Saluda County Comprehensive Plan
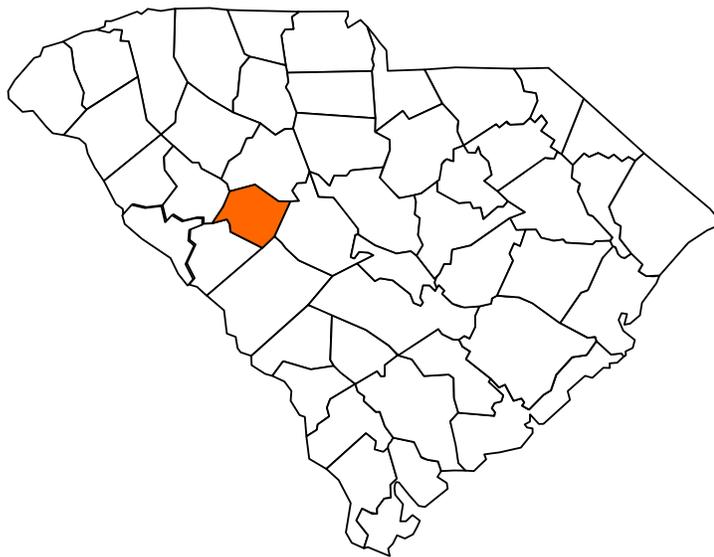
October 2016

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide a strategic vision for the development of Saluda County for a planning horizon of five to ten years. This plan attempts to identify and address not only contemporary issues of concern, but also the emerging issues that will be important in the future.

The ultimate goal is to assist the leadership, citizens, and outside entities in planning for the future by implementing goals and objectives that raise productivity and per capita income, generate employment opportunities, and increase the size of the local tax base.

The report consists of ten chapters, including this introductory chapter. Other chapters address population, economic development, natural resources, cultural resources, community facilities, housing, land use, transportation, and priority investment. Each chapter includes an inventory of existing conditions, a statement of needs and goals, and implementation strategies with time frames for action.

Chapter 2: Population Element

Inventory of Existing Conditions

Overview

A. Population

Saluda County experienced slow, below average growth between 2000 and 2010. While population in Saluda County grew from 1990 to 2000 by 17.3, it grew at the much slower rate of 3.6% between 2000 and 2010 (markedly lower than both the U.S. and South Carolina averages).   See population map below:

Percentage change in population by county, 2000-2010
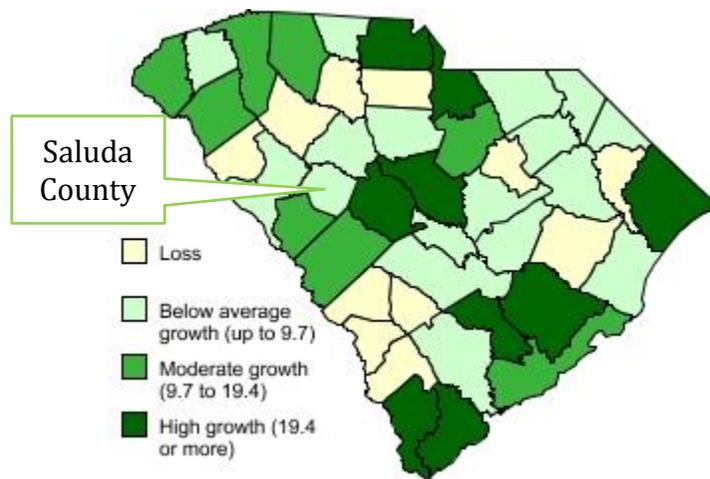
Source: Clemson University Study: Saluda County: An Agribusiness Strategic Plan, Dated November 2012.

Several neighboring counties experienced a similar pattern with limited or no growth. However, Aiken, Edgefield, and Lexington counties all grew because of their proximity to metropolitan centers.

The specific population breakdown for the county is shown below:

Year	Population	Change	Percent Change
1990	16,357	-----	-----
2000	19,181	2,824	17.3%
2010	19,875	694	3.6%
2012 (est.)	19,940	65	0.3%
2015 (est.)	20,053	113	0.6%

The breakdown by ethnicity is shown below:

	Population	Percent
Caucasian (alone)	11,548	58.1 %
African-American (alone)	5,196	26.1 %
Hispanic (any race)	2,857	14.4 %
Other (includes mixed race)	274	1.4 %

A breakdown by age is shown below:

Age:	2000	2010
Less than 5	1,251	1,365
5 – 19	4,115	3,775
20 – 64	11,037	12,607
65 +	2,778	2,128
Male	9,658	9,989
Female	9,523	9,986

Median age: 40.4

Source: U.S. Census 2010

The 60 to 64 age group is the part of the workforce that will be retiring in the next five years and the younger age groups will be their replacements. While the current workforce is sufficient, the size of the available workforce for the Saluda County may decline over the next five years. The growth in age groups from 2000 to 2010 is shown in above. In 2000, Saluda County had a noticeably higher percentage in the younger age groups relative to 2010 and a considerably smaller proportion in the higher age groups. Therefore, not only does Saluda County currently have a higher proportion of an older workforce relative to the region, state, and nation, the trend is for the workforce to continue to be older.

Projected population in five year increments as estimated by the South Carolina Budget and Control Board is shown below: Source U.S. Census 2010

Year	Population
2015	20,000
2020	20,200
2025	20,300
2030	20,400

B. Education

*Vision Statement: The vision of Saluda County Schools is to become an exemplary district in which every student graduates equipped to succeed in work and life in a globally competitive world***.**

Saluda County Schools is a small, rural district that serves approximately 2,200 students in five schools and one alternative school. The district is governed by a seven member board of trustees. Student enrollment includes 27% African American, 39% Caucasian, 31% Hispanic, and 2% Mixed or Other Race. Fifty-six percent of teachers have advanced degrees; and, average teacher retention rate is 86%.

Saluda students consistently score well on state-level assessments. Schools have been the recipients of the Palmetto Gold Award for student achievement numerous times. These impressive achievements have transferred to students earning post-secondary scholarships. For instance, the class of 2014 amassed over $4 million dollars in scholarships, which set a new record for the district. In addition, 75 of the 130 graduates were eligible for a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship. The on-time graduation rate for the district was 85% in 2014, compared to similar districts whose rate was 80%.

Saluda County Schools has boldly envisioned an ideal learning environment focused on 21st century skills and preparing students for college and/or career. A multi-year, professional development effort centering on curriculum, instruction and assessment is the driving force credited with academic accomplishments. Faculty are engaged in professional learning communities that address topics such as writing across the curriculum, balanced literacy, problem solving, academic feedback, student engagement, and assessment (formative, summative, and performance assessments). Saluda County Schools was the only district in the state to make AYP in the 2010-2011 school year, as defined by No Child Left Behind. The latest State Report Card for the district (2014), indicated the Absolute Rating was Excellent; and, the Growth Rating was rated as Good.

The district is implementing TAP, The System for Teacher and Student Advancement, which is funded by the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching. As a TAP district, Saluda provides a comprehensive educator effectiveness model that provides powerful opportunities for career

advancement, professional growth, instructionally focused accountability and competitive compensation for educators. Through its implementation of educator support, feedback and collegiality in a positive school climate, teachers are improving their instruction and the achievement of their students.

The District offers a comprehensive instructional program. Our English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program serves about 350 English Language Learners and focuses on providing interventions. The Gifted Program serves about 191 students and includes curriculum involving topics such as robotics, coding, crime scene investigations, physics, engineering, and research.

Saluda High School was excited to begin offering Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Computer Science and Software Engineering courses. The primary goal of PLTW's computer science courses is to build student interest and engagement in computer science and prepare more students for great career opportunities that require computational thinking. PLTW Launch and Gateway courses are also implemented at Saluda Elementary and Saluda Middle School.

Saluda County Schools takes advantage of the middle college concept which is a national educational model that allows high school students to take dual credit courses on a college campus and earn both high school and college credit while completing their high school career. Saluda High School students can enroll in college courses through Piedmont Technical College and can earn up to 48 college credit hours by the time they receive their high school diplomas.

LEAD21 is a project-based learning course comprised of Foundations of Design and Creative Inquiry. Through project-based learning, students will understand how to use the framework of initiating, planning, executing, monitoring and controlling, and closing a project in authentic situations. Along the way, students achieve academic standards while developing creative, collaborative, problem solving and leadership skills. This course will introduce students to problems that spring from their own curiosity, from a teacher's challenge, or from the pressing needs of the world around them. Team-based investigations are carefully facilitated, and students will be challenged to take ownership of their projects and take the risks necessary to solve problems and get answers.

The district and its five schools are accredited through the S.C. Department of Education and have earned additional accreditation and recognition for meeting high standards for a quality school system from Advanc ED (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools). In addition, the district adult education program was instrumental in Saluda becoming the fourth county in the state to be declared a Certified SC Work Ready Community.

Chapter 3: Economic Development Element

Overview

The purpose of this element is to document current economic conditions and to predict future economic trends. Historically, Saluda County has had a lower unemployment rate than South Carolina as a whole. The unemployment rate in recent years has out preformed the national level. See graph below. The per capita income for Saluda County is $36,600 as reported by the South Carolina Association of Counties, ranking Saluda County as eighth out of the 46 counties. Further, since 2002, per capita income in Saluda County has grown by 48%, versus increases of 27% nationally and 25% for the state. The per capita income is 82% of the national average, up from 63% in 1969. These two metrics, unemployment rate and per capita income, place Saluda County as a Tier 1 county for economic development defining Saluda County as a "developed" county along with Lexington, Charleston, Aiken, Greenville, Richland, and others. Although the unemployment rate and per capita income is impressive compared to some other counties, Saluda County can hardly be considered economically developed. The mill value of the county is approximately $53,600. Approximately 50% of county residents commute outside the county for some of the higher paying jobs. The per capita income of citizens employed inside the county is $27,475 the lowest in the state and 55% of the national average.
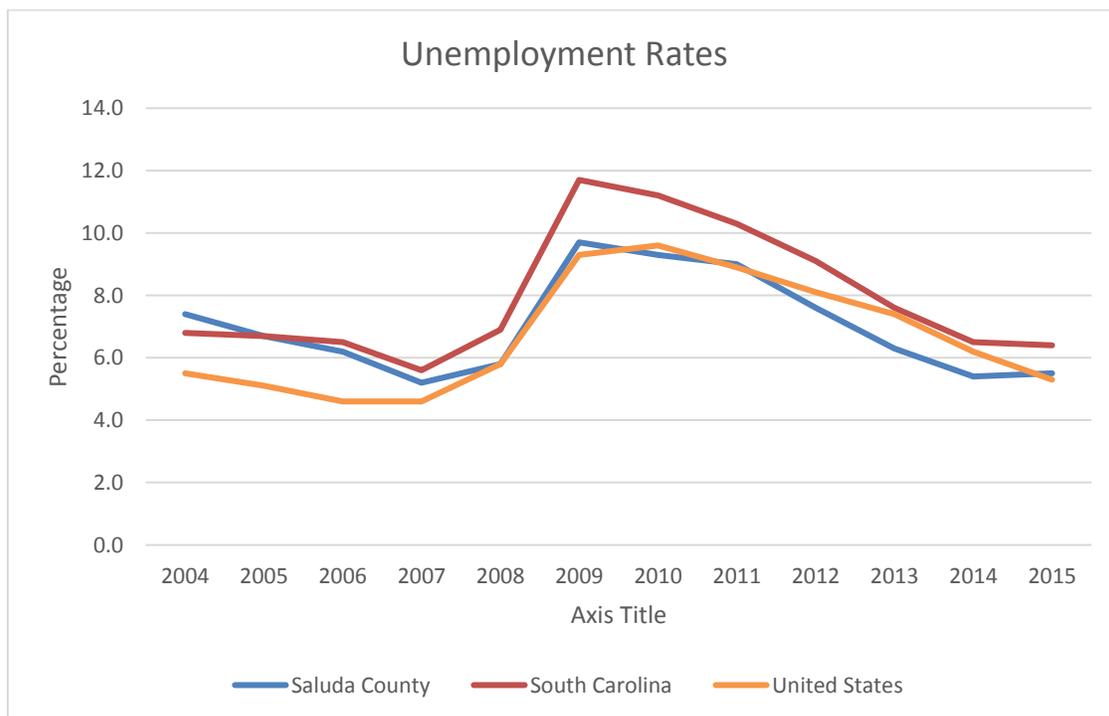
Source: Department of Employment and Work Force – Labor Market Information – Saluda County Profile – Updated May 15, 2014

Statistical Breakdown

1. Labor Force: The Saluda County labor force numbers approximately 8000. The chart below gives a breakdown by category. Although there has been modest growth in most areas, a significant loss of jobs in the manufacturing area is apparent. This is due primarily to jobs lost in the textile industry.

2. Employees by Industry:

Category	2000		2010	
	# Jobs	Percent	# Jobs	Percent
Agricultural/Fishing/Mining	426	5%	562	7%
Construction	744	8%	859	11%
Manufacturing	2618	31%	1369	18%
Transportation/Utilities	472	6%	547	7%
Information	122	1%	134	2%
Wholesale Trade	252	3%	287	4%
Retail Trade	918	11%	829	11%
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	338	4%	403	5%
Education/Health/Social Services	1236	15%	1445	19%
Entertainment/Recreational	375	4%	370	5%
Professional Services	397	5%	371	5%
Public Administration	491	6%	361	5%

Source: 2010 US Census

3. Major Employers: (Source: Saluda County Chamber of Commerce)

Major employees are shown below. Agribusiness remains strong with poultry processing and peach production leading the way.

Employer	Category	Employees
Amick Farms	Poultry	2,100
Titan Farms	Peaches	450
Saluda County Schools	Education	330
Saluda Nursing Center	Health Care	205
Saluda County Government	Government	152
Gentry Poultry	Poultry	150
Valley Proteins	Rendering	65
Town of Saluda	Government	45

According to the 2010 US Census, the poverty rate in Saluda County is 18.1% compared to 17.6% and 14.9% for the state and nation respectively.

Economic Development Organization

In order to address issues that are of concern to Saluda County, a strong, aggressive approach to economic development must be initiated and sustained.

1. Economic Development Director: The Economic Development Director is employed in a part-time position. Currently, the Economic Development Director works 60 hours per month. He is the primary contact for outside agencies on issues impacting economic development for Saluda County. His duties include, but are not limited to:

- Respond to SC Department of Commerce on economic development issues.
- Develop and maintain relationships with outside agencies such as: SCE&G, Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, Aiken Electric Cooperative, Piedmont Technical College, Saluda County Schools, Upper Savannah Council of Government, and South Carolina Economic Development Association, among others.
- Assist in determining appropriate responses and incentives for potential prospects and monitor current projects.
- Review current infrastructure, conduct current available building and site inventory, and offer recommendations on increasing building and sites as appropriate.
- Update county officials in economic development issues as needed.
- Act as primary county interface with Saluda County Development Partnership (see following section) and Economic Development Partnership made up of Aiken, Edgefield, and Saluda Counties (see following section).

2. <u>Saluda County Development Partnership:</u> The Saluda County Development Partnership is a 501 C (6) organization currently made up of members from public and private sectors. Organizations providing board members include: Amick Farms, Titan Farms, SCE&G, Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, Aiken Electric Cooperative, Piedmont Technical College, Comporium, and Saluda County Council. Ex-Officio members include: Riverside CDC, Mayors of Saluda and Ridge Spring, Capital City Lake Murray Country Tourism Bureau, Saluda County Chamber of Commerce, Upper Savannah Council of Governments, Saluda County Economic Development, Saluda County Water and Sewer Authority, and Saluda County Schools. The role of the Saluda County Development Partnership is to promote the economic development interests of Saluda County and improve overall business conditions by creating employment and capital investments in Saluda County by:

- Control and develop real estate for industrial development.
- Create and distribute material marketing and promoting Saluda County.
- Support business retention and development in commercial, retail, and industrial sectors.
- Enhance agri-business through expansion of products through value added processes
- Coordinate with tourism agencies.
- Guide economic development efforts at local and regional levels.
- Respond to legislation at the local, state, and national levels that impact Saluda County.

3. <u>Economic Development Partnership (Aiken, Edgefield, and Saluda Counties)</u>
Saluda County became a member of the Economic Development Partnership on July 1, 2014 joining Aiken and Edgefield Counties. By joining such an organization, Saluda County increases its opportunities to attract new economic opportunities and provide opportunities for expansion of existing businesses. This partnership will provide tools, resources, and visibility that Saluda County cannot provide on its own.

The Economic Development Partnership, a non-profit private development corporation, was formed in 1984 by Aiken County Council at the request of local business leaders as the Economic Development Board of Aiken County. The community realized that growth would be hampered and that the area would fall behind other regions of South Carolina without a county-wide economic development force.

The Partnership was restructured in 1988 to serve Edgefield County and gained its present name of Economic Development Partnership, a move to increase the effectiveness of a professional economic development program for the region. The Partnership is unique among economic development organizations in that it receives funds from Aiken, Edgefield, and Saluda County governments as well as contributions from the private sector. The Partnership is governed by a Board of Directors with members from the public

sector (appointed by the County Councils) and from the private sector (elected by the public sector members).

The focus of the Economic Development Partnership is the marketing of Aiken, Edgefield, and Saluda Counties for capital investment and job creation, collection and distribution of demographic and economic data, maintaining an accurate inventory of available sites and buildings, community development assistance for infrastructure projects, and maintaining and fostering existing industry relations.

Chapter 4: Natural Resources Element

Inventory of Existing Conditions

Overview

According to the Comprehensive Planning Guide for Local Governments, the natural resources element should include information on climate, soil types and topography, water resources, flood plains and wetlands, agricultural and forest land, plant and animal habitats, or any other related data pertaining to natural resources of as area.

Natural Resource Analysis

1. Climate: Saluda County is classified as humid subtropical. The average temperature varies from the mid 40s in winter to the mid to upper 80s in summer. The average annual precipitation is approximately 44 to 52 inches.

2. Soils: Saluda County is characterized by very deep, generally well drained, and loamy or clayey soils.

3. Topography: Most of Saluda County is on the Piedmont Plateau, but a narrow strip along the southeastern and southern edges of the county is on the Coastal Plain. The relief ranges from nearly level to steep, but is mostly gently to strong sloping. The Piedmont Plateau bottoms are narrow and are nearly level to gently sloping. The maximum width of the flood plains along the largest streams is about one fourth of a mile. The highest elevation, about 550 feet, is in the extreme northwestern part of the county. The lowest elevation, about 300 feet, is in the northeastern part along the Saluda River.

4. Water Resources: Lake Murray and Saluda River - Saluda County is one of four counties that border a significant water recreation destination, that of Lake Murray. Boating, swimming, and fishing are very popular on the 50,000 acre lake which boasts about 600 miles of shoreline. *Boating Magazine,* according to the Capital City Lake Murray Country website, www.lakemurray.com, stated that Lake Murray is, "one of the top 10 places to live and boat." Known for world class bass fishing tournaments, Lake Murray has become a popular venue for professional tournaments. In addition to Lake Murray, the Saluda River flanks the northern border and runs through the northeastern region of Saluda County, spilling into the lake.   Saluda River, a main tributary of the Congaree River, is a popular attraction for locals who tube, canoe, and fish the river in the summer months. Both bodies of water are easily accessed by boat ramps and marinas.

5. Flood Plains: The US Army Corps of Engineers provides maps identifying floodplains and wetlands in Saluda County. All construction in the county must be in compliance with Chapter 12 of the Code of Ordinances of Saluda County. Wetlands are essential to the ecology in that they hold water, purify water, create habitat for many types of animals and insects, and act as flood buffers from surrounding properties.

6. <u>Forestry</u>: Saluda County is heavily forested. The county has 210,644 acres of timberland out of a total acreage of 279,341. The percentage of forested areas is 75.41%. (Source: SC Forestry Commission).

Chapter 5: Cultural Resources Element

Inventory of Current Conditions

Overview

The Cultural Resources element of the Comprehensive Plan should include a listing of historical buildings and structures, unique commercial or residential sites, unique natural or scenic resources, archeological sites, educational, religious, or entertainment areas or institutions and any other feature or facility relating to the cultural aspects of the community.

From historic sites to education to entertainment, Saluda County has varied and rich cultural resources. These resources will be listed with a brief description given.

A. Saluda County History

Saluda County was formed out of the northern and eastern portions of Edgefield County on September 14, 1895. It was named Saluda County two days later. The voters chose a site near Red Bank Baptist Church as the county seat. The town of Saluda was incorporated in 1897. The county's 2010 population was 19,875 and it encompasses 452 square miles.

The county consist of the municipalities of Saluda, Ridge Spring, and Ward. The towns of Batesburg-Leesville and Monetta straddle the Saluda-Lexington and Saluda-Aiken county lines respectively. Primary industries include poultry processing and farming. Major agricultural products include peaches, livestock, and timber. The Ridge area of Saluda County was settled in the mid-1770s. The town of Ridge Spring was incorporated December 23, 1882.

Saluda County historical figures include William Barret Travis and James Butler Bonham. Travis commanded the garrison at the Alamo. Both men died there in defense of Texas freedom. Another historical figure was Pierce Mason Butler. Butler was a veteran of the Seminole Indian War, President of the Bank of South Carolina, and Governor of South Carolina from 1836-1838. He was killed during the Mexican war while commanding the Palmetto Regiment during the Battle of Churubusco on August 20, 1847.

B. Historic Sites

The following is a list of historic sites as designated by the Saluda County Historical Society:

1. Saluda County Courthouse: Located on the town square and built in the classic American Classical style, the courthouse was dedicated in 1919. Monuments on the square celebrate Alamo heroes James Butler Bonham and William Barret Travis, South Carolina's Palmetto Regiment of the Mexican War and its commander Pierce Mason Butler, and the other sons of Saluda County who gave their lives from the Spanish-American war through the Vietnam War. A plaque commemorates the Saluda Olde Town Treaty by which Cherokee Chiefs signed over to Governor Glen what today is ten counties in upstate South Carolina. A large, colorful mural on Church Street also

depicts the day of this important event which opened the way for the settlement of the backcountry.

2. Red Bank Baptist Church: Located on East Church Street in Saluda, Red Bank Baptist Church was founded in 1784. It was first a log structure, then in 1856, a frame structure, and in 1911, the brick structure standing today.

3. The Travis Monument: The Travis Monument was dedicated on August 9, 1989. It is located between Saluda and Johnston on SC 121. It is dedicated to Lieutenant Colonel William Barret Travis who commanded the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas. Travis and James Butler Bonham were born just a few miles from each other. Their families were both members of Red Bank Baptist Church. Travis and Bonham both died in the Alamo fighting for Texas freedom.

4. Flat Grove: Flat Grove is the birthplace of Alamo hero James Butler Bonham. Bonham served with his childhood friend and Alamo commander, William Barret Travis. The house, built in the 1770s, is a two-story, dog-trot house built of hand-hewn logs sheathed with clapboard. It stands on Wightman Road just off US Highway 178. An 1820s log barn, a corn crib, and a restructured well house are also located on the site. Flat Grove is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

5. Saluda County Museum: Established in 1987, the Saluda County Museum houses Saluda County artifacts, memorabilia, and a genealogical research library. It houses two permanent exhibits. One tells the story of local African-American culture, and the other depicts the Alamo, and features Saluda County natives William Barret Travis and James Butler Bonham. A diorama of the Alamo mission depicts the scene on Sunday morning, March 6, 1836, as the Mexican Army overran the Alamo defenders.

6. Saluda Theater: The Saluda Theater, built in the Art Deco style in 1936, is one of the few such theaters remaining in the United States. It was a movie theater from 1936 until it closed in 1982. The Saluda County Historical Society began restoring the theater in the late 1980s. It is presently used as a civic auditorium and is home of the Saluda Players, a local performing arts troupe. Today audiences can experience a variety of cultural, educational, and historic events on its stage. It is noted for its history, ambiance, and superior acoustics. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

7. Marsh-Johnson House: The Marsh-Johnson House is an excellent example of a plantation plain house built between 1773 and 1815. The house symbolized the owner's prosperity and status in the South Carolina upcountry in the 18th and 19th centuries. It exhibits simple lines with exceptional workmanship and detail. In 1982, the Marsh-Johnson House was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

8. Thomas Green Clemson Monument: Located just inside Saluda's town limits on Highway 378, this marker on the plantation which Clemson University founder Thomas Green Clemson bought and lived on in the 1840s commemorates his contributions to South Carolina and the nation.

9. Pine Pleasant Baptist Church: Founded in 1831, Pine Pleasant Baptist Church has been a strong force in its community. The church cemetery dates back to 1836. Reverend Luther Rice, founder of George Washington University, is buried in this cemetery. Reverend Rice organized American Baptists to support foreign missions and education.

10. The Star Center and Ridge Hill Baptist Church: The Star Center was originally built in 1934 to replace the Rosenwald School built in 1924 for African-American students. The Faith Cabin Library still stands on the site. This library, built in 1934, was part of a program to give African-American students access during a time when they had few opportunities. It was the second such library in South Carolina. Ridge Hill Baptist Church was originally built in 1872.

11. Ridge Spring Cemetery: The cemetery, just east of the Ridge Spring town limits, is over 200 years old. The rocks of the wall, which encloses the oldest part, contain no mortar. The rocks were cut to fit with no mortar to hold them in place. South Carolina's noted portrait artist William B. Scarborough (1812-1871), is buried there.

12. Grave of Lucinda Horne: Located at Chestnut Hill Baptist Church on Highway #39 near Chappells is the grave of Civil War heroine Lucinda Horne who followed her husband and son to war. The letters CSA on her tombstone indicate that she was part of the Confederate Army.

13. Butler Family Cemetery: Located at Butler United Methodist Church on Butler Road off Highway 194, this burial plot includes the graves of William Butler, Captain in the American Revolution, U.S. Congressman, and Major General of the South Carolina Militia; U.S. Senator Andrew Pickens Butler; and Pierce Mason Butler, Governor of South Carolina and Commander of the Palmetto Regiment in the Mexican War.

C. Heritage Corridor

The South Carolina Heritage Corridor (SCHNC) Program is a federally designated National Heritage Area extending from Oconee County in the northwestern corner of the state through Anderson, Abbeville, Greenwood, Edgefield, McCormick, and Saluda on the way to Charleston. Saluda County is part of Region II, which also contains Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, and McCormick. SCNHC was designated by Congress in 1996 as part of the National Park Service. The SCNHC promotes and interprets history with emphasis in European settlement, African-American history, and agriculture.

The SCNHC webpage references the following sites in Saluda County: Historic Downtown Saluda, Ridge Spring Art Center, Watsonia, The Nut House, Spann United Methodist Church, and Main Street – Ridge Spring.

The Heritage Area Program is designed and strives to achieve the following five basic goals:

- *Economic Development* - Tourism would bring new employment opportunities and private investment to the region.
- *Preservation* - conserve landmark buildings, historic settings, and neighborhoods, and artifacts related to South Carolina history.

- *Conservation* - save South Carolina's natural resources, especially those of environmental or ecological value, while providing public access.
- *Recreation* - Rivers trails and canals can link the different amenities along the corridor and allow bicycling, boating, rafting, canoeing, and fishing.
- *Education* - Interpretive centers located along the corridor will serve as visitor welcome centers. Information, maps, pictorials will be available to ensure travelers receive a thorough introduction to the area.

Source: South Carolina National Heritage Corridor Website.

D. Public Education
Saluda County Schools (School District 1) serves approximately 2200 students throughout Saluda County. The following statements reflect its approach to education:

Vision: The vision of Saluda County Schools is to become an exemplary district in which every student graduates equipped to succeed in work and life in a globally competitive world.

Mission: Educate all students by providing a rigorous and relevant curriculum with supportive programs.

Belief Statements:

- All students can learn given appropriate learning opportunities.

- Parental involvement and support are essential to the learning process.

- Learning is a lifelong process that is essential for continuous growth and quality of life.

- High expectations for administrators, teachers, parents, and students promote academic growth and appropriate behavior.

- Education is the shared responsibility of home, school, and community.

- Students and staff learn and work best in a safe, orderly, and supportive environment.

- Students must have the responsibility to be active partners in the learning process.

- The needs of the students must be the primary factor in all decision making.

The breakdown of specific schools is shown below:

School	Student Population
Saluda Primary	464
Saluda Elementary	305
Hollywood Middle	398
Saluda Middle	476
Saluda High	570
Saluda Opportunity Academy	18

Source: Saluda County Schools Website

E. Private Schools

W. Wyman King Academy: Founded in 1972 to offer students in the county an alternative to public education. It offers a Christian environment where dedicated teachers maintain discipline in their classroom while treating children with respect and demanding respect in return. King Academy serves students from four-year-old kindergarten through 12th grade. Current enrollment is approximately 200. Over 90% of graduates continue their education after high school.

Source: W. Wyman King Academy Website

F. Saluda County Library:

The Saluda County Library was established to provide county residents in the pursuit of education, information, research, recreation, and culture. The Saluda County Library provides current bestsellers, a wide variety of fiction, non-fiction and reference materials. It also provides eight public-use Internet stations, one Children's learning computer, access to online databases, language learning software, large print books, DVDs, books on CD, downloadable eBooks and eAudiobooks, magazines, and newspaper subscriptions. The library also offers scanning, copying, printing, faxing, and laminating services. Wireless Internet Access is available and can be picked up inside and outside the building 24/7. The community uses the Saluda County Library computers to file taxes, take online tests, apply for jobs, type up resumes, get credit reports, complete school work from the elementary to the college level, research, shop, social media, to hone computer skills and many other online tasks. The Saluda County library offers an adult book club, preschool story time, summer reading program and events, and a Lego club. A monument to fallen service members of Iraq and Afghanistan is in front of the library.

Many of the same services are offered at the Saluda County Library satellite library in Ridge Spring. There are two patron computers available at the Ridge Spring Library as well as wireless Internet access. Story time for preschoolers is held every other Monday in Ridge Spring.

In FY 2014, the Saluda County library system had 27,618 visits. The 10 computers available to the public were used 15,190 times. There were 6,979 registered users. The library has 19,675 books, 584 books on CD, 670 DVDs and provides access to 69,655 eBook and eAudiobooks. They have subscriptions to 28 magazines and newspapers. 24,423 items were checked out. 98 children's programs were conducted with 1,204 total attendance. Of 15 adult programs, total attendance was 328.

Library Events, Programs and information can be found at www.youseemore.com/saluda

G. Higher Education:

Piedmont Technical College, located in Greenwood, was founded in 1966 and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. It is a comprehensive two-year college offering university-level education and hands-on career training.   Its institutional vision is to become a premier community college with a shared commitment to create vibrant learning communities through relentless pursuit of student success and economic prosperity for all stakeholders.

Piedmont Tech has a satellite campus in Saluda County. The campus is a state of the art facility where students may take part in credit or non-credit courses in a traditional classroom setting, via satellite, or two-way video. Associated degrees are available in the following subjects: Agriculture, Business, Administrative Office Technology, Associate in Arts, Associate in Science, Criminal Justice, Human Services, and General Curriculum Courses. The following Certificates are available: Accounting, Basic Diversified Agriculture, Entrepreneurship, Health Science Transfer, Microcomputer Software Specialist, and Office Technician. In addition, bridge programs are available to four-year colleges and universities.

Source: Piedmont Technical College Website

Other institutions of higher education are within driving distance of Saluda. These include:

College/University	Distance
University of South Carolina, Columbia	45 miles
University of South Carolina, Aiken	35 miles
Clemson University, Clemson	90 miles
Lander University, Greenwood	30 miles
Newberry College, Newberry	30 miles

H. Other Cultural Resources:
1. Art Center of Ridge Spring: The Art Center, located in an historic school building, includes 1,900 square foot gallery depicting art exhibits of local artists.   Exhibits include oils, watercolors, photography, mosaics, collage, gourd art, and pottery.

2. Saluda Players: A local performing art troupe performs plays using local actors. This group has performed plays such as "Our Town" and Driving Miss Daisy" among others.

3. Riverside Community Development Corporation: The Riverside (CDC) is a 501 C 3 organization providing services in the fields of social service and welfare. It is located at 404 North Bouknight Ferry Road in Saluda.

4. Persimmon Hill Golf Club: Is an 18-hole championship golf course with a pro shop, practice facility, and a dining facility. It is located at 126 Golf Club Road, Saluda.

5. Saluda Young Farmers: The SYF was formed in 1948. This group is an integral part of the Vocational Agricultural Program at Saluda High School serving as a basis for adult education and support to the high school program. The SYF conducts an annual Truck and Tractor Pull to raise money for an agricultural scholarship program.

Chapter 6: Community Facilities Element

Inventory of Existing Conditions

Overview

The study of community facilities is essential to the county's growth and development. It includes an examination of the following areas: water and sewer, solid waste collection and disposal, fire protection, emergency medical services, governmental facilities, education facilities, utility services, and transportation. The following is an assessment of the current infrastructure facilities in Saluda County.

A. Water and Sewer

The Saluda County Water and Sewer Authority (SCWSA) serves all of the unincorporated areas of Saluda County, and is the source for providing clean, safe drinking water for many Saluda County residents. SCWSA currently purchases water from Saluda Commission of Public Works, which in turn purchases the water from the City of Newberry's Water Treatment Plant. By 2017, SCWSA will begin producing its own water at SCWSA's Regional Water Treatment Plant. SCWSA provides sewer service which is transmitted to two separate Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs). The largest portion of flow is transmitted to Aiken County Public Service Authority which treats and discharges to the Savannah River. In the Eastern section of Saluda County, SCWSA operates a sewer force main that is transmitted through the Town of Lexington to the Town of Cayce's WWTP which discharges to the Congaree River.

SCWSA's Board of Directors is recommended by the Saluda County Legislative Delegation and appointed by the Governor. SCWSA's primary objectives are:
- To support residential customers, providing clean safe drinking water as well as a safe method of conveying wastewater.
- To support existing and future industrial customers, working with each industry to ensure that SCWSA is helping support their business' success.
- Continuously seeking to improve our existing water system to better support all of SCWSA's customers.
- Support the success of SCWSA's neighboring water and sewer entities. SCWSA's Board as well as its employees is committed to these objectives.

SCWSA is a relatively young water and sewer provider and holds itself responsible for expanding services within its service area wherever it is needed and economically feasible."

B. Electricity

Saluda County is served by three electric power companies: South Carolina Electric and Gas, Aiken Electric Co-Operative, Mid–Carolina Electric Co-Operative.   The breakdown of territories served by these companies is shown in the following map:

SALUDA COUNTY
TERRITORIAL ASSIGNMENT
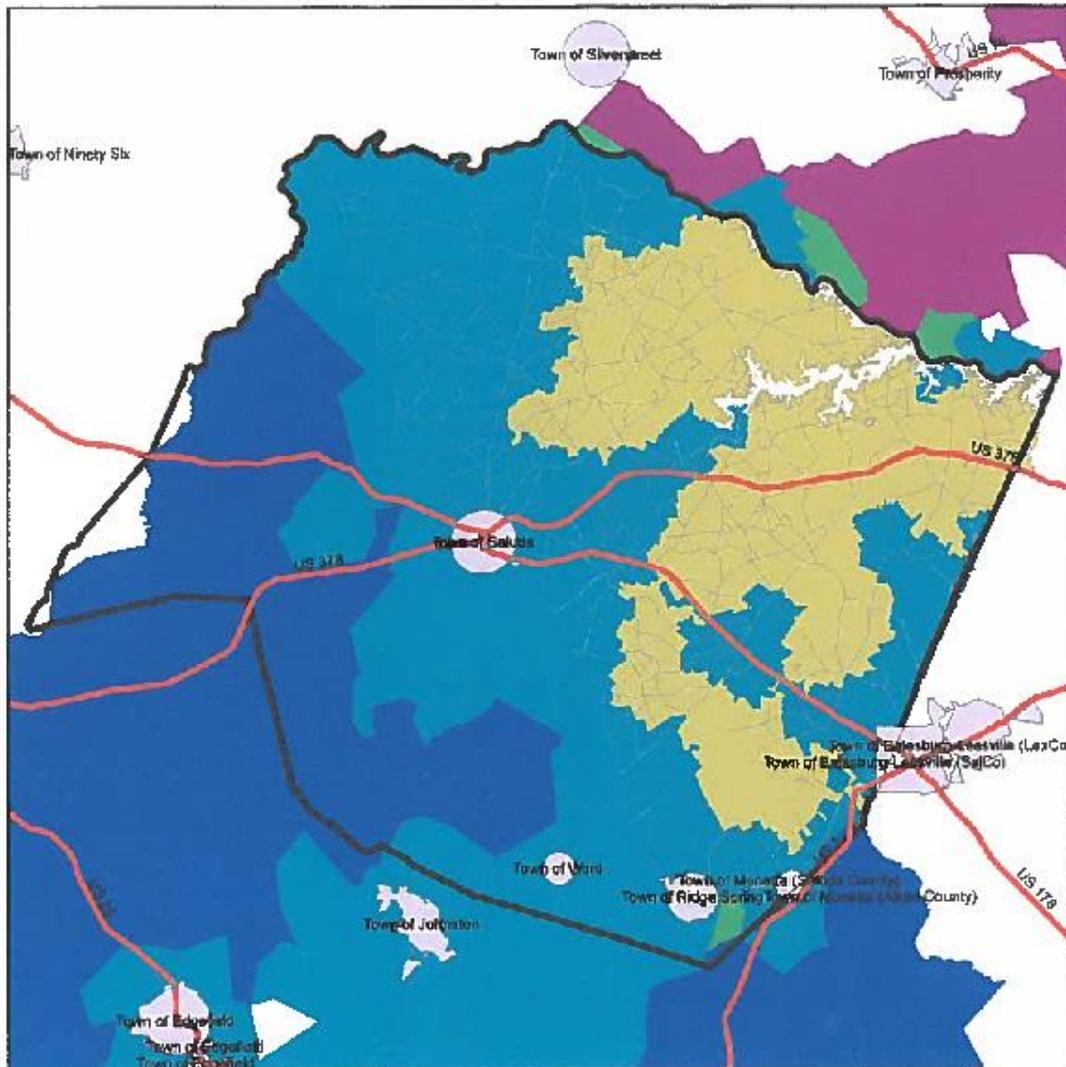
Territorial Assignment
- Aiken
- Mid-Carolina
- Municipal
- Newberry
- SCEG

Source: SCE&G

C. Natural Gas
South Carolina Electric and Gas is the only supplier of natural gas in Saluda County.

D. Telephone Service
Land Line telephone service is provided by CenturyLink and Comporium.

E. Solid Waste Collection and Disposal

 The collection and disposal of solid waste is controlled by Tri-County Solid Waste Authority (Edgefield, McCormick, and Saluda). The board of directors is made up of representatives from each county. There are seven convenience centers through-out Saluda County set up for the collection and disposal of solid waste.

F. Fire Protection

The Saluda County Fire Service provides fire service for the unincorporated parts of the county. The Fire Service is made up of the Fire Service Coordinator and the Saluda County Fire Board. There are seven volunteer fire stations in the county, each station appoints a member and an alternate to the Saluda County Fire Board.

G. Emergency Medical Services

EMS is operated by Saluda County with the headquarters in Saluda. EMS substations are located at the traffic circle on Rt. 378 and in Ridge Springs. Currently, there are three ambulances serving the county on a 24/7 basis. In addition a quick reaction vehicle on call.

H. Hospital Facilities

There are no hospital facilities in Saluda County. The closest hospitals with distances are shown below:

Hospital/Medical Center	City	Distance
Self-Regional Healthcare	Greenwood	30 miles
Lexington Medical Center	Lexington	45 miles
Newberry Hospital	Newberry	25 miles
Aiken Hospital	Aiken	40 miles

The Saluda Nursing Center which is county owned and operated, is a 176 bed facility and includes a rehabilitation center, is located at 581 Newberry Highway, Saluda.

I. Governmental Facilities

Saluda County has a council from of government with the council chair elected at large and with representatives from four single member districts. Currently, Saluda County budget is just over 10 million dollar.

County Council Chambers	400 W. Highland Street, Saluda
County Courthouse	100 E. Church Street, Saluda
Sheriff's Office	100 Law Enforcement Drive, Saluda
Emergency Management	111 Law Enforcement Drive, Saluda

J. Education Facilities

Saluda County Schools (School District One) serves approximately 2200 students: School district offices are located at 404 N. Wise Road, Saluda.

The following are the physical locations of the schools indicated:

Saluda Primary	200 Matthews Drive, Saluda
Saluda Elementary	400 W. Butler Avenue, Saluda
Hollywood Middle	1261 Hollywood Road, Saluda
Saluda Middle	140 Ivory Key Road, Saluda
Saluda High	160 Ivory Key Road, Saluda
Saluda Opportunity Academy	308 W. Butler Avenue, Saluda
Adult Education	401 N. Calhoun Streets, Saluda

W. Wyman King Academy is a private school serving approximately 200 students. King facilities are located at 1046 Sardis Road, Batesburg, SC

Piedmont Tech has a satellite campus located at 701 Batesburg Highway. Please refer to page 25 of this document for more information.

K. Transportation Network
See Chapter Nine for Transportation information

Chapter 7: Housing

Inventory of Existing Conditions

Overview
The purpose of this element is to assess the condition of housing in Saluda County and project future needs. Because housing is a high-priced consumer product subject to economic and population growth conditions future predictions are difficult.

Housing plays an important role in the lives of people. A residence is not only a shelter, but a status symbol and a statement of personal identity. While housing is seen as a function of the market, it must be recognized as a social service as well. The effects of poor living conditions have a negative impact both personally and community-wide.

Adequate housing still remains at the mercy of primary economic principals. The element which follows assumes this perspective and attempts to set forth strategies at the local level to ensure adequate housing for citizens of all incomes. These preconditions are:

- Adequate planning for housing at all income levels.
- Proper administration of the development plans and programs.
- Local commitment for housing for those who cannot provide for their own needs.

The purpose of this chapter is to examine the housing market in Saluda County and plan for future needs.

From 2000 to 2010 the population of Saluda County increased by 3.6%. There were 6,854 occupied housing units with a household size of 2.83 persons per owner-occupied unit and a household size of 2.88 persons per renter-occupied unit. Of these, 24 lacked complete plumbing facilities and 56 lacked complete kitchen facilities.

A. Housing Costs
As a general rule, the cost of housing rises over time. The figures below reflect this this trend statewide:

	1990	2000	2010
South Carolina	$60,700	$94,900	$137,400

According to the 2010 US Census, the average cost for a house in Saluda County was $100,700.

There is no local public housing authority which operates in Saluda County. Public housing rental units and Section 8 properties are operated by the South Carolina Region I Housing Authority. The lack of more private and public subsidized housing opportunities can be accounted for in several ways. For example, the county is not subjected to high growth rates, the population is relatively small and not highly concentrated, and no local housing authority exists.

B. Vacancy Rates

Saluda County has a relatively high vacancy rate as shown below (US Census 2010):

Owner Occupied	Renter Occupied	Vacant	Total Units	Vacant
5,065	1,789	2,401	9,255	25.9%

Many of the vacant houses have been abandoned or are substandard.

C. Housing Statistics

Housing Units by Year Structure Built		
Year	**Units**	**Percent**
2010 or later	54	0.6%
2000 to 2009	821	8.9%
1990 to 1999	1890	20.4%
1980 to 1989	1413	15.3%
1970 to 1979	1661	17.9%
1960 to 1969	1071	11.6%
1950 to 1959	682	7.4%
1940 to 1949	285	3.1%
1939 or earlier	1,378	14.9%
County Totals	**9,255**	**100**

Units in Structure	
1 unit, detached	5,956
1 unit, attached	76
2 units	58
3 or 4 units	59
5 to 9 units	130
Mobile home units	2,976
Total Units	**9,255**

Housing Heating Fuel – Occupied housing units	
Utility gas	879
Bottled, tank, or LP gas	1,243
Electricity	3,974
Fuel oil, kerosene	298
Wood	411
Solar Energy	20
Other fuel	10
No fuel used	10
Total Occupied units	**6,854**

Source for housing statistics is the 2010 U.S. Census.

The average monthly owner cost for housing units with a mortgage in Saluda County is $954. The average monthly owner cost for housing units without a mortgage in the county is $331. Gross rent for occupied units paying rent is $594.

D. Flood Prone:
Flood prone areas are addressed in the Natural Resources Element.

E. Historical Properties
Historical properties are addressed in the Cultural Resources Element.

F. Water and Sewer
Water and Sewer facilities are addressed in the Community Resources Element.

G. Local Ordinances and Regulations
Saluda County has adopted ordinances related to buildings and building regulations, floods hazard control, manufactured homes, and sub-divisions. No ordinance pertaining to county-wide zoning has been adopted.

H. General Housing Strategies
Efforts must be made to encourage neighborhood preservation and housing rehabilitation through the adoption of development standards, housing code enforcement, community development, and coordinated extension of public facilities and services. The participation in federally funded programs dedicated to community development is highly desirable.

The following items should form the basis for the development of programs to improving housing in Saluda County:

- Encourage a safe and clean home environment for all residents.
- Coordinate the construction of residential units with available community infrastructure.
- Incorporate environmental considerations into residential planning.
- Develop a comprehensive housing program to encourage sufficient quantities of standard quality dwelling units to meet the needs of all county residents.
- Encourage innovative residential development.
- Review codes and ordinances to ensure the long term quality of housing.

Population growth for Saluda is expected to increase by about 500 people by 2030. The ages and income levels of these people must be taken into consideration as housing plans are developed.

To provide adequate housing for Saluda County, housing providers, developers, and county and regional governments must work together to plan and provide housing for all income levels. Housing is dependent on community infrastructure (transportation, water and sewer, education, recreation) and physical characteristics (agriculture, flood plains, forest lands, topography), as well as social characteristics (health care, elderly care, help for less fortunate). Housing must be planned for in conjunction with other community actions.

Care must be taken to ensure future housing construction does not have a negative impact on the environment and that all future construction is done in the most appropriate area.

Source: U.S. Census 2010

Chapter 8: Land Use Element

Inventory of Existing Conditions

Overview

This element reflects existing land use and projects any potential changes. Land use guidelines govern future plans on how land is used. This plan can be used as a harmonious method to ensure a logical land development pattern. Factors include: historical patterns, topography, soil characteristics, and existing land use.

A. Current Land Use

1. Topography: Saluda County is approximately 452 square miles and lies in mostly in the Piedmont Plateau with the southern portion lying in the Coastal Plains. Please refer to Element 4, Natural Resources, for further discussion on topography.

2. Residential: Residential areas of the county are located primarily in the municipalities of Saluda, Ridge Spring, Ward, and Monetta. There is a substantial population around the Lake Murray area in the eastern part of the county. The population of the county is 19,875 with 42 people per square mile according to the 2010 US Census.

3. Commercial: Commercial activity is most centered in the municipalities.

4. Industrial: Industrial activity is scattered through-out the county. A tract of property of approximately 165 acres on Highway 378 East just outside the Saluda town limits is being developed as an industrial park. A company currently occupies 40 acres of this with the remaining 120 acres being planned for future industrial development. The Ridge Spring Industrial Park consists of a 40 acre tract in along the rail in the town limits of Ridge Spring. Poultry processors are located in rural areas of the county. Several produce related businesses, especially peaches, are located along the Highway 23 corridor in the southern part of the county.

5. Institutional: Schools, historical sites, and churches make up the institutional lands in Saluda County. Churches are located throughout the county. Please refer to Element 6, Community Facilities for more information.

6. Agricultural: Agricultural lands are located throughout the county.

B. Future Land Uses:

Saluda County is expected to grow in the future. As Lexington County and the Lake Murray area continue to grow and expand to the west, changes will come to Saluda County. This coupled with an increased emphasis on economic development within the county will make growth inevitable. Managing this growth in a responsible manner is essential. The potential for growth is apparent. Growth is dependent on land availability, infrastructure, environmental concerns, and the wants and needs of the citizens.

1. Industrial Growth: With an emphasis in economic development, the establishment of industrial parks near Saluda (Hwy 378E) and Ridge Spring (Hwy 23), the formation of the Saluda County Development Partnership, and Saluda County joining the Economic Development Partnership with Aiken and Edgefield Counties growth potential in the area of economic development is greatly enhanced. Much of the industrial growth is expected to the Saluda Industrial Park, Ridge Spring Industrial Park, and at other locations along the rail and Highway 23 in the southern part of the county.

2. Residential Growth: Residential growth is expected to continue, particularly in the Lake Murray area.

3. Utilities: As development in the county occurs, it is expected that utility expansion will keep pace. Saluda County Water and Sewer Authority is working to enhance water and sewer infrastructure throughout the county. Future development, be it residential or industrial, will be dependent on water and sewer availability.

4. Undeveloped Land: The future development of undeveloped areas must take into consideration available infrastructure, soil capacity, environmental hazards (flood plains, wetlands, etc.) topography, compatibility with existing uses and overall development goals. The desire to maintain the rural character of Saluda County must be considered in any future development.

5. Historical Districts: The potential for historical tourism in the county is great. Future development must take this into account and this must be considered in any land use decision.

Chapter 9: Transportation Element

Inventory of Existing Conditions:

Overview

Saluda County has several convenient transportation options. Interstates highways I-20 and I-26 are approximately 25 miles away. Several US and state highways serve the county. Rail is available in the southern part of the county.

A. Highways and Roads

The South Carolina Department of Transportation maintains approximately 700 miles of roads in the county. The Saluda County Transportation Commission (CTC) manages 380 miles of county roads. The CTC is made up of five members who are appointed by the county's Legislative Delegation. The Saluda County Roads and Bridges Department provides maintenance on the 380 miles of county roads.

South Carolina Highway 121, which runs from Augusta, GA to Newberry, SC serves as a convenient connector for trucks leaving I-20 on their way to I-26 and destinations in the Spartanburg/Greenville area. US Highway 378 leads east from Saluda to Columbia, 45 miles away. US Highway 178 also passes through the county. Highway 23 connects the towns of Ward, Ridge Spring, and Monetta and travels through the rich peach country in the southern end of the county. Highways, US 378, US 178, SC 121, and SC 39 all intersect in the town of Saluda creating a transportation infrastructure resembling a wagon wheel with the town of Saluda as its hub and spoke.

B. Interstates

The closest interstate is Interstate-20, about 25 miles from the town of Saluda and 10 miles from Ridge Spring. Interstate 26 is 30 miles from the town of Saluda.

South Carolina Interstates and their accessibility to Saluda County (Source: SCDOT)
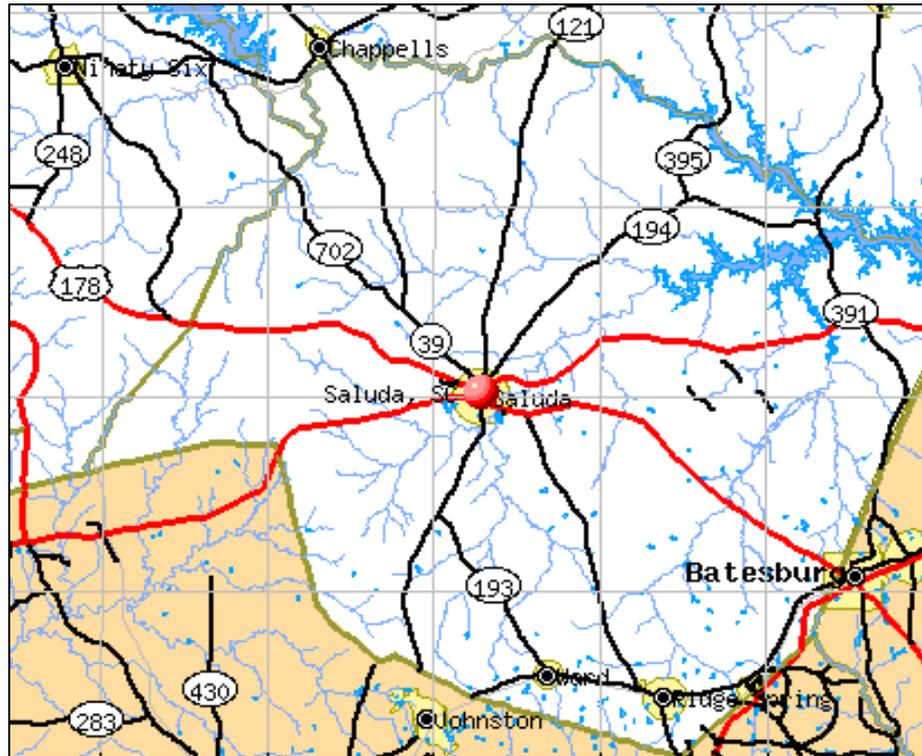
Map of Saluda County major roads and highways. Highway 23 travels through Ward and Ridge Spring

C. Rail

Rail transportation is provided by Norfolk Southern. The rail line roughly parallels Highway 23 in the southern part of the county. The rail travels from Johnston in Edgefield County through Ward, Ridge Spring, and Monetta in Saluda County. See the map on previous page. Highway 23 is in the extreme southern part of the county. A main switching station is located in Columbia allowing for access to the port of Charleston. The port of Savannah can be reached from via switching stations in Columbia and Macon, Ga.

D. Aviation

The closest commercial airport is in Columbia, approximately 40 miles from city of Saluda.

The Saluda County Airport is available for general aviation. It has a fuel farm, a 3300 foot runway, eight T-hangars for individual aircraft and a larger hangar all enclosed in FAA approved fencing.

E. Seaports:

The closest port is in Charleston, about 140 miles from Saluda.

Chapter 10 Goals and Objectives

Goal #1

Further develop Saluda County's infrastructure in a manner that enhances economic growth

Objective 1
Upgrade water and sewer services throughout the county

Applicable Elements:
Economic Development, Natural Resources, Housing, Land Use, Priority Investment

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Time for Completion
1. Construct a regional water treatment facility	Saluda County Water and Sewer Authority	Ongoing
2. Install sewer force main extensions to support existing industries	Saluda County Water and Sewer Authority	Ongoing
3. Continue to support industries throughout the county.	Saluda County Water and Sewer Authority	Ongoing
4. Develop and enhance water and sewer infrastructure throughout county	Saluda County Water and Sewer Authority	Ongoing
5. Provide water service to 1000 new customers in next 10 years	Saluda County Water and Sewer Authority	Ongoing
6. Extend water mains to wholesale customers.	Saluda County Water and Sewer Authority	Ongoing

Goal #1, Objective 2

Improvements/additions to Saluda County road system

Applicable Elements:
Economic Development, Transportation

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Time for Completion
1. Work on maintenance of current road system to include maintenance and resurfacing of secondary roads and hard surface unpaved roads as practical.	SCDOT, Saluda County Transportation Committee, Roads and Bridges, County Council	Ongoing
2. Work to better manage traffic along US 378 and SC 121 to include possible four lane of these roads	SCDOT, Saluda County Transportation Committee, Roads and Bridges, County Council	Ongoing
3. Study truck route alternatives through the Town of Saluda	SCDOT, Saluda County Transportation Committee, Roads and Bridges, County Council	Ongoing
4. Work with USCOG to identify key transportation corridors for manufacturing, economic development, tourism, and evacuation routes.	SCDOT, Saluda County Transportation Committee, Roads and Bridges, County Council	Ongoing

Goal #1, Objective 3

Develop Saluda County Airport to be an economic development asset and be self-sustaining

Applicable Elements:
Economic Development, Transportation

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Time for Completion
1. Complete T-Hangar, Fuel Farm Fencing projects	County Council, Saluda County Airport Commission, South Carolina Aeronautics Commission (SCAC)	Complete
2. Obtain 100% rental of T-Hangars	SCDOT, Saluda County Transportation Committee, Saluda County Roads and Bridges, County Council	Ongoing
3. Work to get Fixed Base Operator (FBO) on site	County Council, SCAC, Saluda County Airport Commission	Ongoing
4. Consider runway expansion based on consumer demand	Council, Saluda County Airport Commission, SCAC	Ongoing

Goal #1, Objective 4

Increase Broadband within Saluda County

Applicable Elements:
Community Facilities, Economic Development

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Time for Completion
1. Work with ConnectSC, schools, municipalities, businesses, and other interested parties to enhance broadband coverage in Saluda County	ConnectSC, County Council, Saluda County Schools,	Ongoing

Goal # 2:

Enhance economic growth in Saluda County

Objective 1
Further develop economic development growth in Saluda County

Applicable Elements:
Economic Development, Land Use

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Time for Completion
1. Expand product inventory of potential expansion sites through buy/lease agreements	County Council, Economic Development Partnership, Saluda County Development Partnership	Ongoing
2. Develop/market current sites for further development: Circle, Ridge Spring Industrial Site, Saluda Commerce Park	County Council, Economic Development Partnership, Saluda County Development Partnership	Ongoing
3. Leverage the communication resources of Council, Saluda County Development Partnership, Economic Development Partnership, SC Department of Commerce	County Council, Economic Development Partnership, Saluda County Development Partnership	Ongoing
4. Develop Small Business Plan	County Council, Economic Development Partnership, Saluda County Development Partnership	Ongoing

Goal # 2, Objective 2:

Increase Tourism Opportunities in Saluda County

Applicable Elements:
Economic Development, Natural Resources, Cultural Resources, Community Facilities, Land Use

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Time for Completion
1. Develop overall Tourism Plan	Saluda County Council, Saluda County Development Partnership (SCDP), Economic Development Partnership (EDP)	Ongoing
2. Leverage the Heritage Corridor, Saluda County Chamber of Commerce, Saluda County Historical Society, Capital City/Lake Murray Country, Cumbee Place, for the development of tourism	Saluda County Council, Saluda County Development Partnership (SCDP), Economic Development Partnership (EDP)	Ongoing
3. Better market tourism events such as Tractor Pull, Agri-business tours, etc.	Saluda County Council, Saluda County Development Partnership (SCDP), Economic Development Partnership (EDP)	Ongoing

Goal # 2, Objective 3

Further enhance Work Force Development

Applicable Elements:
Economic Development, Population

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Time for Completion
1. Continue to develop Saluda County as a Work Ready Community	Saluda County Council, Work Ready Committee, Saluda County Chamber of Commerce, Saluda County Schools, Piedmont Technical	Ongoing
2. Work with Saluda County Schools to enhance adult education opportunities	Saluda County School and Piedmont Technical	Ongoing
3. Work with local colleges (Piedmont Tech) for job training for citizens and programs for industry	Saluda County School and Piedmont Technical	Ongoing
4. Establish a career center to aid students on career path.	Saluda County School and Piedmont Technical	Ongoing

Goal # 3:

Enhance Public Safety

Objective 1
Provide better EMS county-wide

Applicable Elements:

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Time for Completion
1. Update EMS vehicle fleet	County Council, EMS	Complete
2. Build and maintain sub-station at the Traffic Circle and Ridge Spring	County Council, EMS	Complete
3. Build EMS department into self-sustaining organization	County Council, EMS	Complete
4. Work with various organizations to obtain grants to support EMS goals	County Council, EMS	Ongoing

Goal # 3, Objective 2
Enhance Law Enforcement

Applicable Elements:
Population

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Time for Completion
1. Develop plans for a future detention center.	County Council, County Sheriff, SC Department of Corrections	Ongoing

Goal # 3, Objective 3
Enhance Fire Service through-out Saluda County

Applicable Elements:
Population, Community Facilities

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Time for Completion
1. Formalize fire education and fire safety programs to include fire inspection and investigation programs.	County Council, County Fire Board	Ongoing
2. Recruit, train, and maintain ready and capable firefighting personnel. Develop county-wide incentive program.	County Council, County Fire Board	Ongoing
3. Formalize a rotation system for replacement of fire equipment, stations, and facilities.	County Council, County Fire Board	Ongoing
4. Work toward a paid firefighting force.	County Council, County Fire Board	Ongoing
5. Work with other first responders such as EMS, law enforcement, coroner, dispatch, etc. to provide the best possible fire and life protection services.	County Council, County Fire Board	Ongoing

Goal # 3, Objective 4
Establish Animal Control in Saluda County

Applicable Elements:
Population

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Time for Completion
1. Work with Edgefield and Aiken Counties on procedures and processes for Animal Control in Saluda County	County Council	Ongoing
2. Develop procedures and ordinances for Spay/Neuter programs and establish other education programs for animal control	County Council	Ongoing

Goal # 4:

Enhance Aging, Behavioral, and Mental Health in Saluda County

Objective 1:
Enhance Council on Aging

Applicable Elements:
Population

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Time for Completion
1. Work with Upper Savannah Council of Government to enhance programs dedicated to Aging in Saluda County with an emphasis on the Council on Aging	County Council, Council on Aging	Ongoing

Goal # 4, Objective 2:
Enhance Behavioral Health in Saluda County

Applicable Elements:
Population

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Time for Completion
1. Work with Behavioral Health to continue this support for Saluda County	Upper Savannah Council of Government (USCOG), Council on Aging, County Council	Ongoing
2. Begin process to merge Saluda County Behavioral Health with Westview Behavioral Health in Newberry County	Upper Savannah Council of Government (USCOG), Council on Aging, County Council	Ongoing

Goal # 4, Objective 3:
Enhance Mental Health support in Saluda County

Applicable Elements:
Population

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Time for Completion
1. Work with The Beckman Center for Mental Health Services to enhance programs dedicated to mental health issues in Saluda County	Saluda County Council, Beckman Center for Mental Health	Ongoing

Goal # 5:

Enhance recreation throughout Saluda County

Objective 1:
Expand recreational opportunities through-out Saluda County

Applicable Elements:
Population, Community Facilities, Land Use

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Time for Completion
1. Expand county-wide sports programs and improve facilities to include basketball courts, playground etc.	Recreation, County Council	Ongoing
2. Consolidate recreation parks into a county-wide system.	Recreation, County Council	Ongoing
3. Develop additional park areas where appropriate. This includes trails, equestrian, boating, canoeing, etc.	Recreation, County Council	Ongoing
4. Expand sponsorship program	Recreation, County Council	Ongoing

Goal # 6:

Increase clinical medical support

Objective 1:
Increase medical support throughout the county

Applicable Elements:
Population, Community Facilities

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Time for Completion
1. Explore partnerships with Self Regional Healthcare and local medical agencies for improved medical services in Saluda County	County Council, Self Regional Healthcare	Ongoing

Goal # 7:

Continue Educational progress at the primary, elementary, middle, high school, and secondary education levels

Objective 1:
Increase ability of Saluda County Schools to graduate students equipped to succeed in a globally competitive world

Applicable Elements:
Population, Economic Development, Community Facilities

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Time for Completion
1. Continue implementation of TAP, Project Lead the Way, and Lead 21	Saluda County Schools, County Council	Ongoing
2. Continue and expand dual credit courses with Piedmont Technical College	County Council, Saluda County Schools, Piedmont Technical College	Ongoing
3. Continue to provide Adult Education opportunities	County Council, Saluda County Schools, Piedmont Technical College	Ongoing
4. Continue to upgrade facilities on an as needed basis	County Council, Saluda County Schools	Ongoing

Goal # 7, Objective 2:
Expand presence of Piedmont Technical College

Applicable Elements:
Population, Economic Development, Community Facilities

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Time for Completion
1. Create pathways and opportunities for students from high school to Piedmont Technical College (PTC).	County Council, Saluda County Schools, Piedmont Technical College	Ongoing
2. Create pathways for students from PTC to 4 year colleges.	County Council, Saluda County Schools, Piedmont Technical College	Ongoing
3. Grow Saluda County campus with additional opportunities for students.	County Council, Saluda County Schools, Piedmont Technical College	Ongoing
4. Recruit prospective students.	County Council, Saluda County Schools, Piedmont Technical College	Ongoing
5. Work with local community and businesses to ensure PTC is meeting local educational and workforce needs.	County Council, Saluda County Schools, Piedmont Technical College	Ongoing

Goal # 8:

Cultural Improvements

Objective 1:
Cultural Improvements

Applicable Elements:

Cultural Resources, Community Resources

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Time for Completion
1. Expand library to add dedicated computer area, create larger children's area, improve public bathrooms, and provide meeting space and bring existing facilities up to ADA standards	Saluda County Library Board, Friends of the Library, County Council	Ongoing

Goal # 8, Objective 2:

Better coordinate and market county cultural events

Applicable Elements:

Population, Economic Development, Cultural Resources, Community Facilities

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Time for Completion
1. Better coordinate and promote the county's art, festivals, history, and other type events	Saluda County Library Board, Friends of the Library, County Council, Cumbee Place, Saluda County Historical Society, Friends of Ridge Spring, Arts Association of Ridge Spring, Saluda Young Farmers	Ongoing

Goal # 9:

Improve housing throughout Saluda County

Objective 1:
Promote and enhance access to affordable housing through public and private cooperation

Applicable Elements:
Population, Community Facilities, Housing

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Time for Completion
1. Work with state and local government to find housing sources to assist public and private entities to develop high quality, low cost housing	County Council, Economic Development Partnership, Saluda County Development Partnership, Upper Savannah Council of Government (USCOG), Council on Aging	Ongoing
2. Adopt and enforce housing regulations needed to ensure public health and safety	County Council, Economic Development Partnership, Saluda County Development Partnership, Upper Savannah Council of Government (USCOG), Council on Aging	Ongoing
3. Explore means to develop high-quality, low cost housing for early career teachers/professionals	County Council, Economic Development Partnership, Saluda County Development Partnership, Upper Savannah Council of Government (USCOG), Saluda County Schools	Ongoing
4. Explore means to increase opportunities for senior citizen housing	County Council, Economic Development Partnership, Saluda County Development Partnership, Upper Savannah Council of Government (USCOG), Council on Aging	Ongoing

Goal # 10:

Natural Resources

Objective 1:
Explore opportunities to preserve the county's natural resources

Applicable Elements:
Natural Resources, Land Use

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Time for Completion
1. Work with local organizations to promote and preserve Saluda County's natural resources.	Saluda County Water Conservation District, Saluda County Young Farmers, Saluda County Forestry Association, Saluda County Cattlemen's Association, Clemson Extension Service South Carolina Department of Natural Resources	Ongoing

Goal # 11:

Explore additional revenue options

Objective 1:

Explore additional revenue options

Applicable Elements:

Economic Development, Community Facilities

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Time for Completion
1. Explore increasing building codes and other fees to bring them in line with surrounding counties.	Economic Development Partnership, Saluda County Development Partnership, Upper Savannah Council of Government (USCOG), County Council	Ongoing
2. Explore options for increased grant funding through federal and state grant programs.	Economic Development Partnership, Saluda County Development Partnership, Upper Savannah Council of Government (USCOG), County Council	Ongoing

Priority Investments:

1. Detention Center

Problem: Conditions in current detention center create increased liability for the county. Current facility was built in 1971. Options for expanding the current facility are limited.
Solution: County and law enforcement need to work together to come up with a viable solution. Solution may include joint facility with another county, refurbishing another building, or building a new detention facility or exploring creative ways to expand facility.
Estimated costs: $10,000,000
Potential Funding Sources: Federal and State grants

2. Secure Saluda County water source

Problem: Saluda County Water and Sewer Authority (SCW&SA) currently purchases water from the town of Saluda, who purchases water from the city of Newberry. A SCW&SA owned water treatment facility would be more cost effective than the current source and aid in the economic development and future growth of Saluda County.
Solution: Build a water treatment facility owned and managed by the Saluda County Water and Sewer Authority on Lake Murray.
Estimated Costs: $20,000,000
Funding Source: USDA Rural Utilities Service

3. Create Traffic By-pass around town of Saluda

Problem: Flow of tractor-trailers through Saluda on SC Highway 121 causes traffic congestion, endangers pedestrians, and limits economic growth in downtown Saluda.
Solution: Create a by-pass around town of Saluda to accommodate tractor-trailer traffic.
Estimated Costs: $10,000,000
Potential Funding Sources: Federal and state grants.

4. Highway SC 121 Expansion

Problem: SC Highway 121 is the main corridor for tractor-trailer traffic from I-20 near Augusta, GA to I-26 near Newberry, SC, a distance of about 70 miles. Extremely heavy traffic makes the road dangerous especially in downtown Saluda and restricts economic growth.
Solution: Expand SC Highway 121 to four lanes.
Estimated Costs: $70,000,000
Potential Funding Sources: Federal and state grants

5. Highway US 378 Expansion

Problem: US Highway 378 from Columbia is a two lane road from Saluda to Priceville Road in Lexington County. Extremely heavy traffic to include tractor-trailers makes the road dangerous and restricts economic growth.

Solution: Expand US Highway 378 to four lanes in two phases: 1) From Priceville to the traffic circle and 2) from the traffic circle to Saluda.

Estimated Costs: Phase 1 - $15,000,000 and Phase 2 - $15,000,000

Potential Funding Sources: Federal and state grants

6. Library Expansion

Problem: Current library is not adequate to serve the needs of the county. Space is limited. Larger areas are needed for enhanced computer area, children's area, and better meeting spaces.

Solution: Expand library building, creating areas for computer, meeting spaces, and children's programs.

Estimated costs: $1,000,000

Potential Funding Sources: Federal and state grants