### Community Facilities and Services

**Issues**

1. In the future, the lack of sewer availability will directly impact the economic development opportunities of the Cities of Lake Park and Dasher. Additionally, both communities are located in a groundwater recharge area where extensive use of septic systems should be discouraged.
2. The continued maintenance and expansion of sewer capacity in the City of Hahira has a direct impact on its economic development and residential growth opportunities. The community should examine long-term solutions to the system’s limited capacity, in addition to short-term resolutions.
3. In some areas of the community, current development trends do not provide for or promote interconnected access between adjacent developments. Such access, especially for commercial areas, would decrease the amount of traffic entering and exiting major roadways thus providing safer and more efficient traffic circulation.
4. We need to improve our wastewater, stormwater, and sewer systems, including the wastewater treatment plant
5. Ensure that wastewater processing is adequate to handle increased capacity for economic development and that industrial wastewater treatment capability is available. Some regulations are too much of an obstacle.
6. Mathis Auditorium needs improvement
7. Need a larger entertainment venue
8. Library needs improvement and more support
9. Need more recreational amenities, such as soccer fields, basketball courts, skate rink, more kid-friendly options, a community center on the north side of town, new swings at Park Lane Park, and more accessibility to local recreational opportunities
10. Access to broadband (high-speed internet) needs to be improved and expanded
11. Utility rates are high and options for utilities (including cable) are limited
12. The community does not provide sufficient recycling services. The service needs to be better facilitated and expanded, with more recycling locations/facilities, better education about the local recycling and solid waste services, and better participation at commercial and multi-family complexes.
13. Lack of shelter for the homeless during cold weather
14. Agricultural resources are needed for agricultural recreational activities

**Opportunities**

* Both Lowndes County and the City of Valdosta should continue to provide available water and sewer capacity in their existing utility systems to support additional development. The extension of this capacity should occur in such a fashion as to promote the development of appropriate land uses.
* Rainwater Center
* Education re: utility costs, rates, and how to conserve energy and save money
* County Water System Improvements
* Alternative energy (solar) – as supplement - incentives
* SPLOST funded Utilities and Infrastructure
* There is an opportunity to improve local health and safety through improvements to the WWTP.
* The more local residents are educated, the more likely they will participate in local conservation and recycling efforts.
* Push wireless technology (public vs private)
* Educate the public of need for utilities land acquisitions
* A horse arena open to the public would be a good recreational opportunity
* The Five Points Civic Center project should continue to be pursued.

### Intergovernmental Coordination

**Issues**

1. Need better coordination, communication, and resource sharing between the local governments, the universities, and businesses
2. Engaging stakeholders is not always done effectively
3. Need improved access to agendas and minutes access in small communities, as well as public education on how to access them
4. Lack of transparency of local requirements
5. Struggle between full funding of programs and what community budgets can allow.
6. Need more community involvement and better communication for community involvement

**Opportunities**

* continuation of the Greater Lowndes Growth Advisory Committee will ensure successful communication by all major institutions and stakeholders as Greater Lowndes continues to grow. This communication is vital to ensure one institution’s growth and development does not negatively impact another’s or the surrounding community. Membership on the committee should include various institutional positions and coordination should occur through a third party such as the Regional Development Center/Greater Lowndes Planning Commission.
* There is a good Comprehensive Plan, and better implementation of it should be a priority
* Engage stakeholders better; utilize technology to inform and educate public
* Improve access to elected officials
* Make all local governments transparent and hire staff who support this objective
* Make efforts to coordinate state and federal legislative communication
* Look for places where the duplication of common needs can be minimized through increased collaboration, such as joint use of facilities between schools and Parks and Recreation, and ongoing city/county collaboration that includes school boards
* There is good collaboration and communication between the local universities, the community, various departments, the Cities, the County (GLPC, VLCIA, Recreation), and MAFB.
* More multi-agency and organizational meetings
* More public and private partnerships
* Education about available funding and how it is allocated
* Make projects that are focused on multiple entities a top priority (ex: VSU Health Science Building, SG Classic, etc.)
* Marketing trips to increase our visibility in front of site selectors by using regional partners.