TOWN OF WESTOVER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2004-2025

POLICY PLAN

Adopted by the Town of Westover Planning Commission on October 26, 2004

Adopted by the Town of Westover Town Council on November 16, 2004

Prepared by the Town of Westover with assistance from the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
# TOWN OF WESTOVER POLICY PLAN

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THE TOWN PLAN

PURPOSE

The Town of Westover Policy Plan, Community Assessment Report, and Land Use Plan, together, form the Westover Town Plan. The Town Plan is comprehensive in that it documents community values and from those values establishes policies, goals, and objectives, which cover the extent of the Town’s services to the community – growth management, economic development, community facilities and services, and transportation. The Plan is strategic in that it provides both short-term and long-term actions that are required for the Plan to be implemented. For the vision presented in this plan to become a reality, additional steps must follow its adoption. These include:

- Development and revision of municipal ordinances and regulations to ensure the Plan’s goals and policies are properly reflected, implemented and enforced;
- Development of a capital budget and program to outline long-term funding needs and commitments;
- Development of area-specific plans, programs and policies to offer more detailed and site-specific strategies for selected parts of the community;
- Ongoing evaluation of plans, policies and programs; and
- Continuing community involvement in the planning and governing process.

This Plan must be considered a “living document”. As a framework for growth over many years, it must be continually reviewed, modified, and expanded to reflect changing circumstances and opportunities.

THE POLICY PLAN

The Policy Plan is an official statement by the Town government of its growth management vision, policies, and intentions. All aspects of the community's codes dealing with growth and the welfare of the community are administered in accordance with the Westover Town Plan an the policies it sets forth. When a new annexation, rezoning, or subdivision request is proposed, the Town government reviews and evaluates such requests in the context of its adopted policies and other aspects of the Town Plan.

The Policy Plan, along with other elements of the Town Plan, also guides the development of public facilities, services and infrastructure. Since development tends to rely on infrastructure expansion, new developments occur most readily around transportation improvements, available utilities, and community facilities such as schools. In this way, the Policy Plan influences and accommodates private development toward the achievement of the community's vision by guiding the development of the community’s infrastructure.
PLANNING PROCESS

The comprehensive planning process for Westover began with the Town’s appointment of a Planning Commission, whose responsibilities include the drafting and management of a community plan. With assistance from the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham (RPC) and Shelby County, the Westover Planning Commission started the Plan and its community involvement process in March 2004. Through regular monthly meetings, the planning commission and consultant staff engaged meeting attendants in the development of the plan.

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT AND POLICY PLAN

This interactive process began with a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) assessment, which helped to identify the major issues, desires, and opportunities within the community. The Community Assessment report, developed by planning consultants, was written and evaluated the community with respect to its potential for growth, including the documentation of existing land uses, infrastructure, land capacity, and demographics projections. The next step included development of Goals and Objectives, establishing a mission for the community and the Town Government. Simultaneously, consultants presented a visual survey to define the community’s values regarding future development. Policies were then drafted as official statements of the Town government regarding future growth and the Town’s responsibilities in serving residents and their community vision. Consultants provided information within the Policy Plan to aid the community in implementing and funding community improvements and objectives.

THE LAND USE PLAN

During the summer of 2004, the process focused on land use planning and over several community meetings, a land use concept was established. At this point, consultants held an open-house design workshop to develop the graphic elements of the Land Use Plan – depictions of how town infrastructure could expand to influence and accommodate future growth, identification of potential school sites, plan and section drawings of future development focus areas, and sketches which elaborated on the community’s vision for its built environment. Materials from the two-day workshop were presented and discussed at the following community meeting. The Land Use Plan was drafted based on the products of the workshop and subsequent discussions with the community.

ZONING

As the Policy Plan and Land Use Plan neared completion, the planning process began to focus on the development of a zoning ordinance for the community, one of the primary tools for accomplishing the community’s goals for the growth of the community. Consultants presented alternatives to the community on how development regulations could be established to best serve the community’s aspirations for future growth.
PROJECT TIMELINE

Community Meeting #1 – March 23, 2004
Community Meeting #2 – April 20, 2004
Community Meeting #3 – May 25, 2004
   Advisory Committee Meeting
Open House Work Session – July 19-20, 2004
   Community Assessment Report drafted
Community Meeting #4 – July 27, 2004
   Policy Plan drafted
   Advisory Committee Meeting
Community Meeting #5 – August 26, 2004
   Land Use Plan drafted
   Advisory Committee Meeting
Community Meeting #6 – September 28, 2004
   Advisory Committee Meeting
   Community Assessment / Policy Plan adopted
   Land Use Plan adopted
   Zoning Ordinance drafted
Community Meeting #7 – October 26, 2004
   Zoning Ordinance approved by Planning Commission
   Zoning Ordinance adopted by Town Council
COMMUNITY “SWOT” ASSESSMENT

The Community “SWOT” Assessment - an analysis of the town’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats – was the initial step in the planning process. This assessment was developed over the course of the first two community meetings on the Town Plan, giving residents and landowners an opportunity to discuss existing conditions in the community and how those conditions may affect the town’s future. Conditions to be considered were:

- **Growth and Development**
- **Facilities and Services**
- **Housing**
- **Community History, Culture, and Design**

Participants were asked to evaluate these aspects of the community according to four categories, defined below:

**Strengths** - current conditions that make the community a desirable place to live, work, learn and play

**Weaknesses** - current conditions that detract from the community as a place to live, work, learn and play

**Opportunities** - potential conditions and events that can improve the community and its efforts to achieve goals

**Threats** - potential conditions and events that can harm the community and its efforts to achieve goals

**Strengths**
- Community has recently organized and incorporated in hopes of influencing growth
- Small town atmosphere
- Scenic natural areas
- Westover is in path of metro growth (“new” 280); development is likely
- Considerable amount of developable land
- Recent residential growth
- “Old” 280 / Westover Road
- Good area county schools
- County is generally supportive of community efforts
- No ad-valorem tax; low 2% sales tax
- Large properties owned by a few corporate landholders
**Weaknesses**

- Few convenient or local businesses (especially retail and services); residents have to travel for majority of shopping
- Small tax base limits Town budget for providing services, facilities, and other improvements
- Town government is new and in learning process
- Few local regulations and limited ability to enforce
- Few community facilities
- Deteriorated houses and abandoned vehicles
- Highway 280 is only route into metro area
- Large amount of land owned by timber industry
- Incorporated area is limited and area residents dubious or negative about annexation

**Threats**

- Development pressure due to trend on Highway 280
- Character of community may drastically change with new development
- Some landowners may not participate in the Town Plan
- Land costs are rising due to speculation; especially in areas where sewer is to be developed
- Land speculation will increase cost of development and limit development options

**Opportunities**

- Town can be “planned from scratch”
- Postal designation
- Water and sewer on Highway 280 to attract development
- Access management on Highway 280 to prevent congestion
- Establish development regulations before town grows and changes
- “Groom” business development and its character to suit Westover
- Good development regulations can accommodate development of large tax generators like Wal-Mart without sacrificing community character
- Use commercial growth on Highway 280 to generate taxes for local improvements
- “Town center” can be on old 280 and avoid speed and traffic on new 280
- Develop industrial park to coordinate industrial growth, create jobs, take advantage of Highway 280 and rail access
- Industrial growth can include different types— not just manufacturing but also offices
- Focus on being a bedroom community
- Closer integration of business and residential areas to reduce crime (increased activity creates “eyes on the street”)
- Create a developer's brochure to promote the Plan and desired development concepts
COMMUNITY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Building on the initial conversations with community participants from the Community Assessment, the following community meetings identified Goals and Objectives for the Town Plan. These Goals and Objectives help to define the mission and intent of the Plan as well as the hopes and desires of residents with regard to how the Town Government shall implement the Plan and shape the future growth of the community. The goal statements that were developed focused on three major categories: Land Use and Development, Transportation, and Services and Facilities. Objectives were identified to further define the goal statements and to describe how the goals could be accomplished over time.

LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

GOAL ONE: Plan ahead for growth to preserve and enhance “small town” character of Westover

1. Establish areas for an expanding commercial tax base
   - Take advantage of desirability of Highway 280 for near-term economic development
   - Plan and develop a town center on “Old 280” to include local retail and services and centralized town facilities
   - Encourage development of convenient, neighborhood commercial areas in future phases

2. Establish areas for employment centers (office and/or industrial)
   - Encourage development of offices and/or office parks

3. Establish appropriate areas, densities, and phases for residential development
   - Coordinate near-term, unsewered residential development in areas with appropriate soil conditions to minimize cost
   - Coordinate medium and high density residential development with phased sewer development

4. Identify potential areas for community facilities
   - Senior center, park and sports areas, library, etc.
   - Potential to accommodate several functions in one central location (town center)
   - Identify and assess potential locations for school(s)

GOAL TWO: Provide progressive, adaptable development regulations to balance economic development with desired community character

1. Establish zoning regulations to manage development within Town Plan/vision:
   - land use
   - parking
   - signage

- Small offices may be appropriate in town center and some other business areas
- Larger concentrations / facilities should be considered for office park in appropriate location(s)
  - Encourage development of an industrial park
    - Typical industrial may be south of Highway 280 adjacent to railroad
    - Light industrial may be along Highway 280
    - “Clean”, high tech industries and offices may develop along Highway 280 and in town center as appropriate
2. Establish other development regulations and standards to further implement the Town Plan/vision:
   - land subdivision (assess existing regulations and modify as needed)
   - access management (with emphasis on Hwy 280 and other business areas)
   - site design, architecture and landscaping
   - nuisance ordinances

   TRANSPORTATION

   GOAL 3: Develop a convenient, functional transportation network to accommodate current and future travel patterns

   1. Adopt access management regulations to avoid travel/development conflicts on major roads as development increases
      - Develop regulations that are context appropriate (Hwy. 280, town center, neighborhood centers, etc.)
      - Minimize conflicts between through traffic and local access
      - Minimize congestion on major roads
      - Minimize need to duplicate infrastructure in individual developments through use of public streets, shared access, and shared parking areas

   2. Plan for development of local streets to connect community areas and reduce need for local travel on Highway 280
      - Improve existing local roads in phases
      - Plan for construction of new connecting streets in future developments
      - Ensure routes to business areas and community facilities through local streets
      - Encourage connectivity of existing and new local streets as development occurs

   GOAL 4: Ensure mobility alternatives throughout the community (non-motorized travel paths)

   1. Develop sidewalks to connect neighborhoods to community facilities, neighborhood centers, town center, and other areas as desired
      - Connect neighborhoods, community facilities, neighborhood centers, town center, and other areas as desired
      - Explore funding sources
      - Phase-in sidewalks in coordination with development
      - Ensure sidewalks in future residential developments

   2. Ensure safe, convenient accessibility for the handicapped, elderly, and children
      - Ensure ADA accessibility in public improvements
      - Reduce distances and impediments between destinations
      - Plan safe pedestrian (and bicycle) routes to schools and parks

   3. Identify and plan for pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian trails for mobility and recreation
      - Identify destinations to be served
      - Explore funding sources
      - Develop phased plan for development of routes

   4. Explore opportunities to assist local commuters through partnering efforts with County and regional agencies
      - Develop and assist volunteer-based carpooling
      - Consider potential for park and ride facility with commuter-based retail/service businesses
      - County or local “rideshare” program
SERVICES AND FACILITIES

GOAL 5: Provide convenient, enjoyable facilities for all ages and activities

1. Identify and prioritize desired community facilities (school, parks and recreation, senior center, library, etc.)
   - Determine facilities most desired by the community
   - Plan for future facilities in prioritized phases
   - Explore funding sources in advance

2. Identify possible sites for facilities
   - Consider convenience, accessibility, visibility, and “expandibility”
   - Co-locate facilities where appropriate to minimize land and construction costs
   - Include after-hours uses in school and other facilities as appropriate to maximize usage
   - Provide transportation and/or recreational paths to connect residents to facilities

GOAL 6: Provide “equal”, cost-effective, high-quality public services to the community

1. Ensure open communication between Town Government and community
   - Hold regular meetings through Council, Planning Commission, and other town boards and committees with opportunities for discussion of local issues
   - Maximize communication opportunities (Town Hall, phone, website, newsletter, etc.)

2. Provide information and assistance to landowners, investors, and developers on Town policies and regulations
   - Develop brochure on Town Plan/Vision, policies, regulations for distribution
   - Promote Town Plan/Vision to potential investors and developers
   - Develop efficient and timely development review process

3. Plan and implement community improvements in coordination with Town Plan
   - Ensure equal services in existing and future neighborhoods, business areas, etc.
   - Manage the development of sewer, water, and other services to guide development in appropriate areas over time
   - Maximize return on utility investments through area-appropriate densities, improvements, and extensions
   - Take advantage of opportunities to lay multiple service lines when making infrastructure improvements (fiber optics, natural gas, etc.)
   - Assess opportunities and priorities for burying utilities

4. Develop strong fire protection and other emergency services
   - Require adequately sized water mains to serve future demand
   - Increase existing water mains strategically for placement of fire hydrants
   - Provide emergency alert system to residents
COMMUNITY PREFERENCES SURVEY

While developing Plan Goals and Objectives, meeting attendants participated in a visual survey. The visual survey was comprised of slides representing different community elements: commercial centers, neighborhood centers, neighborhoods, economic development, mobility elements, and “surroundings”. The slide show included a wide variety of images from around the region and nation. Participants were asked to rate each slide according to how well the image fit into the participants’ vision for Westover. Pictures are worth a thousand words, as they say; and this process helped define what the community values for its future and what it does not. Sixty slides were ranked from 1 to 5 (5 being the most desirable). Scores were tabulated and each image was assigned an averaged value. Included below are high- and low-scoring images from each category.

COMMERCIAL CENTERS

Score = 3.78 / 5

Score = 1.38 / 5

Score = 1.00 / 5

Score = 3.33 / 5
NEIGHBORHOODS

Score = 3.5 / 5

Score = 2.28 / 5

Score = 3.67 / 5

NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS

Score = 1.55 / 5

Score = 4.33 / 5
MOBILITY

Score = 1.32 / 5

Score = 4.37 / 5

Score = 3.84 / 5

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

Score = 1.42 / 5

Score = 4.58 / 5

Score = 3.21 / 5
COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS

Score = 4.05 / 5

Score = 2.63 / 5

Score = 1.89 / 5

SURROUNDINGS

Score = 3.0 / 5

Score = 2.58 / 5

Score = 4.58 / 5
TOWN POLICIES

The following Policies, in combination with other elements of the Westover Town Plan, are intended as a guide for the Town Government in evaluating public investment opportunities in the context of the community’s goals. These Policies also represent a set of measures against which aspects of future development proposals should be considered.

LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

Land Use Planning

The Town of Westover shall:

- Maintain and update a Land Use Plan as a major element of the Town’s Comprehensive Plan to steward development that is compatible with the strategic, cost-effective expansion of the community’s infrastructure.
- Establish and implement development codes that will aid in the accomplishment of community goals and protect the health, safety and welfare of the community, including our built and natural environments.

Residential Growth

The Town of Westover shall:

- Encourage the appropriate location, density, and character of residential growth to meet the desires of our community as defined by the Town of Westover Comprehensive Plan.

Economic Development

The Town of Westover shall:

- Encourage the development of a town center with a productive mix of uses and activities to achieve our community’s desires for long-term economic vitality, opportunities for social interaction, convenience, and “small town” character.
- Encourage the development of compact neighborhood commercial centers, providing for the day-to-day needs of our residents, in locations convenient to existing and future neighborhoods.
- Encourage the development of sustainable, quality retail and service centers in appropriate locations along US Highway 280.
- Encourage the development of sustainable, quality light industrial and employment centers in appropriate locations within the Town as described in the Westover Land Use Plan.

TRANSPORTATION

Motorized Paths

The Town of Westover shall:

- Develop and implement a Thoroughfare Plan for the maintenance and future development of local streets to provide safe, convenient travel options to our residents, to prevent congestion, and to ensure rapid emergency response.
Encourage the use of access management techniques on non-residential thoroughfares to provide safe, effective travel paths for our residents, visitors, and commuters.

Encourage the use of traffic-calming techniques to achieve safe travel speeds in residential and non-residential areas.

Non-motorized Paths

The Town of Westover shall:

- Encourage the development of non-motorized travel paths in new development areas; including but not limited to sidewalks, greenways, and trails; to provide safe, convenient connections between the Town Center, commercial areas, community facilities, and neighborhoods and as further described in the Westover Land Use Plan.

Commuting

The Town of Westover shall:

- Support the use of and provide information on available transit/paratransit services; provide support to and communication amongst local carpoolers; and coordinate with local, county, and regional agencies for opportunities to provide transit/paratransit facilities and services to our residents.

SERVICES AND FACILITIES

All Services and Facilities

The Town of Westover shall:

- Manage the pace, intensity, and location of new growth in accordance with the availability of utilities, public services, and community facilities.
- Provide equitable, quality facilities and services throughout the community.

Police and Fire

The Town of Westover shall:

- Provide police protection and services for the safety and welfare of our community, in coordination with County, regional, and federal agencies.
- Coordinate with and support continued improvements to the Westover Fire Department.
- Encourage the development of safe, “firewise” neighborhoods and commercial areas.

Sewer and Water

The Town of Westover shall:

- Plan and implement the phased construction of a cost-effective sewer system to serve future growth areas as identified in the Town Plan and to serve existing developed areas as needed.
- Coordinate with and support continued improvements to the Westover Water Authority to ensure availability to existing and future developments.
Schools and Other Community Facilities

The Town of Westover shall-

- Strive to provide a variety of community facilities and activities to meet the needs and desires of the community as it grows.
- Coordinate with the Shelby County School System to plan and construct educational facilities in locations that provide increased opportunities for safe pedestrian/bicycle access.
- Coordinate with the Shelby County School System to evaluate and implement opportunities for shared facilities and after-hours community programs.
- Encourage synergy and efficiency in development of community facilities where shared- and all-day uses are feasible and productive.

Governance

The Town of Westover shall-

- Explore opportunities for continuing and improving on communication with our residents.
- Encourage the involvement of our residents in the Town Government and governmental and community activities.
- Respond effectively and equally to the concerns of all residents in a timely manner.

Parks and Recreation

The Town of Westover shall-

- Support the development of greenways, trails, community parks and open spaces, and sports facilities to improve the quality of life of our residents through public investments and coordination with landowners and developers.
- Provide parks and recreational areas to our residents in locations that will provide increased opportunities for safe pedestrian/bicycle access.
IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING

COORDINATION AND ORGANIZATION

The Town of Westover will work toward the accomplishment of community goals by implementing Town Policies, establishing development regulations according to those policies, developing a capital improvements program based on community priorities, and initiating plan projects through coordination of Town staff, volunteers, consultants, and funding sources. This section of the Policy Plan focuses on building capacity within the Town to accomplish plan projects through organizational efforts, prioritizing and phasing, and identifying potential funding strategies and sources.

Currently, the Town of Westover’s organizational structure is composed of a Mayor, Town Council, and Planning Commission. Within this overall structure, several committees are established and members assigned to lead efforts in areas such as zoning, historic preservation, education, etc. To enhance this structure, each committee may be assigned project planning tasks that fall within the committee’s area of responsibility and community members recruited to build the capacity of each group. To aid these groups in their efforts, the Town will maintain a close working relationship with County, regional, and state agencies that can provide technical assistance and consultant services. As the community grows, it will be essential to develop a larger staff to handle the day-to-day responsibilities of the Town Government. This could include the establishment of Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Planning and Inspections and similar municipal departments.

Several projects were identified to assist the Town in improving residential and economic development potential, safety and mobility, education, community services, and recreational opportunities. To begin the process of planning these projects, the Town should first clearly define and assign priorities to projects through a series of public involvement meetings. Projects will have different levels of complexity, time frames, and costs that must be considered alongside their importance to the community. Financing strategies will play an important role in determining priorities, as some projects may require loans or bond generation – increasing the indebtedness of the Town - while others may be funded through grants. Grants often include local match requirements, but are important sources of funds. The Town should employ grantwriting assistance to maximize potential. Other projects may be initiated through private developments where tax abatements and other incentives can be applied.

On the following pages is a template to be used by the Town to assign priorities and strategies for implementing projects. The template includes projects identified in the Comprehensive Plan and potential funding resources. The template provides space to document importance, complexity, time frames, and the organizations responsible for overseeing the planning and initiation of projects. Following the template is funding resource information relative to projects on the template. Working through this template, assigning priorities, strategies, timeframes and phases, and organizational responsibilities allows the Town to incorporate these projects into a capital improvements program and budget.
IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING TEMPLATE

The attached matrix is intended to serve as an organizing tool in the development of pragmatic strategies for implementing major elements and interventions as identified and defined within the comprehensive plan for the Town of Westover.

For each element identified on the template, participants should evaluate utilizing the following definitions:

**IMPORTANCE**

**High:** Essential, Crucial, Necessary

**Moderate:** Important; advances the plan and implementation, but not prohibitive to successful progress

**Low:** Could delay implementation: place on a long-range list

**COMPLEXITY**

**Highly Complex:** Addresses multiple challenges for a single element or initiative under the plan. Requires significant political and financial strategies and resources to ensure successful implementation. Time consuming. Requires special expertise.

**Complex:** Requires strategy and collaboration among various stakeholders. Usually represents a single major challenge such as acquisition of a specific landholding, or location of financial resources needed to supply buildings and infrastructure.

**TIME FRAME**

**Phase 1:** 1 year. Immediate implementation: essential, must be in place for progress to begin.

**Phase 2:** 1-5 years. Essential elements.

**Phase 3:** 5-10 years. Could incorporate the impacts of growth and development.

**Phase 4:** 10-25 years. Long-range growth management and community expansion plans.

**RESPONSIBLE PARTIES**

- Mayor
- Town Council
- Town Council Special Committee
- Planning Commission
- Planning Commission Special Committee

**SUPPORT AGENCIES**

- Government Utilities Service Corporation (GUSC)
- Shelby County Commission
- Shelby County Development Services
- Shelby County Board of Education
- Harrison Regional Library System (Shelby County)
- Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham (RPC)
- Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
- Shelby County Economic & Industrial Development Authority
- Greater Shelby County Chamber of Commerce
- Alabama Historical Commission (AHC)
- Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT)
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<th>Importance</th>
<th>Complexity</th>
<th>Time Frame</th>
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<td>Sidewalk Improvements</td>
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<td>A3, D1, D2, D3, F</td>
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<td>Bicycle Lanes or Trails</td>
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<td>A3, D1, D2, D3, F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greenways / Trails</td>
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<td>A3, D1, D2, D3, F</td>
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<td>Fire Protection</td>
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<td>A1, A3, C1, C2, C, H</td>
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FUNDING SOURCES

A. Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) - CDBG funds are administered through the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) and are limited to projects benefiting 51% or greater low- and moderate-income areas. For more information: http://www.adeca.state.al.us/content/dir/dir_cdbg_summary.aspx

1. Competitive Fund - Potential uses: sewer/water extensions and rehabilitations, street improvements and drainage, housing rehabilitation, neighborhood and downtown revitalization. Grant ceiling $400,000. No match required.

2. Special Fund - Potential uses: Eliminating contaminated wells and malfunctioning septic tanks, addressing other urgent needs. Grant ceiling $350,000. No match required.


5. Economic Development Fund - Potential uses: ED Business incubator ($250,000), ED Loans ($250,000), ED Float Loans ($10 million), Section 108 Loans ($10 million), ED Grants ($200,000 with 20% local match).

B. USDA Rural Utility Service Funds


2. Rural Utility Service Loans - Rural Utility loans are administered through U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development field offices. Potential uses: construction, expansion, or improving rural water and waste disposal systems. Direct and guaranteed/insured loans have interest rates based on the median household income of the areas served. For more information: http://12.46.245.173/pls/portal30/CATALOG.PROGRAM_TEXT_RPT.SHOW?p_arg_names=prog_nbr&p_arg_values=10.760

C. USDA Rural Development Funds

1. USDA Rural Development Grant Program - Grants are administered through U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development field offices. Potential uses: construction, expansion, or improving community facilities for health care, public safety, and public services, related land acquisition, professional fees, and equipment purchases. USDA funds may cover up to 75% of costs. For more information: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/cf/brief_cp_grant.htm

2. USDA Rural Development Loan Programs - Direct and Guaranteed Loan funds are administered through U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development field offices. Potential uses: construction, expansion, or improving community facilities for health care, public safety, and public
services, related land acquisition, professional fees, and equipment purchases. Interest rates for loans depend on median household income of the area being served. For more information: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/cf/brief_cp_direct.htm

D. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Funding Programs – Two programs are administered through the Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), which includes Jefferson and Shelby Counties – Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program. Transportation Enhancement (TE) Grants are also available through the Alabama Department of Transportation. To increase the possibility of leveraging transportation funds, the Town should maintain an active relationship with the Birmingham MPO (www.bhammpo.org).

1. Surface Transportation Program Birmingham Attributable Funds – Potential uses: various highway and functionally-classified road enhancements including bicycle and pedestrian improvements. No ceiling. Funding is competitive. 80/20 match requirement.

2. Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Program Funds – Potential uses: various road, bicycle/pedestrian, and other transportation facilities improvements that improve air quality. No ceiling. Funding is competitive. 80/20 match required.

3. Transportation Enhancement Grants – Potential uses: various road enhancements including bicycle and pedestrian improvements. No ceiling. Funding is competitive. 80/20 match requirement.

E. Shelby County Grant Programs

1. Quality of Life Enrichment Grant Program – Grant funds may be used for new construction, equipment, electronic material or infrastructure, books and/or permanent education materials or services. 50% match requirement. These grants may also be used to provide matches for related state and federal grants. Maximum grant is $10,000. For more information: http://www.shelbycountyalabama.com/News_Events/new.pdf/QOL_Enrich_Grant2004.pdf

2. Shelby County Park and Recreation Grant Program – Grant funds may be used for parks and recreation facilities designed to increase user capacity of non-County owned existing facilities, to acquire property to increase the physical size of existing facilities, and/or provide for the capital development of facilities in public areas not served by present facilities. For more information: http://www.shelbycountyalabama.com/News_Events/new.pdf/QOL_Enrich_Grant2004.pdf

3. Senior Community Center Construction Match Initiative – Grant funds may be used for construction of new centers and/or large capital improvements to existing facilities that operate daily senior programs and services. 50% match. $200,000 maximum grant. For more information: http://www.shelbycountyalabama.com/pdf/Senior_Match_Initiative.pdf
F. **Land and Water Conservation Fund** - LWCF grants are administered through ADECA. Potential uses: construction and/or repair of parks, hiking and riding trails, camping and picnic areas, ball fields and preservation of historic sites. 50/50 match required. Grant maximums vary with project and funds availability. For more information: [http://www.adeca.alabama.gov/content/csd/csd_land_water.aspx?m=4](http://www.adeca.alabama.gov/content/csd/csd_land_water.aspx?m=4)

G. **USDA Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry Financial Assistance Program** - USDA Forest Service funds are administered by Auburn University. Potential uses: forestry education, tree-planting programs, streetscape improvements, etc. 50/50 match requirement. No maximum ceiling. For more information: [http://www.aces.edu/ucf/funds.html](http://www.aces.edu/ucf/funds.html)

H. **Assistance to Firefighters Grant** - These grants are administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Potential uses: facilities improvements, equipment, training, education, etc. Grant ceiling is undetermined. 90/10 match required. For more information: [http://12.46.245.173/pls/portal30/CATALOG.PROGRAM_TEXT_RPT.SHOW?p_arg_names=prog_nbr&p_arg_values=97.044](http://12.46.245.173/pls/portal30/CATALOG.PROGRAM_TEXT_RPT.SHOW?p_arg_names=prog_nbr&p_arg_values=97.044)

**NOTE:** Grants and other types of funding sources through federal agencies are numerous and varied. These funding resources cover many community needs. For a comprehensive list on available grants and loans from federal sources, visit the on-line Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance at [http://www.cfda.gov/](http://www.cfda.gov/).