

# Sumter City-County Planning Commission

September 28, 2011

## MA-11-01, Sumter 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update—Population and Housing (City/County)

### I. THE REQUEST

**Applicant:** Sumter City-County Planning Commission

**Request:** To update the Sumter City-County Comprehensive Plan to incorporate 2010 Census population figures and 2009 American Community survey housing, income, and education figures.

### II. BACKGROUND

A Comprehensive Plan is mandated under South Carolina State Law: the Planning Enabling Legislation found in Chapter 29 of the South Carolina Code of Law. By law, Sumter must update its comprehensive plan every 10 years. After an 18 month process, the final version of Sumter's 2030 Comprehensive Plan was adopted by the City on November 17, 2009 and by the County on December 8, 2009.

The last time official population, housing and education data were released by the U.S. Census Department was in the spring and summer of 2001. Over eight years elapsed between the last official Census count and the time when the comprehensive plan was assembled. Much of the information used in the writing of the 2030 Plan was based on official 2000 census totals as well as estimated or projected values for dates past 2000.

In 2010, the US Census Bureau completed the Decennial Census and in early 2011 population figures were released for each census block group in Sumter. Historically, in addition to population totals the Decennial Census also collected information about income, housing, education as well as a number of other demographic features. However, ten years is far too long for this type of information to become available to planners and developers alike. So now in addition to the Decennial Census, which is conducted every ten years, the U.S. Census Bureau also administers the American Community Survey (ACS) each year to gather information on age, race, income and benefits, education, and where you work and how you get there as well as a number of other features.

In order to provide an accurate picture of the community we live in, it is necessary to update the Comprehensive Plan using the most current information available. In some cases, this means using the data collected by the Decennial Census, other times the American Community Survey data is more applicable. Since the official releases from the two surveys occurred during the

same time period, it makes sense to incorporate the data from each to replace those estimated or projected values used in the population and housing section with the actual collected totals.

Please note that no new policies are recommended upon reflection of the new data. This slower rate of growth from 2000-2010 was anticipated and incorporated into the 2030 Plan adopted in 2009.

### **III. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends approval of the revised Population and Housing Chapters, dated September 2011.

### **IV. PLANNING COMMISSION – SEPTEMBER 28, 2011**

The Sumter City-County Planning Commission at its meeting on Wednesday, September 28, 2011, voted to recommend approval for this request.

### **V. COUNTY COUNCIL – OCTOBER 25, 2011 – FIRST READING**

### **VI. CITY COUNCIL – NOVEMBER 1, 2011 – FIRST READING/PUBLIC HEARING**