

Population Element

On February 5, 2009 the Planning Department held a stakeholder's meeting to discuss to elements of the comprehensive plan. At the meeting we covered some of the trends in population growth:

- Census estimates show Oconee County's population has increased approximately 7% since 2000
- According to the South Carolina Office of Research and Statistics the population is expected to increase to roughly 83,020 by the year 2020 and to 91,860 by the year 2030.
- Oconee County has on average the oldest population in the state with a median age of 41.2 (Pickens' median age is 34.5; Anderson's median age is 38.2)
- The population density in 2000 was 99 persons per square mile. The 2007 census estimates show an increase in density to 105 persons per square mile.
- The state average for travel time to work is 23.3 minutes. Oconee County's average travel time is very close to that average at 23.4 minutes.
- Oconee County's median household income has also risen from \$37,743 to \$ 42,279

The following comments/issues came out of stakeholder discussion:

1. Prioritize the upgrade of libraries, and coordinate their location with available infrastructure and the location of schools
2. Examine changes in sewage capacity and how that might influence population growth
3. Insure that new sewage plants and lines are installed to meet the goals and needs of all of Oconee County
4. Look at ways to designate sewer capacity so that capacity will be available for a variety of uses
5. Continue to review land use regulations as population density increases
6. Encourage and promote County wide water conservation- by individuals, public entities, and golf courses
7. Encourage cluster housing through green space requirements
8. Study the possibility of establishing a County land conservation bank
9. Consider creating a shuttle bus system other than CAT to serve the Seneca, Westminster, and Walhalla areas