577	15.9%	478,471	579,355	21.1%
% of Total	29.7%	31.2%		32.7%	35.0%		31.8%	33.4%	
3 Persons	500	445	-11.0%	7,351	7,546	2.7%	284,277	315,083	10.8%
% of Total	19.7%	16.6%		19.1%	18.1%		18.9%	18.1%	
4 Persons	432	357	-17.4%	6,082	5,552	-8.7%	237,174	245,005	3.3%
% of Total	17.0%	13.3%		15.8%	13.3%		15.7%	14.1%	
5 Persons or more	217	235	8.3%	3,193	2,967	-7.1%	151,169	143,710	-4.9%
% of Total	8.5%	8.7%		8.3%	7.1%		10.0%	8.3%	
Total Persons	2,539	2,687	5.8%	38,453	41,615	8.2%	1,506,009	1,737,080	15.3%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 STF 3.

Housing Stock Age

Table H-5. Housing Stock Age: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama						
Housing Stock	Attalla		Etowah County		Alabama	
	Number	%Change	Number	%Change	Number	%Change
1939 or earlier	292	NA	4,824	NA	139,227	NA
% of Total	9.8%		10.5%		7.1%	
1940 to 1959	1,043	257.2%	12,831	166.0%	341,735	145.5%
% of Total	35.0%		27.9%		17.4%	
1960 to 1979	1,001	-4.0%	15,364	19.7%	692,480	102.6%
% of Total	33.6%		33.4%		35.3%	
1980 to 1994	488	-51.2%	9,246	-39.8%	534,533	-22.8%
% of Total	16.4%		20.1%		27.2%	
1995 to 2000	155	-68.2%	3,694	-60.0%	255,736	-52.2%
% of Total	5.2%		8.0%		13.0%	
Total Units	2,979		45,959		1,963,711	
Median Year Structure Built	1963		1968		1975	

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 STF 3.

Physical Conditions

Table H-6. Physical Housing Conditions: Attalla, 2007								
Housing Conditions	Single Family		Multi-Family		Manufactured		Totals	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sound Condition	1,698	60.9%	73	66.4%	161	26.7%	1,932	55.2%
Deteriorating	1,000	35.9%	33	30.0%	397	65.9%	1,430	40.9%
Dilapidated	88	3.2%	4	3.6%	44	7.3%	136	3.9%
Total	2,786	100.0%	110	100.0%	602	100.0%	3,498	100.0%

Source: EARPDC Housing Inventory Study, 2007.

Selected Physical Conditions

Table H-7. Selected Housing Conditions: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama									
Housing Conditions	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change
Complete Kitchen Facilities	2,831	2,929	3.5%	41,519	45,410	9.4%	1,648,290	1,937,261	17.5%
% of Total	98.5%	98.3%		99.4%	98.8%		98.7%	98.7%	
Complete Plumbing Facilities	2,850	2,947	3.4%	41,471	45,573	9.9%	1,642,879	1,939,344	18.0%
% of Total	99.2%	98.9%		99.2%	99.2%		98.4%	98.8%	
Heating Facilities	2,567	2,687	4.7%	38,675	41,549	7.4%	1,506,790	1,732,744	15.0%
% of Total	89.3%	90.2%		92.6%	90.4%		90.2%	88.2%	
Total Units	2,874	2,979	3.7%	41,787	45,959	10.0%	1,670,379	1,963,711	17.6%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 STF 3

Housing Value

Table H-8. Housing Value of Owner-occupied Units: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama									
Housing Value	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change
Less Than $30,000	593	268	-54.8%	6,266	2,928	-53.3%	138,101	57,528	-58.3%
% of Total	39.3%	17.6%		28.8%	12.4%		18.1%	6.3%	
$30,000 to $49,999	577	467	-19.1%	6,869	4,745	-30.9%	214,835	118,659	-44.8%
% of Total	38.3%	30.7%		31.6%	20.1%		28.1%	12.9%	
$50,000 to $99,999	332	691	108.1%	7,407	9,649	30.3%	313,210	392,400	25.3%
% of Total	22.0%	45.4%		34.1%	40.8%		41.0%	42.7%	
$100,000 to $199,999	5	73	1360.0%	1,028	5,226	408.4%	82,341	264,879	221.7%
% of Total	0.3%	4.8%		4.7%	22.1%		10.8%	28.8%	
$200,000 and above	0	23	223.0%	150	1,089	626.0%	16,239	85,104	424.1%
% of Total	0.0%	1.5%		0.7%	4.6%		2.1%	9.3%	
Total Units	1,507	1,522	1.0%	21,720	23,637	8.8%	764,726	918,570	20.1%
Median Value	$33,800	$51,800	53.3%	$42,700	$71,200	66.7%	$53,700	$85,100	58.5%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 STF 3.

Housing Affordability

Table H-9. Housing Affordability: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama						
Ownership Status	Attalla		Etowah County		Alabama	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
Median Contract Rent	$165	$265	$186	$280	$229	$339
Median Gross Rent	$281	$405	$281	$395	$325	$447
Median Value Owner-Occupied Housing	$33,800	$48,700	$42,400	$66,500	$53,200	$76,700
% Units > $100,000	0.3%	6.1%	5.4%	24.9%	39.9%	33.3%
Total Housing Units	1,507	1,733	21,720	30,957	1,670,379	1,963,711

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 STF 3.

Affordability of Owner-occupied Housing

Table H-10. Selected Monthly Owner Costs As A Percentage of Household Income: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama									
Percent of Income	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change
Less than 20%	1,057	1,053	-0.4%	14,452	15,285	5.8%	482,702	556,093	15.2%
% of Total	70.1%	69.2%		66.5%	64.7%		63.1%	60.5%	
20 to 24%	153	79	-48.4%	2,376	2,396	0.8%	93,693	110,978	18.4%
% of Total	10.2%	5.2%		10.9%	10.1%		12.3%	12.1%	
25 to 29%	58	89	53.4%	1,511	1,453	-3.8%	56,044	67,849	21.1%
% of Total	3.8%	5.8%		7.0%	6.1%		7.3%	7.4%	
30 to 34%	65	46	-29.2%	837	990	18.3%	33,671	42,840	27.2%
% of Total	4.3%	3.0%		3.9%	4.2%		4.4%	4.7%	
35% or more	174	181	4.0%	2,341	3,151	34.6%	91,195	127,930	40.3%
% of Total	11.5%	11.9%		10.8%	13.3%		11.9%	13.9%	
Not computed	0	74	74.0%	203	362	78.3%	7,421	12,880	73.6%
Total Households	1,507	1,522	1.0%	21,720	23,637	8.8%	764,726	918,570	20.1%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 STF 3.

Affordability of Renter-occupied Housing

Table H-11. Gross Rent As A Percentage of Household Income: Attalla, Etowah County, Alabama									
Percent of Income	Attalla			Etowah County			Alabama		
	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change	1990	2000	%Change
Less than 20%	270	327	21.1%	3,485	3,852	10.5%	139,708	153,017	9.5%
% of Total	34.1%	34.7%		35.8%	36.9%		32.6%	32.6%	
20 to 24%	61	68	11.5%	1,016	937	-7.8%	52,569	51,356	-2.3%
% of Total	7.7%	7.2%		10.4%	9.0%		12.3%	10.9%	
25 to 29%	120	99	-17.5%	983	926	-5.8%	42,333	41,425	-2.1%
% of Total	15.2%	10.5%		10.1%	8.9%		9.9%	8.8%	
30 to 34%	11	73	563.6%	598	532	-11.0%	28,501	29,476	3.4%
% of Total	1.4%	7.7%		6.1%	5.1%		6.7%	6.3%	
35% or more	240	257	7.1%	2,516	2,610	3.7%	117,289	128,349	9.4%
% of Total	30.3%	27.3%		25.8%	25.0%		27.4%	27.4%	
Not computed	90	119	32.2%	1,147	1,574	37.2%	47,624	65,506	37.5%
Total	792	943	19.1%	9,745	10,431	7.0%	428,024	469,129	9.6%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 STF 3.

Appendix D: Detailed Community Facilities Statistics

Educational Facilities

Table CF-1. Educational Facilities: Attalla, 2008							
School	Teachers Available		# Students	# Classrooms	Programs		
	Full	Part			Band room	Gym	Library
Curtiston Primary School	25	1	262	16	0	1	1
Stowers Hill Intermediate School	19	3	275	17	0	1	1
Etowah Middle School	26	2	434	28	1	2	1
Etowah High School	46	2	687	45	1	3	1

Source: Community Facilities Survey, Attalla City Schools, 2008.

Housing Projects

Table CF-2. Housing Projects: Attalla, 2008			
Housing Projects	Year Constructed	# of Units	Year of Modernization
Hanby Manor	1952	64	On-going
Alford Court	1952	46	On-going

Source: Community Facilities Survey, Attalla Housing Authority, 2008.

Water Utilities

Table CF-3. Water Line Size and Distribution: Attalla, 2008		
Water Line Size (Inches Diameter)	Linear Distance (Feet)	Percent Distribution
2"	66,791	16.6%
3"	6,968	1.7%
4"	17,569	4.4%
6"	144,048	35.8%
8"	86,327	21.4%
10"	40,936	10.2%
12"	25,002	6.2%
16"	11,414	2.8%
20"	3,838	1.0%
Total	402,893	100.0%

Source: Community Facilities Survey, Attalla Water Board, 2008.

Sewer Utilities

Table CF-4. Attalla: Sewer Line Size and Distribution		
Sewer Line Size (Inches Diameter)	Linear Distance (Feet)	Percent Distribution
4" Force Main	1,284	0.4%
6"	1,168	0.4%
6" Force Main	3,920	1.2%
8"	127,402	39.9%
8" Or Less	46,115	14.5%
10"	20,604	6.5%
12"	16,647	5.2%
14" Main Force	6,645	2.1%
15"	17,224	5.4%
18"	7,851	2.5%
24"	7,831	2.5%
30"	18,764	5.9%
Size Unknown	43,463	13.6%
Total	318,918	100.0%

Source: EARPDC database, 2008.

Appendix E: Detailed Transportation Statistics

Traffic Volumes

Table T-1. Traffic Volumes, Interstate Hwy. 59: City of Attalla

Location of Traffic Count	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006	# Change	% Change	LOS
S. edge of city (901)	17,140	18,930	20,610	21,070	22,050	22,050	4,910	28.6%	A
Intersection AL Hwy. 77 (902)	17,140	18,930	20,610	21,070	22,050	22,050	4,910	28.6%	A
Intersection I-759 (123)	22,600	24,190	26,000	26,730	27,760	29,670	7,070	31.3%	A
S. of US Hwy. 278 (124A)	20,860	22,300	22,700	23,320	24,260	24,600	3,740	17.9%	A
N. edge of city (124)	11,780	13,100	14,340	15,220	15,330	15,770	3,990	33.9%	A

Source: ALDOT website: Traffic Data, Statewide Traffic Volume Map

Table T-2. Traffic Volumes, AL Hwy. 77: City of Attalla

Location of Traffic Count	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006	# Change	% Change	LOS
N. of I-59 (96)	17,200	17,400	17,660	18,820	20,200	19,700	2,500	14.5%	F
S. of US Hwy. 11 (94)	14,380	14,990	14,680	15,370	16,450	16,670	2,290	15.9%	D
N. of US Hwy. 11 (93)	10,310	10,400	10,700	11,500	12,430	11,780	1,470	14.3%	C
BTW. Clanton str. & 9th str. (93)	10,310	10,400	10,700	11,500	12,430	13,250	2,940	28.5%	B
S. of CR 35 at RR (91)	9,860	9,730	10,100	10,230	9,920	10,730	870	8.8%	A
BTW. US-431 & US-278 (90)	5,310	5,390	5,430	6,150	6,350	6,260	950	17.9%	A

Source: ALDOT website: Traffic Data, Statewide Traffic Volume Map

Table T-3. Traffic Volumes: U.S. Hwy. 431: City of Attalla

Location of Traffic Count	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006	# Change	% Change	LOS
Intersection I-59 (55)	10,650	9,530	9,860	9,470	9,210	9,640	-1,010	-9.5%	A
BTW. US-11 & 4th str. (53)	23,420	24,390	25,580	22,570	21,530	22,500	-920	-3.9%	C
Intersection US Hwy. 11 (903)	16,400	15,960	16,740	15,160	15,860	16,580	180	1.1%	B
BTW. Walker str. & St. Clair (51)	17,480	17,360	18,980	16,680	18,140	16,620	-860	-4.9%	B
S. of AL Hwy. 77	17,540	17,920	16,930	16,300	16,730	16,200	-1340	-7.6%	A
N. of US Hwy. 278 (904)	11,280	11,740	10,920	11,010	11,020	11,520	240	2.1%	A

Source: ALDOT website: Traffic Data, Statewide Traffic Volume Map

Table T-4. Traffic Volumes: U.S. Hwy. 11: City of Attalla

Location of Traffic Count	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006	# Change	% Change	LOS
S. of Cullman str. (24)	3,440	3,310	3,260	3,010	3,620	3,430	-10	-0.3%	A
Near Big Wills Creek (26)	7,720	7,740	7,180	7,030	7,570	6,880	-840	-10.9%	A
N. edge of city (905)	2,190	2,300	2,050	2,400	2,260	2,400	210	9.6%	A

Source: ALDOT website: Traffic Data, Statewide Traffic Volume Map

Table T-5. Traffic Volumes: U.S. Hwy. 278: City of Attalla

Location of Traffic Count	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006	# Change	% Change	LOS
Intersection US Hwy 431 (909)	5,740	6,140	6,050	6,480	6,530	6,390	650	11.3%	A
E. of Littleton cut-off (44)	7,900	8,370	8,200	8,580	8,590	8,120	220	2.8%	A
NW. edge of city (908)	7,730	8,080	8,000	8,170	8,180	8,630	900	11.6%	A

Source: ALDOT website: Traffic Data, Statewide Traffic Volume Map.

Traffic Projections

Table T-6.Traffic Projections: City of Attalla, 1996-2016

Roadway	Location of Traffic Count	1996	2006	2016	LOS
I-59	S. edge of city (901)	17,140	22,050	26,960	A
	Intersection AL Hwy. 77 (902)	17,140	22,050	26,960	A
	Intersection I-759 (123)	22,600	29,670	36,740	A
	S. of US Hwy. 278 (124A)	20,860	24,600	28,340	A
	N. edge of city (124)	11,780	15,770	19,760	A
AL Hwy. 77	N. of I-59 (96)	17,200	19,700	22,200	F
	S. of US Hwy. 11 (94)	14,380	16,670	18,960	F
	N. of US Hwy. 11 (93)	10,310	11,780	13,250	C
	BTW. Clanton str. & 9th str. (93)	10,310	13,250	16,190	C
	S. of CR 35 at RR (91)	9,860	10,730	11,600	A
	BTW. US-431 & US-278 (90)	5,310	6,260	7,210	A
U.S. Hwy. 431	Intersection I-59 (55)	10,650	9,640	8,630	A
	BTW. US-11 & 4th str. (53)	23,420	22,500	21,580	C
	Intersection US Hwy. 11 (903)	16,400	16,580	16,760	B
	BTW. Walker str. & St. Clair (51)	17,480	16,620	15,760	B
	S. of AL Hwy. 77 (50)	17,540	16,200	14,860	A
	N. of US Hwy. 278 (904)	11,280	11,520	11,760	A
AL Hwy. 11	S. of Cullman str. (24)	3,440	3,430	3,420	A
	Near Big Wills Creek (26)	7,720	6,880	6,040	A
	N. edge of city (905)	2,190	2,400	2,610	A
U.S. Hwy. 278	Intersection US Hwy 431 (909)	5,740	6,390	7,040	A
	E. of Littleton cut-off (44)	7,900	8,120	8,340	A
	NW. edge of city (908)	7,730	8,630	9,530	A

Source: ALDOT website: Traffic Data, Statewide Traffic Volume Map.

Appendix F: Detailed Land Use Statistics

Existing Land Use

Table LU-1. Existing Land Use Acreage: City of Attalla, 2008			
Land Use Category	**Acres in City**	**% of Total Land Area**	**% of Developed Land Area**
Agricultural	230.2	6.2%	10.7%
Commercial	282.4	7.6%	13.1%
Industrial	186.4	5.0%	8.6%
Single-Family Residential	1,185.7	32.0%	55.0%
Multi-Family Residential	50.3	1.4%	2.3%
Park and Recreation	65.4	1.8%	3.0%
Public	156.7	4.2%	7.3%
Undeveloped	1,546.2	41.8%	N/A
Total Land Area	3,703.3	N/A	N/A
Total Developed Land	2,156.3	58.2%	N/A

Source: EARPDC database, 2008.

Zoning Patterns

Table LU-2. Zoning Acreage: City of Attalla, 2008					
Zoning	District Classification	Acres Zoned	% of Total	Acres Zoned	% of Total
B-1	Neighborhood Business	42.4	0.9%	944.6	21.0%
B-2	Central Business	94.9	2.1%		
H-C	Highway Commercial	620.7	13.8%		
RSC	Regional Shopping Center	186.6	4.2%		
M-1	Light Manufacturing	359.4	8.0%	914.0	20.3%
M-2	General Manufacturing	554.6	12.3%		
R-1	Single Family Residential	1,245.8	27.7%	2,632.1	58.5%
R-2	Two Family Residential	391.4	8.7%		
R-3	Multi-Family Residential	298.6	6.6%		
R-4	Manufactured Home	696.3	15.5%		
Total		4,490.7	100.0%	4,490.7	100.0%

Source: EARPDC database, 2008.

Appendix G: Implementation Schedule

Implementation Schedule

Table I-1. Implementation Schedule: City of Attalla, 2008-2015			
Timeframe	Work Activity/Project	Implementing Agency	Potential Partners/ Funding Sources
2010-Cont.	Hire or Contract a Full or Part Time Grant Writer	City of Attalla	EARPDC/RAI/ALM
2010-2012	Create and Implement Housing Improvement Plan	City of Attalla	EARPDC/USDA/ ADECA/ALM
2010-2012	Create and Implement Downtown Improvement Plan	City of Attalla	EARPDC/USDA/ ADECA/ALM
2008-2010	Relocate Stowers Hill Intermediate School to Curtiston Elementary School	Attalla School Board	RAI
2011-2012.	Relocate City Hall to vacant 4th Street Elementary School	City of Attalla	RAI/ALM
2009-Cont.	Staff Fire Station No. 3	City of Attalla	FEMA
2015-Cont.	Inventory and Update City Sewer Lines	City of Attalla	EDA/USDA/ADEM/ GEMPO/ALM

Source: Goals and Objectives Chapter of Attalla Comprehensive Plan, 2008.

Appendix H: Resolutions

City of Attalla

612 FOURTH STREET NW
ATTALLA, AL 35954
PHONE 256-538-9966
FAX 256-538-9988

RESOLUTION 103(08)

A RESOLUTION BY THE ATTALLA PLANNING COMMISSION ADOPTING THE 2008 CITY OF ATTALLA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE OR SAID PLAN, AND FORWARDING SAID PLAN TO THE CITY COUNCIL FOR ITS CONSIDERATION AS AN ADVISORY POLICY DOCUMENT.

WHEREAS, Title 11, Chapter 52, Section 8 of the Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended, authorizes the Planning Commission to make and adopt a master plan for the physical development of the municipality, including any areas outside of its boundaries which, in the Planning Commission's judgment, bear relation to the planning of the municipality and, from time to time, to amend, extend or add to the plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Attalla recognizes the vulnerability of its resources, property and operation to the potential impacts of future growth and development and, therefore, desires to exercise its planning powers in accordance with Alabama law; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission conducted a public hearing on August 18, 2008 to solicit final public comments on the 2008 City of Attalla Comprehensive Plan in accordance with Title 11, Chapter 52, Section 10 of the Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ATTALLA, ALABAMA.

SECTION 1. That the 2008 City of Attalla Comprehensive Plan, and all maps contained therein, is hereby adopted in accordance with the authority granted to the Planning Commission by Title 11, Chapter 52, Section 8 of the Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended.

SECTION 2. That the aforementioned plan shall become effective upon the date of approval by the Planning Commission.

SECTION 3. That an attested copy of the aforementioned plan shall be certified to the Attalla City Council of and to the Etowah County Probate Judge.

SECTION 4. That Planning Commission requests that the Attalla City Council consider approving the aforementioned plan, by resolution, as an advisory policy document.

ADOPTED, this 18th day of August, 2008.

ATTEST:

Sharon Jones
Secretary, Attalla Planning Commission

Chair, Attalla Planning Commission

City of Attalla

RESOLUTION NO. 5140(08)

A RESOLUTION BY THE ATTALLA CITY COUNCIL, OF THE CITY OF ATTALLA, APPROVING THE 2008 CITY OF ATTALLA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AS AN ADVISORY POLICY DOCUMENT.

WHEREAS, Title 11, Chapter 52, Section 8 of the Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended, authorizes the Planning Commission to made and adopt a master plan for the physical development of the municipality, including any areas outside of its boundaries which, in the Planning Commission's judgment, bear relation to the planning of the municipality and, from time to time, amend, extend or add to the plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Attalla, Alabama recognizes the vulnerability of its resources, property and operation to the potential impacts of future growth and development and, therefore, desires to exercise its planning powers in accordance with Alabama law; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission conducted a public hearing on August 18, 2008, to solicit final public comments on the2008 City of Attalla Comprehensive Plan in accordance with Title 11, Chapter 52, Section 10 of the Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended, and subsequent adopted a resolution adopting the aforementioned plan, providing an effective date thereof, and forwarding the plan to the City Council for its consideration as an advisory policy document.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATTALLA, ALABAMA that the 2008 City of Attalla Comprehensive Plan, and all maps contained therein, are hereby approved as an advisory document to guide the City in policy formulation and implementation.

ADOPTED, this the 8th day of October, 2008.

Charles O'Rear, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sharon Jones, City Clerk