INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION ELEMENT

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

GOAL IC-1: WALTON COUNTY SHALL EFFECTIVELY COORDINATE WITH ADJACENT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, REGULATORY AGENCIES, SERVICE AND FACILITY PROVIDERS TO ENSURE A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO PLANNING.

Objective IC-1.1: The County shall maintain coordination mechanisms with municipalities, adjacent counties, and service providers-providing for the evaluation of proposed Future Land Use Map (FLUM) amendments and development proposals with cross-jurisdictional impacts.

Policy IC-1.1.1: The coordination mechanisms shall include, as appropriate, inter-local agreements, written and verbal communications, utilization of mediation processes, and joint meetings with other local, regional, state and federal governing bodies and agencies as appropriate.

Policy IC-1.1.2: The County shall ensure that the impacts of development proposed in this Plan are coordinated with development within the municipalities within the County, adjacent counties, and agencies within the region by providing a copy of the adopted Plan to each governing body or agency for review and comment.

Policy IC-1.1.3: In order to keep public entities informed of proposed future development, copies of future Plan amendments shall also be provided to these governing bodies and agencies prior to adoption of the Plan amendments.

Policy IC-1.1.4: Walton County will coordinate with DeFuniak Springs in adopting policies governing allowable land uses and other mitigation efforts for areas impacted by the DeFuniak Springs Airport.

Policy IC-1.1.5: Representatives of the fire districts and or departments will continue to participate on the Technical Review Committee to ensure that proposed projects meet the requirements of the Florida Life Safety Code.

Objective IC-1.2: Water Supply Coordination - The County shall coordinate with the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NWFWMD) and/or the applicable water utility regarding all development proposals with the potential for impacting the water resources of the County when appropriate.

Policy IC-1.2.1: Walton County will adopt, implement, and maintain a Water Supply Facilities Work Plan (Work Plan) consistent with the Regional Water Supply Plan. The Work Plan shall assess existing and projected water sources and needs for at least a 10-year planning period considering the Regional Water Supply Plan of the NWFWMD. The Work Plan shall identify traditional and alternative water supply sources that the County may use to meet existing and projected water demands. The alternative water supply project in the Work Plan will be selected from the Water Management District's Regional Water Supply Plan or otherwise proposed by the County.

Policy IC-1.2.2: Walton County shall coordinate with the NWFWMD during updates to the Regional Water Supply Plan, to identify potentially feasible alternative water supply projects in Walton County. The County shall update its Water Supply Facilities Work Plan every five years, within 18 months of the adoption of the NWFWMD Regional Water Supply Plan.

Policy IC-1.2.3: Walton County shall coordinate with utility providers for the extension and increase in capacity of central water facilities to meet future needs within the Utility Service Areas. The term "facilities" shall include wells, intakes, water storage tanks, treatment facilities, pumping facilities and distribution mains.

Objective IC-1.3: Walton County shall coordinate the planning and provision of services with its three (3) municipalities, adjacent counties, various agencies and districts within the County. Walton County shall also coordinate the establishment or revision of level of service standards for public facilities with any state, regional, or local entity having responsibility for such facilities.

Policy IC 1.3.1: Notify and request written comments from the cities of Freeport, DeFuniak Springs, and Paxton concerning all applications for land use amendments that are contiguous to their borders or within an area of planned annexation.

Policy IC 1.3.2: The County shall request written comments through the coordinated state review process from the state Department of Transportation, the Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Economic Opportunity and the NWFWMD, as appropriate, concerning any proposed revision to the adopted level of service standards for roads, water, sewer, solid waste, and drainage.

Objective IC-1.4: Walton County shall develop mitigation strategies and redevelopment plans in coordination with adjacent local governments, utility companies and other units providing services in order to provide effective mitigation as an opportunity to save lives and protect economic and environmental resources from future disasters.

Policy IC 1.4.1: Walton County shall coordinate and compile its Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) plan with the LMS Working Group composed of local governments and organizations, the school board, and utility providers.

Policy IC 1.4.2: Walton County shall adopt, implement and maintain a LMS Plan which identifies existing intergovernmental agreements supporting mitigation, inventories of coordinating agencies, and developed procedures to resolve conflicts.

Policy IC 1.4.3: Walton County shall coordinate with the LMS Working Group to develop guiding principles including reduction in the loss of life and property, protection of public assets, enhanced cooperation, and responsible growth.

Policy IC 1.4.4: Walton County shall identify hazards and describe and display the various types of hazards (including maps of hurricane and tropical storm wind fields, storm surge areas, FEMA Flood Zones, historic tornado locations, and areas susceptible to wildfires) facing Walton County.

Policy IC 1.4.5: Walton County shall identify locations of critical and non-critical facilities, repetitive loss properties, and historic flooding locations which are vulnerable to future natural disasters.

Policy IC 1.4.6: Walton County shall prioritize mitigation initiatives and list projects, addressing potential funding sources and local coordination procedures for each project.

GOAL IC-2: COLLABORATE AND COORDINATE WITH THE SCHOOL BOARD OF WALTON COUNTY (SCHOOL BOARD) TO ENSURE HIGH QUALITY PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES WHICH MEET THE NEEDS OF WALTON COUNTY'S EXISTING AND FUTURE POPULATION.

Objective IC-2.1: Coordination and Consistency - Walton County shall implement and maintain mechanisms designed to closely coordinate with the School Board in order to provide consistency between Walton County's Comprehensive Plan and public school facilities programs.

Policy IC-2.1.1: In cooperation with the School Board and the municipalities (Paxton, DeFuniak Springs, and Freeport), Walton County shall implement the Inter-local Agreement for Public School Facility Planning for Walton County, Florida between Walton County and all legislative bodies of the municipalities, as required by Section 1013.33, Florida Statutes, including procedures required by Section 163.3177, F.S. for:

1. Joint meetings;
2. Student enrollment and consistent student population projections, including geographic distribution of jurisdiction-wide growth forecasts;
3. Coordinating and sharing of information;
4. Participation by affected local governments with the school board in the process of evaluating potential school closures, significant renovations to existing schools, and new school site selection before land acquisition;
5. School site analysis including a process for determining the need for and timing of onsite and offsite improvements to support new, proposed expansion, or redevelopment of existing schools
6. Supporting infrastructure;
7. Comprehensive Plan amendments, re-zonings, and development approvals;
8. Education Plant Survey and Five-Year District Facilities Work program;
9. Co-location and shared use;
10. Resolution of disputes; and
11. An oversight process, including an opportunity for public participation, for the implementation of the Inter-local Agreement.

Policy IC-2.1.2: Walton County shall include a representative of the School District, appointed by the School Board, as a nonvoting member of the local planning agency, as required by Section 163.3 174, Florida Statutes.

Objective IC-2.2: Enhance Community Design - Enhance community/neighborhood design through effective school facility design and siting standards. Encourage the siting of school facilities so they serve as community focal points and so that they are compatible with surrounding land uses.

Policy IC-2.2.1: Consistent with the Walton County Future Land Use Element, future schools shall be an allowable use in all land use categories but the Industrial and Conservation FLUM categories. The Land Development Code may include standards for schools, consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

Policy IC-2.2.2: Public schools are to be located in agricultural FLUM categories only when no feasible site exists in nonagricultural categories, due to prohibitive land costs or location of available sites, and when necessary, to service student populations in rural areas that are mainly located in agricultural areas. If no feasible site exists in nonagricultural FLUM categories, then a public school should be located in a portion of the agricultural FLUM category that is as close as possible to urban residential areas, and the land use on the site should be changed subsequently to an "Institutional" or other appropriate FLUM category. The Comprehensive Plan intends for future schools to be sited as closely to urban residential areas as practicable, preferably within walking and/or bicycle distance of the primary residential areas to be served.

Policy IC-2.2.3: The policy of Walton County is to reduce hazardous walking conditions consistent with Florida's Safe Routes to School program. Walton County, in coordination with the School Board, shall implement the following strategies:

1. New developments adjacent to school properties shall be required to provide a right-of-way and a direct access path for pedestrian travel to existing and planned school sites, and shall connect to the neighborhood's existing pedestrian network

2. The Walton County Land Development Code shall contain provisions for new residential development and redevelopment located within 1/4 mile of an existing or planned school in order to facilitate the installation of sidewalks or trails in close proximity of schools;

3. Evaluate school zones to consider safe crossing of children along major roadways, including prioritized areas for sidewalk improvements including: schools with a high number of pedestrian and bicycle injuries or fatalities, schools requiring courtesy busing for hazardous walking conditions, schools with significant walking populations, but poor pedestrian and bicycle access, and needed safety improvements; and

4. Coordination with the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Long Range Transportation Plans to ensure funding for access to school including the development of sidewalk inventories and list of priority multi-modal projects coordinated with the School Board recommendations.

Policy IC-2.2.4: Walton County and the School Board shall jointly determine the need for and timing of on-site and off-site improvements (including water, sewer, roads and drainage) necessary to support each new school or the proposed renovation, expansion or closure of an existing school, and shall enter into a written agreement as to the timing of required improvements.

Objective IC-2.3: Community Based Design - Encourage community based design and development for educational facilities.

Policy IC-2.3.1: Coordinate with the School Board to continue to permit the shared-use and co-location of school sites and County facilities with similar facility needs, according to the Inter-local Agreement for Public School Facility Planning for Walton County, Florida, as it may be amended. Coordinate in the location, phasing, and design of future school sites to enhance the potential of schools as recreation areas.

Policy IC-2.3.2: Encourage the School Board to use sustainable design and performance standards, such as using energy efficient and recycled materials, to reduce lifetime costs.

Policy IC-2.3.3: Walton County shall continue to coordinate efforts to build new school facilities, and facility rehabilitation and expansions, to be designed to serve as and provide emergency shelters as required by Section 163.3177, Florida Statutes. Walton County shall continue to fulfill the requirements of Section 1013.372, Florida Statutes, such that as appropriate new educational facilities will serve as public shelters for emergency management purposes and shall coordinate with the School Board regarding emergency preparedness issues and plans.

Objective IC-2.4: School Capacity - It is the objective of Walton County to coordinate petitions for changes to future land use and/ or zoning with adequate school capacity. This shall be accomplished recognizing the School Board's statutory and constitutional responsibility to provide a uniform system of free and adequate public schools, and Walton County's authority for land use, including the authority to approve or deny petitions for Comprehensive Plan amendments and re-zonings that generate students and impact the Walton County school system.

Policy IC-2.4.1: Walton County shall coordinate anticipated student growth based on FLUM projections of housing units with the School Board's long range facilities needs over the 5-year, 10-year and 20-year periods.

Policy IC-2.4.2: Walton County shall take into consideration the School Board comments and findings on the availability of adequate school capacity when considering the decision to approve Comprehensive Plan amendment and other land use decisions.

Policy IC-2.4.3: Walton County shall give priority consideration to petitions for land uses and zoning changes in areas with adequate school capacity or where school sites adequate to serve potential growth have been donated to or set aside for purchase by the School Board at raw land (pre-development approval) prices reflected in written agreement approved by the Walton County School Board.

Policy IC-2.4.4: Where capacity will not be available to serve students from the property seeking a land use change, Walton County shall coordinate with the School Board to ensure adequate capacity is planned and funded. Where feasible, in conjunction with the plan amendment early dedications of school sites shall be encouraged. To ensure adequate capacity is planned and funded, the School

Board's long range facilities plans over the 5-year, 10-year and 20-year periods shall be amended to reflect the needs created by the land use plan amendment.

GOAL IC-3: COLLABORATE AND COORDINATE WITH EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED COMPATIBILITY OF THE LAND USES IN WALTON COUNTY WITH THE MISSIONS AND TRAINING OPERATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE AIR FORCE.

Objective IC-3.1: Coordination of Land Uses with Eglin Air Force Base - Walton County shall seek to implement the recommendations of the Eglin Air Force Base Joint Land Use Study Final Report, 2009 (JLUS), and Tri-County Small Areas Final Report, 2012 in an effort to minimize potential for encroachment of incompatible development on the Reservation and provide needed support services and housing for Eglin Air Force Base.

Policy IC-3.1.1: Walton County shall invite and include a representative of Eglin Air Force Base as a non-voting member of the Planning Commission.

Policy IC-3.1.2: Copies of all development proposals and requests for map amendments within the Military Influence Overlay District (MOID) Area, as defined within the Tri-County Small Areas Studies Final Report, 2012, will be provided to Eglin Air Force Base upon submittal for their review and comment.

Policy IC-3.1.3: Walton County will cooperate with representative of Eglin Air Force Base in developing and implementing comprehensive plan and land development code provisions to implement the Joint Land Use Study and Tri-County Small Areas Studies Final Report recommendations.

GOAL IC-4: ESTABLISH A CONFLICT RESOLUTION PROCESS.

Objective IC-4.1: Disputes - The County shall work to bring intergovernmental disputes to closure in a timely manner through the use of voluntary dispute resolution processes.

Policy IC 4.1.1: The County will utilize the West Florida Regional Planning Council's (WFRPC) role as a mediator and conciliator as outlined in Section 186.509, F.S., to reconcile differences on planning and growth management issues as outlined in the Rule.

Policy IC-4.1.2: The WFRPC's informal mediation process will be used for resolving annexation issues within Walton County provided that: (1) The WFRPC has determined that use of this process is appropriate; and (2) All parties to the dispute must agree to be bound by the WFRPC decision.