

Online Public Comments on the Savannah GPS Strategic Plan

May 28 – June 20, 2025

First Name	Bradel
Last Name	Canfield
Email	bradelcanfield@gmail.com

What are your thoughts, opinions, or insights on the draft of the Savannah GPS Strategic Plan?

Dear City of Savannah Strategic Planning Team,

Thank you for the opportunity to review Savannah GPS: Your City's Strategic Plan. I appreciate the City's commitment to creating a thoughtful and inclusive vision for Savannah's future. The plan clearly reflects careful consideration of key priorities such as public safety, housing, economic opportunity, infrastructure, environmental sustainability, and good government practices.

I'd like to offer a few recommendations that I believe could help strengthen the plan and ensure it has the greatest possible impact for our community:

1. Establish clear metrics, targets, and timelines

- Set measurable outcomes for each goal area (for example, reducing violent crime by a certain percentage over a specific period, or creating a set number of affordable housing units by a target year).
- Include timelines and milestones so that progress can be tracked along the way.
- Commit to sharing regular progress updates with the public in accessible ways, like dashboards or annual reports.

2. Prioritize and phase key initiatives

- Identify which efforts are short-term priorities versus longer-term goals, so resources can be focused effectively.
- Highlight "quick wins" that could show early progress and help build public trust.
- Include a general timeline or roadmap to show how major initiatives will roll out.

3. Clarify funding strategies

- Outline how the City plans to fund major initiatives—whether through grants, partnerships, bonds, or other resources.
- Provide high-level cost estimates for large projects like stormwater improvements or affordable housing programs.
- Share how the City will balance ambitious goals with responsible

Online Public Comments on the Savannah GPS Strategic Plan

May 28 – June 20, 2025

budgeting.

4. Strengthen community engagement and oversight

- Consider forming advisory groups or task forces that give residents a more active role in shaping and overseeing the plan's implementation.
- Be intentional about including voices from underserved and historically marginalized communities.
- Build in more opportunities for residents to co-create solutions, not just provide feedback.

5. Expand the plan's climate and resilience goals

- Set clear, measurable climate and sustainability targets, such as specific carbon reduction or renewable energy goals.
- Make sure climate resilience strategies are designed to protect vulnerable populations.
- Strengthen connections between environmental priorities and equitable development.

6. Embed equity across all areas of the plan

- Apply equity impact assessments to major initiatives to help prevent unintended consequences, like displacement due to gentrification.
- Make sure diversity, equity, and inclusion principles are woven throughout all areas, including public safety, infrastructure, economic growth, and city services.

Overall, I believe Savannah GPS provides a solid foundation for moving the City forward. These recommendations are shared with respect for the hard work that went into creating this plan and with the hope that they can help build an even stronger, more equitable, and resilient Savannah.

Thank you for your dedication to this important work. I look forward to seeing how the plan develops and is put into action.

First Name

bridget

Last Name

lidy

Email

blidy@savannahga.gov

What are your thoughts, opinions, or insights on the

Add the Tourism Management Plan as a foot note in Goal 5

Online Public Comments on the Savannah GPS Strategic Plan

May 28 – June 20, 2025

draft of the Savannah GPS Strategic Plan?

First Name patrick

Last Name shay

Email pshay@gmshay.com

What are your thoughts, opinions, or insights on the draft of the Savannah GPS Strategic Plan? Overall, a very good plan. Recommend adding under GOAL 2; Part III. Celebrating Arts and Diversity an Item 5: Create a HUB for Art and Commerce (Savannah's twin Muses) with affordable housing for artists, permanent and temporary venues for display and sale of local artwork and crafts, and multiple venues for indoor and outdoor performances in the vicinity of Elbert Ward, thereby creating an Arts and Innovation District. (6/15)

First Name Gary

Last Name Plotycia

Email Garyplotycia@gmail.com

What are your thoughts, opinions, or insights on the draft of the Savannah GPS Strategic Plan? Under "Quality of Life" there should be strong language regarding creating a better balance between the needs of residents versus the tourist industry.
Your plan to drive DEI in hiring and promotion practices flies in the face of recent Supreme Court decisions. Hiring and promotions need to be based exclusively on the quality and performance of the individual. (6/14)

First Name Claudia

Last Name Lievano

Email claudiaylievano@gmail.com

What are your thoughts, opinions, or insights on the I think we need to focus more on fundamentals and less in supportive programs. We need to walk before we can run. Savannah is beautiful but what good is it if the people don't feel safe. 1) Address crime and

Online Public Comments on the Savannah GPS Strategic Plan

May 28 – June 20, 2025

draft of the Savannah GPS Strategic Plan?

the unhoused. Fix roads, address speeding on E Victory Dr either by changing the timing of lights or police presence. There isn't a lot we can do on gun control because of the state, but police presence outside of downtown Savannah would be nice. Instead of spending resources removing stickers from poles in downtown how about focusing on items geared towards locals as well. Savannah needs both tourism and residents in order to reach its full potential. Our public school system is poor, drainage is poor, healthcare infrastructure is poor. Heavily treated water that is now strained due to poor planning for the Hyundai plant. Zero enforcement of traffic laws. Where are the tax dollars going? Focus on fundamentals and once that's addressed move on to educational. (6/12)

First Name

Kenyetta

Last Name

Jackson

Email

kejack0205@gmail.com

What are your thoughts, opinions, or insights on the draft of the Savannah GPS Strategic Plan?

After reading the strategic plan, I agree that the issues of public safety, affordable housing and accessibility, and equitable employment opportunities are necessary. I am homeless, unemployed, and going to dialysis. I am reaching out to Senator Reverend Warnock, consistently. There are many issues to address, and I wonder where the funding will come from to get the plan accomplished. I support the local and federal government with the Savannah GPS.

I have been living in an extended stay for almost two weeks, and it is expensive as the hotel industry is gouging and taking advantage of low-income families. It is over \$400 weekly to live in an extended stay. I am working with the Department of Family and Children's Services Homeless division and Gateway Mental Health to locate a mor permanent housing situation. I have several degrees, and I am the poster child for the Savannah GPS. I do not get special privileges because I am a family member of Mayor, Van Johnson or County Commissioner, Chester Ellis. I have a Master of Arts in Family and Community Services and Sociology. There are racial disparities in housing and employment in many cities. I have Social Security Disability, and the money is not sufficient to live on with high rates of inflation and budget cuts due to DOGE and Elon Musk. My food assistance has been cut in half, while tariffs make food costs rise. It

Online Public Comments on the Savannah GPS Strategic Plan

May 28 – June 20, 2025

will take leadership coming together to get the plan realized. You have my full support. (6/11)

First Name Anna Habersham

Last Name Wright

Email factorswalk@earthlink.net

What are your thoughts, opinions, or insights on the draft of the Savannah GPS Strategic Plan?

The city is working against its own goals by supporting overly ambitious development outside its competence and expertise. The city is not cherishing our greatest assets, such as our established residential neighborhoods, our National Historic Landmark District and our world famous Forsyth Park. Instead is is giving our public capital to private developers, and turning the power held by the city in the public's name against them. Our downtown is again flooding due to the reckless construction of 100% lot coverage hotels, dorms and apartment buildings, and the clearing and infill of the banks of the Springfield canal. What happened to the requirement that no project be allowed that displaced more runoff on completion than beforehand? How can the city so brazenly continue its assault on the Historic District by supporting huge ugly cheap jarring private speculations in the heart of the district, made even worse by not requiring the developers to provide parking. Why then does the city propose to spend our money building a huge underground parking garage at Whitaker and Park Avenues in the middle of an established historic neighborhood, all to help a private office development and a highly suspect exploitation of Forsyth Park? The city claims it wants housing and bicycle lanes and pedestrian areas. We have those, it is Savannah's glory and it is world famous. Yet the city is doing its best to destroy them.

The city is not capable of proper planning as shown by the debacle of the Enmark Arena parking and the inability to properly utilize the Civic Center site. Reinstating the city plan and filling it with permanent homeowners and residents and small pedestrian oriented businesses would stabilize the growing crime problem downtown and generate significant funds to complete the Enmark Arena and the Waterworks. The city does not have the funds or the expertise to take on large recreational and cultural developments. It must learn to work with the County and adjacent counties to combine resources to create new nodes of development instead of piling everything on top of itself in the historic district and thereby destroy what we already have and which is the basis of a multi million dollar industry.

Online Public Comments on the Savannah GPS Strategic Plan

May 28 – June 20, 2025

It is outrageous that SCAD holds a privileged position and power in our community without paying taxes. The city tax payers are providing a free campus the upkeep of which falls entirely on us. Their huge ugly dorms compete with the huge ugly hotels to see which can destabilize the permanent population of the city most with their transients.

The city should put a moratorium on all development in the historic districts other than preservation and upgrade of basic services. Right now the City Council grabs hold of each new favored developer or architect proposal for a "public/private partnership" and promptly sells out the public for private short term gain.

We have a world famous, highly successful, massively studied work of art that is our National Historic Landmark District. Yet every wannabe Scad teacher, graduate, and developer seems to think that they can create a better work of art. It is the residents who are the last line of defense against this tragic egotistical greedy destruction of our heritage. The city is hell bent on its reckless course. (6/10)

First Name James

Last Name H

Email dormant_outlook.com

What are your thoughts, opinions, or insights on the draft of the Savannah GPS Strategic Plan?

It mentions developing programs, while not mentioning specifics. One of the biggest reasons for unaffordable housing for native Savannahians is the influx of non-natives from wealthier parts of the country. South Carolina, or atleast one county, looked at implementing what was referred to as a "Yankee Tax". Such a tax should be looked into for Savannah. The problem I mentioned is the root. It needs to be addressed. (6/8)

First Name Chase

Last Name Johnso

Email chase4561@hotmail.com

What are your thoughts, opinions, or insights on the

I believe we need to build for the future with some new modern design and lot go of that old stuff and design. We also need to think about

Online Public Comments on the Savannah GPS Strategic Plan

May 28 – June 20, 2025

draft of the Savannah GPS Strategic Plan?

climate change and dealing with flooding especially since we are in the low country. (6/7)

First Name Victoria

Last Name Keller

Email victoria.l.keller@gmail.com

What are your thoughts, opinions, or insights on the draft of the Savannah GPS Strategic Plan?

I am concerned that the strategic plan is again treating Public Safety personnel differently than the rest of Team Savannah. Ensuring high training standards, equipping personnel with the proper tech/vehicles/other tools, and providing strong health and physical and mental wellness resources are aspects of Good Government that should be goals for all employees, not just Public Safety. While some of these items are somewhat mentioned also in Good Government, they aren't all specified, and calling them out specifically for Public Safety again messages that they are separate and special, and it feeds the entitled attitude that is rampant through Police in particular and highly detrimental to community policing. They are also not the only ones with dangerous, challenging, and essential jobs, and we should strive to provide those resources for all of our employees. Health and wellness programs have been highly lacking for a long time, and inadequate IT and vehicular equipment has a negative impact on all municipal services. Not related to the strategic plan, but providing take-home vehicles only to Police who live in city limits now that we have demerged from the county would help ease pressure on Fleet and help with community policing. Not only would it incentivize police to actually live in the communities they serve, it would stop incentivizing them/making it easier for them NOT to live in the communities they serve, and Richmond Hill could stop getting the neighborhood benefit of the vehicles paid for with our taxes.

Goal 5 doesn't make any sense as a goal. The items under it seem partly Good Government, partly Livable Environment/Infrastructure. (6/6)

First Name Glynda

Online Public Comments on the Savannah GPS Strategic Plan

May 28 – June 20, 2025

Last Name Jones

Email glyndajones4@aol.com

What are your thoughts, opinions, or insights on the draft of the Savannah GPS Strategic Plan? The plan appears to be a good start. All of the initiatives may not be implemented but as many as can be should. To maintain public trust, deviations from the initiatives should be at a minimum. (6/5)

First Name Jo

Last Name Hickson

Email johickson5@gmail.com

What are your thoughts, opinions, or insights on the draft of the Savannah GPS Strategic Plan? What does renovation and restoration of the Civic Center mean? I thought only the Mercer Theater was to be renovated. Ew city offices built AND RESTORATION OF THE HISTORIC ROADS AND LOTS ON THE REMAIMDER OF THE SITE. Please confirm redevelopment plans. Be specific please. (6/5)

First Name Briana

Last Name Paxton

Email bri.paxton@gmail.com

What are your thoughts, opinions, or insights on the draft of the Savannah GPS Strategic Plan? I see a lot of the right things in there, but think the document needs to cite the 2020 REAL taskforce recommendations as well as the 2021 Housing Action Plan. I see the Canal District plan in there but not Civic Legacy for the Civic Center Redevelopment, which should be addressed. (6/5)

First Name Scott

Online Public Comments on the Savannah GPS Strategic Plan

May 28 – June 20, 2025

Last Name Allen

Email hedeng@yahoo.com

What are your thoughts, opinions, or insights on the draft of the Savannah GPS Strategic Plan? A good first step (6/16)

First Name Sara

Last Name Farr-Newman

Email safarr8@gmail.com

What are your thoughts, opinions, or insights on the draft of the Savannah GPS Strategic Plan? I support most of the goals/initiatives, but I do want to ensure those outside the Truman (particularly to the East), including Savannah State and Armstrong, are not left out. So much of the historic and cultural efforts/goals seems to be focused on the downtown that I'm worried we'll be completely left out. (6/5)

First Name Lari

Last Name Lavigne

Email [larilavigne13@gmail.com](mailto:lirilavigne13@gmail.com)

What are your thoughts, opinions, or insights on the draft of the Savannah GPS Strategic Plan? I am wondering if the City would consider a parking system that worked very well for residents of Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. Residents are awarded a sticker for their car identifying them as residents of a specific area. That allows them to park at any time on their street. Others (visitors, restaurant patrons, etc.) must adhere to parking restrictions stated on street signs (2-hour parking, no parking between 8am-6am, etc.). I live on the unit block of E. 38th Street and often have a hard time parking on my street for several reasons: The patrons of The Vault use our block, several houses are rented out to students and they have frequent visitors staying over, and people visiting the Starland District park on our block for free. It is even worse on the days when the street sweeper comes through and everyone

Online Public Comments on the Savannah GPS Strategic Plan

May 28 – June 20, 2025

Add lighted crosswalk for people to cross at St Julian or Congress to access the Pirates House and event venues (6/3)

First Name Joanne

Last Name Lukacher

Email joannelukacher@gmail.com

What are your thoughts, opinions, or insights on the draft of the Savannah GPS Strategic Plan?

On first read these are generally admirable goals. However, the rampant degradation of residential neighborhoods and historic infrastructure through incompatible non-neighborhood-enhancing commercial development that is currently being abetted by the MPC and the city leads one to wonder not only how the Strategic Plan will actually be implemented or enforced but whether there will be neighborhoods left to preserve. Meanwhile the city should look to abiding by existing ordinances and guidelines during this strategic planning period in order to protect our existing community resources - natural, man-made, and and human - and should consider imposing a strategic moratorium on demolition and new construction in the interim. (6/2)

First Name Enocha

Last Name Van Lierop-Edenfield

Email Enocha.VL@gmail.com

What are your thoughts, opinions, or insights on the draft of the Savannah GPS Strategic Plan?

Everything sounds good, but it doesn't sound like anything new. These are the same things we've been promised in the past, and the steps to make them happen are rather vague. I know that some of the steps have to be vague, but I'd like a clearer definition of what strengthening the police force and creating more affordable housing looks like to our elected leaders. (6/2)

First Name Scott

Online Public Comments on the Savannah GPS Strategic Plan

May 28 – June 20, 2025

Last Name Anderson

Email Scottcanderson1962@gmail.com

What are your thoughts, opinions, or insights on the draft of the Savannah GPS Strategic Plan? We need to improve public transportation. (6/2)

First Name Deana

Last Name Brooks

Email brooksdq@gmail.com

What are your thoughts, opinions, or insights on the draft of the Savannah GPS Strategic Plan? The Strategic Plan outlines several important goals, but it would benefit from more concrete strategies and measurable targets. For example, the goal to "end preventable crashes" is admirable, but without a timeline or benchmarks, it's hard to understand what progress looks like. Similarly, it would be helpful to know when the City expects to complete the "stormwater master plan" or which specific aspects of building safety regulations are being prioritized for updates.

The goal to "expand access to public transit and mobility options" is another strong starting point, but it could be strengthened with more detail. Which public transit agencies will the City partner with? Are there plans to upgrade existing infrastructure, introduce dedicated bus lanes, or prioritize shelters as part of those upgrades? You might also consider initiatives such as providing bus passes to City employees, offering park-and-ride options, or creating a downtown parking hub to improve access and affordability.

Additionally, a public bike program or improved transit access to the Southside—particularly given its commercial density—could make the area more pedestrian-friendly and inclusive. There may even be an opportunity to explore nostalgic solutions like reintroducing historic streetcar routes or enhancing current bus routes with that history in mind.

Finally, one suggestion regarding your workforce development focus: currently, it's framed mostly in terms of how employees can better serve residents. While that's important, it may resonate more if the

Online Public Comments on the Savannah GPS Strategic Plan

May 28 – June 20, 2025

plan also emphasizes investing in employees as residents—highlighting the goal of making Savannah not just a great place to visit or live, but a great place to work. A people-first approach could help build a more empowered and engaged public workforce. (6/2)
