

**OUTLINE FOR UPDATING THE
REGIONAL CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT PLAN
January, 2006**

PLANNING PROCESS:

- I. **Develop a questionnaire to assist in identifying issues of regional concern.** Staff will work with a COG/RPC Steering Committee to identify a series of issues which will help guide regional development in the coming decade. The questionnaire will be given to members and alternates of the planning & zoning commissions, Chief Elected Officials, Town Managers, and Town Planners in all SCCOG municipalities.

- II. **Background information.** Council staff will gather and analyze data relevant to defining issues and identifying current conditions significant to the design of the plan. Anticipated subjects for study include the following:
 - A. Natural resources.
 - B. Coastal resources and management.
 - C. Population characteristics and trends.
 - D. Economic trends with regard to income and employment.
 - E. Existing land uses and their trends over time.
 - 1) Land use maps to towns for review & comment.
 - F. Housing characteristics, trends, and needs.
 - G. Transportation systems.
 - H. Utilities.
 - I. Solid waste disposal.
 - J. State and SCCOG municipal Plans of Conservation & Development.
 - K. Regional questionnaire summary.

- III. **Design of the Plan.**
 - A. Content of the Plan. It is expected that the Plan will include the following functional areas:
 1. Analysis: Presentation of existing conditions and trends influencing the development pattern within the region. This analysis will note any inconsistencies with the six growth management principles of P.A. 05-205.
 2. Goals and objectives to guide the Region's future development policies and regulations. This component will identify the responsible implementation body and appropriate action step to reach a specific goal.
 3. Strategies: This component will define the overall land use pattern desired by the Region to provide a basis for land use policies. This will include recommendations for the general use of the region including land use and reuse, housing, principal highways, bridges, airports, parks, public institutions, public utilities and where appropriate the promotion of transit accessible & pedestrian-oriented mixed use development patterns in addition to such other matters identified during the data gathering process.

IV. Process for preparing the Plan.

- A. Gather background information, analyze and review with the Steering Committee.
- B. Prepare, review and evaluate a first draft of the Plan.
- C. As necessary after Steering Committee review and discussion revise the first draft and prepare a final draft that would be the subject of a public hearing. Final draft will be posted on the internet website at least 65 days prior to the public hearing and be submitted to OPM for comments and recommendations.
- D. As necessary, following the public hearing and OPM review, revise the draft Plan for adoption by the Steering Committee and full COG.

V. Public participation. This is an important element of the process to update the Plan. Immediately following the compilation of the issue survey, a public meeting will be held to review the results. Additionally, after the final draft is completed, the Steering Committee will hold a formal public hearing to present the Plan to the region's citizens and receive further comment prior to any action to adopt such draft. In the interim, periodical updates on the plan will be provided.

POTENTIAL PLAN FORMAT:

The Plan will include computer graphics, mapping and photo imagery. The final product will be a summary of the various components reflected in the background information section.

Introduction - Contains a short overview of the region and summary of the identified issues of regional concern. Utilize summary graphs and photographs of region.

Conditions & Trends - This section will be a summary of findings regarding land use & reuse, population, income, housing and economic indicators. Utilize graphs and photographs.

Important Resources - This section will summarize natural resource data including historic preservation, water quality, and open space. Emphases on mapping and graphs.

Economic Development - This section will present an overview of the region's economy, highlighting opportunities and areas of concern. Utilize graphs and mapping.

Transportation - Existing transportation network, needed improvements, transit, pedestrian and bicycle transportation. Utilize mapping.

Infrastructure - Existing public water and sewer systems and service areas, upgrades needed. Utilize mapping.

Regional Plan of Conservation & Development - The Plan could consist of a series of maps and text addressing land use & reuse, conservation, transportation, and economic development (as examples) rather than one cluttered Plan map. Major mapping component.

Implementation - List local, regional, state or federal tools and responsibilities for actions to obtain Plan goals.

Conclusion - General summary.