

# **Clinch County Transit Development Plan**

## **2007**

**Developed by the  
Southeast Georgia Development Center**



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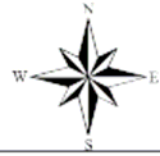
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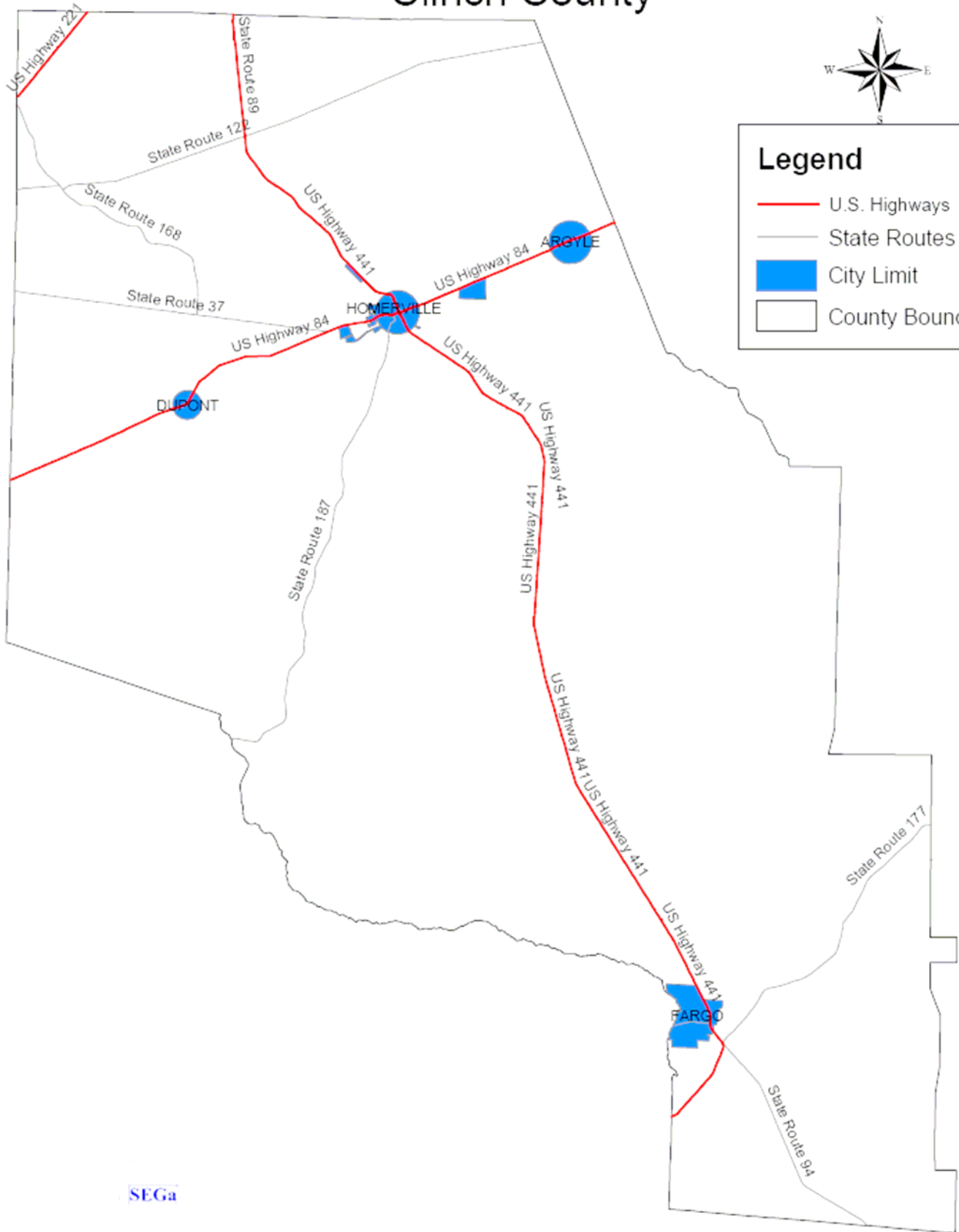
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# Clinch County



## Legend

- U.S. Highways
- State Routes
- City Limit
- County Boundary



SEGa

MAP CREATED JANUARY 2007  
FOR GENERAL PLANNING PURPOSES  
ONLY. REFER ALL QUESTIONS ON DATA  
ACCURACY AND AVAILABILITY TO SOUTHEAST  
GEORGIA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER.

0 2 4 8 12 16 Miles

## **Introduction**

Public transportation is often viewed as a metropolitan option. Although uncommon in many areas, rural public transportation is becoming a popular transportation alternative. Rural public transportation would benefit many residents in Clinch County. These residents include low income citizens, seniors who no longer drive, students, and the disabled. Public transportation is a reliable and inexpensive transportation option.

This study examines existing transportation services within the county and provides information on the Section 5311 Rural Public Transportation, and a proposed five-year budget. The goal of this plan is to provide reliable and cost-effective public transportation for the citizens of Clinch County.

## **County Description**

Clinch County is rural and dotted with various wetlands and timber. The county has four incorporated cities, Argyle, Dupont, Fargo, and Homerville. A portion of the famed Okefenokee Swamp is located in Clinch County. In addition, Fargo is home to the Stephen C. Foster State Park.

Clinch County has experienced slow to moderate in growth in the last 10 years. According to the 1990 U.S. Census, Clinch County had a total population of 6,160. Due to an 11.7% increase, the total county population for 2000 was 6,878. The 2006 Labor Force Activity report reveals that Clinch County had a total labor force of 2,731 of which 143 were unemployed. The unemployment rate for 2006 was 5.2%, which is slightly higher than the State's unemployment rate of 4.6%. Manufacturing employs 35.4% of the county's labor force. The county's per capita income in 2005 was \$18,982, an eight percent increase from 2001. Although, the county's per capita income has increased, it still remains lower than the state's per capita income. In 2005, Georgia's per capita income was \$23,982, which is approximately 30% more than Clinch County's per capita income. Although, the county's per capita income has increased, 23.4% of the county's residents remain below the poverty level.

## **Socio-Economic Characteristics**

### **Population**

Clinch County and the Cities of Argyle, Dupont, Fargo, and Homerville have experienced a slow growth rate during a 10-year period from 1990 to 2000. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the 1990 population of Clinch County was 6,160. From 1990 to 2000, the population increased by 12% to 6,878. The projected population for Clinch County estimates a 3.2% increase from the 2000 population of 6,878 to an estimated 2020 population of 7,096.

**Table 1: Projected Population**

| Category                | 1990  | 2000  | 2010  | 2020  |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <b>Total population</b> | 6,160 | 6,878 | 6,987 | 7,096 |

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census (SF1)

As illustrated in Table 2, the largest population growth occurred in the 45-54 year old bracket. During a 10-year period (1990-2000), this population increased by 49.6%. During this same period, the largest decrease was found in the 18-20 year old bracket, which decreased by 11.2%.

**Table 2: Population by Age**

| Category          | 1990  | 2000  | % Change |
|-------------------|-------|-------|----------|
| 0 – 4 Years Old   | 484   | 503   | 3.9%     |
| 5 – 13 Years Old  | 1,010 | 1,073 | 6.2%     |
| 14 – 17 Years Old | 350   | 340   | -2.9%    |
| 18 – 20 Years Old | 295   | 262   | -11.2%   |
| 21 – 24 Years Old | 337   | 330   | -2.1%    |
| 25 – 34 Years Old | 917   | 941   | 2.6%     |
| 35 – 44 Years Old | 883   | 1,051 | 19%      |
| 45 – 54 Years Old | 627   | 938   | 49.6%    |
| 55 – 64 Years Old | 543   | 626   | 15.3%    |
| 65 and over       | 714   | 814   | 14%      |

Table 3 illustrates Clinch County’s projected population over a 30-year period. During 1990-2000, the 45-54 years old bracket experienced the largest growth. By the year 2020, the largest age bracket will include the 35-44 and 45-54 years old. It is projected that Clinch County will experience a decline in a large decline of population among the 14-17 years old bracket.

**Table 3: Projected Population by Age**

| Category          | 1990  | 2000  | % Changed (1990-2000) | 2010  | % Changed (2000-2010) | 2020  | % Changed (2010-2020) |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-----------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| 0 – 4 Years Old   | 484   | 503   | 3.9%                  | 474   | -5.8%                 | 445   | -6.1%                 |
| 5 – 13 Years Old  | 1,010 | 1,073 | 6.2%                  | 1,021 | -4.8%                 | 969   | -5.1%                 |
| 14 – 17 Years Old | 350   | 340   | -2.9%                 | 214   | -37.1%                | 88    | -58.9%                |
| 18 – 20 Years Old | 295   | 262   | -11.2%                | 223   | -14.9%                | 184   | -17.5%                |
| 21 – 24 Years Old | 337   | 330   | -2.1%                 | 276   | -16.4%                | 221   | -19.9%                |
| 25 – 34 Years Old | 917   | 941   | 2.6%                  | 921   | -2.1%                 | 901   | -2.2%                 |
| 35 – 44 Years Old | 883   | 1,051 | 19%                   | 1,224 | 16.5%                 | 1,396 | 14.1%                 |
| 45 – 54           | 627   | 938   | 49.6%                 | 1,098 | 17.1%                 | 1,257 | 14.5%                 |

|                              |     |     |       |     |      |     |      |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|-----|------|-----|------|
| <b>Years Old</b>             |     |     |       |     |      |     |      |
| <b>55 – 64<br/>Years Old</b> | 543 | 626 | 15.3% | 644 | 2.9% | 662 | 2.8% |
| <b>65 and over</b>           | 714 | 814 | 14%   | 894 | 9.8% | 973 | 8.8% |

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census (SF1)

## Employment

During a 10-year period from 1990-2000, manufacturing was the largest industry in Clinch County as illustrated in Table 4. In 1990, the number of employed civilian population fell to 2,404 and only 26.1% of the population worked in manufacturing. Even though Clinch County’s employed civilian population increased in 2000 (2,604 compared to the 1990 population of 2,404), the number of laborers in manufacturing decreased to 25.1%.

As shown in Table 5, projected figures for the years 2010 and 2020 show a decrease in Clinch County’s employed civilian population and a decrease of people employed in manufacturing. The projected 2010 employee population is 2,552. Out of this population, 14.7% will work in manufacturing and 15.8% will work in retail trade. In 2020, the county’s employed civilian population is expected to fall to 2,499, and as predicted for 2010, manufacturing will continue to decrease (3.8%) and employment in retail trade will continue to increase (18.3%).

**Table 4: Clinch County Employment by Industry**

| <b>Category</b>  | <b>1990</b> | <b>2000</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Total Employed Civilian Population</b>  | 2,404       | 2,604       |
| <b>Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, hunting &amp; mining</b>                                | 250         | 208         |
| <b>Construction</b>  | 158         | 154         |
| <b>Manufacturing</b>   | 628         | 654         |
| <b>Wholesale Trade</b>   | 69          | 54          |
| <b>Retail Trade</b>  | 397         | 349         |
| <b>Transportation, warehousing, and utilities</b>  | 195         | 198         |
| <b>Information</b>   | NA          | 35          |
| <b>Finance, Insurance, &amp; Real Estate</b>   | 94          | 67          |
| <b>Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services</b> | 23          | 86          |
| <b>Educational, health and social services</b>   | 357         | 389         |
| <b>Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services</b>                    | 33          | 142         |
| <b>Other Services</b>  | 124         | 138         |

|                              |    |     |
|------------------------------|----|-----|
| <b>Public Administration</b> | 76 | 130 |
|------------------------------|----|-----|

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3

**Table 5: Projected Employment by Industry**

| <b>Category</b>  | <b>2000</b> | <b>%<br/>Employed</b> | <b>2010</b> | <b>%<br/>Employed</b> | <b>2020</b> | <b>%<br/>Employed</b> |
|--|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Total Employed Civilian Population</b>  | 2,604       | 100%                  | 2,552       | 100%                  | 2,499       | 100%                  |
| <b>Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, hunting &amp; mining</b>                                | 208         | 8%                    | 228         | 8.9%                  | 247         | 10%                   |
| <b>Construction</b>  | 154         | 5.9%                  | 139         | 5.4%                  | 124         | 5%                    |
| <b>Manufacturing</b>   | 654         | 25.1%                 | 375         | 14.7%                 | 95          | 3.8%                  |
| <b>Wholesale Trade</b>   | 54          | 2.1%                  | 49          | 1.9%                  | 44          | 1.8%                  |
| <b>Retail Trade</b>  | 349         | 13.4%                 | 404         | 15.8%                 | 458         | 18.3%                 |
| <b>Transportation, warehousing, and utilities</b>  | 198         | 7.6%                  | 213         | 8.3%                  | 228         | 9.1%                  |
| <b>Information</b>   | 35          | 1.3%                  | NA          | NA                    | NA          | NA                    |
| <b>Finance, Insurance, &amp; Real Estate</b>   | 67          | 2.6%                  | 85          | 3.3%                  | 102         | 4.1%                  |
| <b>Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services</b> | 86          | 3.3%                  | 112         | 4.4%                  | 137         | 5.5%                  |
| <b>Educational, health and social services</b>   | 389         | 14.9%                 | 392         | 15.4%                 | 394         | 15.8%                 |
| <b>Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services</b>                    | 142         | 5.5%                  | 175         | 6.9%                  | 207         | 8.3%                  |
| <b>Other Services</b>  | 138         | 5.3%                  | 184         | 7.2%                  | 230         | 9.2%                  |
| <b>Public Administration</b>   | 130         | 5%                    | 147         | 5.8%                  | 163         | 6.5%                  |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3

According to the 2006 Georgia Area Labor Profile, the five largest employers within Clinch County were Bway Corporation, Inc., Clinch Healthcare, LLC, Clinch Memorial Hospital, Crum Resources, and Lee Container Corps.

## Unemployment

Clinch County has a relatively low unemployment rate. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, only 2.2% of the County's 16 years old and above population was unemployed. The 2000 U.S. Census reveals that 3.6% of Georgia's labor force was unemployed. In 2003, the labor force in Clinch County totaled 2,887 with a 4.3% unemployment rate. According to the 2006 Area Labor Profile, Clinch County had a labor force population of 2,731 and 5.2% unemployment rate. During 2003, Georgia had a labor force of 4,414,014 with an unemployment rate of 4.7%. While Clinch County's unemployment increased in 2006, Georgia's unemployment rate decreased. In 2006, Georgia had a labor force population of 4,741,860 and an unemployment rate of 4.6%.

**Table 6: Clinch County's Labor Force Participation**

| Category                       | 1990  | 2000  |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|
| <b>Total Males and Females</b> | 4,566 | 5,212 |
| <b>In labor force:</b>         | 2,662 | 2,724 |
| <b>Civilian Labor force</b>    | 2,650 | 2,718 |
| <b>Civilian Employed</b>       | 2,404 | 2,604 |
| <b>Civilian unemployed</b>     | 246   | 114   |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3

**Table 7: Georgia's Labor Force Participation**

| Category                       | 1990      | 2000      |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Total Males and Females</b> | 4,938,381 | 6,250,687 |
| <b>In labor force:</b>         | 3,351,513 | 4,129,666 |
| <b>Civilian Labor force</b>    | 3,278,378 | 4,062,808 |
| <b>Civilian Employed</b>       | 3,090,276 | 3,839,756 |
| <b>Civilian unemployed</b>     | 188,102   | 223,052   |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3

## Area Employment and Commuting Patterns

The 2006 Area Labor Profile reveals that 80.4% of the county's labor force works within Clinch County. Nearly 6% of Clinch County's labor force worked in Ware County. The ten largest employers within the Clinch County Area were Fleetwood Homes of GA (Atkinson County), TLC Moldings (Atkinson County), Bway Corporation, Inc. (Clinch County), Satilla Regional Medical Center (Ware County), Wal-Mart Associates, Inc. (Ware County), Ware County State Prison (Ware County), Baptist Village, Inc. (Ware County), Concerted Services, Inc. (Ware County), Carolina Skiff, LLC (Ware County), and General Manufactured Housing, Inc. (Ware County).

**Table 8: Employed Residents of Clinch County**

| <b>County Where Employed</b> | <b>Number</b> | <b>Percent of Total</b> |
|------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Clinch                       | 2,045         | 80.4                    |
| Ware                         | 144           | 5.7                     |
| Lowndes                      | 96            | 3.8                     |
| Atkinson                     | 78            | 3.1                     |
| Coffee                       | 63            | 2.5                     |
| Lanier                       | 36            | 1.4                     |
| Berrien                      | 13            | 0.5                     |
| Clayton                      | 11            | 0.4                     |
| Other                        | 59            | 2.3                     |

Georgia Department of Labor

**Table 9: Persons Working in Clinch County**

| <b>County of Residence</b> | <b>Number</b> | <b>Percent of Total</b> |
|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Clinch                     | 2,045         | 70.9                    |
| Ware                       | 186           | 6.4                     |
| Atkinson                   | 139           | 4.8                     |
| Lanier                     | 128           | 4.4                     |
| Lowndes                    | 104           | 3.6                     |
| Berrien                    | 55            | 1.9                     |
| Coffee                     | 46            | 1.6                     |
| Echols                     | 35            | 1.2                     |
| Other                      | 147           | 5.1                     |

Georgia Department of Labor

Table 10 reveals Clinch County's work commute pattern. According to the 2000 Census, 75% of Clinch County's working residents drove alone to work and 18.6% carpooled to work. The mean travel time was 19.6 minutes. In Georgia, 77.5% of the working residents drove alone and 14.5% carpooled to work. The average travel time to work was 27.7 minutes.

**Table 10: Clinch County's Commute to Work**

| <b>Workers 16 years and over</b>          | <b>2,545</b> | <b>100.0</b> |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Car, truck, or van -- drove alone         | 1,909        | 75.0         |
| Car, truck, or van -- carpooled           | 473          | 18.6         |
| Public transportation (including taxicab) | 12           | 0.5          |
| Walked                                    | 74           | 2.9          |
| Other means                               | 72           | 2.8          |
| Worked at home                            | 5            | 0.2          |
| Mean travel time to work (minutes)        | 19.6         | (X)          |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3

**Table 11: Georgia's Commute to Work**

| <b>Workers 16 years and over</b>          | <b>3,832,803</b> | <b>100.0</b> |
|---|------------------|--------------|
| Car, truck, or van -- drove alone         | 2,968,910        | 77.5         |
| Car, truck, or van -- carpooled           | 557,062          | 14.5         |
| Public transportation (including taxicab) | 90,030           | 2.3          |
| Walked                                    | 65,776           | 1.7          |
| Other means                               | 42,039           | 1.1          |
| Worked at home                            | 108,986          | 2.8          |
| Mean travel time to work (minutes)        | 27.7             | (X)          |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3

### **Income**

During the period of 1990 to 2000, the total personal income of Georgians increased by 95.5%. During this same period, the total personal income for Clinch County residents increased by 65.6%.

The per capita income for Clinch County increased from \$8,354 in 1990 to \$13,023 in 2000, a 56% increase. From 1990 to 2000, Georgia's per capita income increased by 55.2%. Projected figures for the County predict the per capita income will continue to increase. The predicted figures show a 98% increase from 2000 to 2030.

**Table 12: Georgia's Personal Income by Type (in dollars)**

| <b>Category</b>  | <b>1990</b>    | <b>2000</b>     |
|--|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Total income</b>  | 87,114,415,462 | 170,271,810,700 |
| <b>Aggregate wage or salary income for households</b>      | 68,393,747,335 | 133,220,601,500 |
| <b>Aggregate other types of income for households</b>      | 980,166,673    | 2,897,846,900   |
| <b>Aggregate self employment income for households</b>     | 5,450,375,467  | 9,529,395,400   |
| <b>Aggregate interest, dividends, or net rental income</b> | 4,897,744,209  | 8,973,470,100   |
| <b>Aggregate social security income for households</b>     | 3,776,110,950  | 6,881,827,400   |
| <b>Aggregate public assistance income for households</b>   | 625,890,309    | 374,957         |
| <b>Aggregate retirement income for households</b>          | 2,990,380,519  | 7,776,117,500   |

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census (SF3)

**Table 13: Clinch County's Personal Income by Type (in dollars)**

| Category   | 1990       | 2000       |
|--|------------|------------|
| <b>Total income</b>  | 50,623,499 | 83,825,300 |
| <b>Aggregate wage or salary income for households</b>      | 37,057,242 | 62,210,400 |
| <b>Aggregate other types of income for households</b>      | 973,345    | 1,904,500  |
| <b>Aggregate self employment income for households</b>     | 3,528,427  | 4,951,600  |
| <b>Aggregate interest, dividends, or net rental income</b> | 1,623,807  | 3,060,200  |
| <b>Aggregate social security income for households</b>     | 4,074,678  | 6,888,900  |
| <b>Aggregate public assistance income for households</b>   | 1,098,670  | 1,981,200  |
| <b>Aggregate retirement income for households</b>          | 2,267,330  | 2,828,500  |

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census (SF3)

**Table 14: Clinch County's Per Capita Income (in dollars)**

| Category                 | 1980  | 1990  | 2000   |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|--------|
| <b>Per Capita Income</b> | 4,523 | 8,354 | 13,023 |

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census (SF3)

**Table 15: Georgia's Per Capita Income (in dollars)**

| Category                 | 1980 | 1990   | 2000   |
|--------------------------|------|--------|--------|
| <b>Per Capita Income</b> | NA   | 13,631 | 21,154 |

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census (SF3)

**Table 16: Clinch County's Projected Per Capita Income (in dollars)**

| Category                 | 1980  | 1985  | 1990  | 1995   | 2000   | 2005   | 2010   | 2015   | 2020   | 2025   | 2030   |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| <b>Per Capita Income</b> | 4,523 | 6,439 | 8,354 | 10,689 | 13,023 | 15,148 | 17,273 | 19,398 | 21,523 | 23,648 | 25,773 |

Source: DCA Data Views

**Table 17: Clinch County's Median Household Income**

| Category                       | 1990   | 2000   |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|
| <b>Median Household Income</b> | 18,098 | 26,755 |

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census (SF3)

**Table 18: Georgia's Median Household Income**

| Category                       | 1990   | 2000   |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|
| <b>Median Household Income</b> | 29,021 | 42,433 |

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census (SF3)

According to statistics obtained from the U.S. Bureau of Census, the median household income for Clinch County increased by 47.8% during a ten-year period. During this same time frame, the median household income for Georgia increased by 46.2%.

**Table 19: Regional Median Household Income**

| Rank | County   | Median Household Income |
|------|----------|-------------------------|
| 1    | Coffee   | \$ 30,710               |
| 2    | Brantley | 30,361                  |
| 3    | Berrien  | 30,044                  |
| 4    | Pierce   | 29,895                  |
| 5    | Ware     | 28,360                  |
| 6    | Charlton | 27,869                  |
| 7    | Bacon    | 26,910                  |
| 8    | Clinch   | 26, 755                 |
| 9    | Atkinson | 26,470                  |

Source: Georgia County Guide

Within the nine county region served by Southeast Georgia Regional Development Center, Clinch County’s median household income ranks eighth, followed by Atkinson County. In addition to low median household income, Clinch County has a high percentage of persons below poverty within the Southeast Georgia RDC region. Table 20 shows the percentage of persons below poverty within the nine county region served by the Southeast Georgia RDC.

**Table 20: Persons below Poverty**

| County   | Total  | White  | African-American | Hispanic |
|----------|--------|--------|------------------|----------|
| Atkinson | 23.0 % | 17.6 % | 30.6 %           | 43.8 %   |
| Bacon    | 23.7   | 18.9   | 47.2             | 27.5     |
| Berrien  | 17.7   | 14.3   | 36.8             | 38.2     |
| Brantley | 15.6   | 14.6   | 31.2             | 35.9     |
| Charlton | 20.9   | 15.1   | 38.2             | 40.0     |
| Clinch   | 23.4   | 18.9   | 35.4             | 14.3     |
| Coffee   | 19.1   | 14.9   | 30.8             | 22.8     |
| Pierce   | 18.4   | 15.4   | 38.7             | 48.3     |
| Ware     | 20.5   | 13.4   | 39.6             | 33.6     |

Source: Georgia County Guide

## Transportation

**Table 21: Number of Vehicles per Occupied Households, 2000 (Clinch County)**

| # of Households | No Vehicles | %     | 1 vehicle | %     | 2 vehicles | %     | 3 + vehicles | %     |
|-----------------|-------------|-------|-----------|-------|------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| 2,512           | 388         | 15.4% | 756       | 30.1% | 926        | 36.9% | 442          | 17.6% |

Source: Georgia County Guide

According to data obtained from the 2007 Georgia County Guide, 388 or 15.4% of occupied households in Clinch County do not own a vehicle. The majority of occupied households own two vehicles.

### Existing Transit Services

#### **Taxicab**

There are no existing taxicab services within Clinch County.

#### **City Provided Transportation**

The cities of Argyle, Dupont, Fargo, and Homerville do not own a van that can be rented and used by citizens.

#### **Senior Transportation**

The Clinch County senior citizen center does not have a way to transport seniors to various events. The Southeast Georgia RDC's Area Agency on Aging contracts with MIDS to transport seniors in Homerville to the Clinch County Senior Center. In addition, MIDS is contracted to deliver meals to homebound seniors. Non-emergency transportation is provided through Logistic Care, which transports Medicaid clients to medical appointments.

#### **Clinch County 4-H**

Currently the Clinch County 4-H does own a van to transport members to various events.

## **Developing a Transit System**

### **Potential Patrons**

Surveys were developed by the Southeast Georgia Regional Development Center to assess possible transit patrons. Surveys were delivered to representatives of the Clinch County Commission office, Dupont City Hall, Fargo City Hall, and Homerville City Hall.

Questions on the survey included:

1. Do you believe public transportation is needed in Clinch County?
2. Who would most benefit from public transportation in Clinch County?
3. If you used public transportation, what would be your destination?
4. What would be the purpose of your trips?
5. Comments.

One hundred (100) surveys were distributed, of which three (3) were returned to the RDC. One participant did not believe public transportation was needed in Clinch County. Other participants believe public transportation would benefit low income residents and the elderly. Participants stated medical appointments and shopping as the primary destination of public transportation trips.

### **Recommendations**

When deciding how to operate a public transit program, Clinch County has several options. One option is a county operated transit system or allowing a third party to become involved and operate the day-to-day business. An example of the county operated transit system is Pierce County. Pierce County Transit is funded in part by the Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 Program. This is a cost match program, which means the federal government provides 50% of the funds and the county provides a 50% match. The transit system does not have a set route; rather patrons call at least 3 days ahead and schedule a ride. Rates are based on the mileage of each trip. Within a 10 mile radius, a one-way trip is \$4. One-way trips over 10 miles cost \$6. Patrons 60 years old or over pay \$2 for a one-way trip. Medical rates are higher and are reimbursed by Medicaid. Pierce County Transit currently has 9 employees (1 full time employee and 8 part time employees). All drivers and employees must have PASS (passenger assistance) training, defensive driving, first aid, and CPR. All drivers must pass a drug and alcohol screening. The vehicles are regularly inspected by GDOT and Medicaid. Vans are replaced when they have 100,000 miles on them or are 5 years old. Maintenance and repairs are performed by an outside vendor selected by the county.

The Berrien County Transit System is operated by a third part operator, Mids, from Valdosta. Berrien County applies for the funds, provides vehicle insurance, and monitors the transit system but Mids operates the daily transit. Currently, Berrien County has two vans that are maintained by Mids. In addition, Mids employees and pays the drivers and any additional staff. Mids also ensures that the drivers and employees have

the proper training, such as PASS, defensive driving, first aid, etc. As in Pierce County, patrons call to schedule a ride and pay \$3 one-way for a trip within a three-mile radius.

To effectively operate a public transit system, Clinch County would need to evaluate the pros and cons of both methods of operation. A transit system like Pierce County would enable Clinch County to be responsible for every aspect of the system, whereas, having a third party operator, would ease the responsibilities of the County but the local government would still have to monitor the system and the operator.

It is recommended that future transportation should be available Monday-Friday and should begin operating around 5:30 or 6:00 AM and end around 6:00 PM. The County can choose to provide one part-time driver for a night shift if the occasion should arise.

If the County chooses to develop a future public transit system, goals and objectives for a proposed Section 5311 program are listed below. In addition to the goals and objectives, sample funded and unfunded five-year administrative, operating, and capital budgets are included in tables 22-33.

## **Goals and Objectives**

Although, many citizens in Clinch County have access to private transportation, it has been determined that citizens, such as the elderly, disabled, low income individuals, and low income families would greatly benefit from public transportation. Public transportation would allow residents to keep out of town medical appointments, make trips to the grocery store, allow citizens to look for jobs out of county, and have a reliable means of transportation to jobs.

Below are goals and objectives identified by the TDP committee.

**Goal 1:** Provide adequate, convenient, and affordable transportation to Clinch County.

**Objective:** Establish a transit system by 2010, if warranted.

**Strategy 1:** Conduct a needs assessment of various County agencies, census data, during 2008.

**Strategy 2:** Gather the data and make a presentation to the County Commission by 2009.

**Strategy 3:** Submit an application for the Section 5311 Rural Transportation Program in 2009, if the County Commission has approved a system.

**Proposed Five-Year (2010-2014) Administrative, Operating, and Capital Budget**

**Table 22:**

**Grantee: Clinch County**

**Reporting Period: 2010**

**Administrative Budget**

|                                |                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Director Salary                | \$0.00             |
| Supervisor Salary              | \$20,000           |
| Bookkeeper Salary              | \$0.00             |
| Secretary Salary               | \$0.00             |
| Training/Travel                | \$600.00           |
| Marketing Expenses             | \$600.00           |
| Telephone Expenses             | \$900.00           |
| Office Supplies                | \$600.00           |
| Rental Expenses                | \$2,000.00         |
| Standard Overhead              | \$0.00             |
| Computer Software              | \$500.00           |
| Audit                          | \$0.00             |
| Other                          | \$0.00             |
| <b>Subtotal Administrative</b> | <b>\$25,200.00</b> |

**Operating Budget**

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Driver Salary              | \$40,000.00        |
| Dispatcher Salary          | \$7,000.00         |
| Mechanic Salary            | \$0.00             |
| Fuel                       | \$15,000.00        |
| Maintenance and Repair     | \$2,000.00         |
| Vehicle Insurance          | \$5,000.00         |
| Drug/Alcohol Testing       | \$550.00           |
| License                    | \$0.00             |
| Uniforms                   | \$500.00           |
| Communications (Radios)    | \$5,000.00         |
| Other                      | \$0.00             |
| <b>Subtotal Operations</b> | <b>\$75,050.00</b> |

**Total Expenses** **\$100,250.00**

**Purchase of Service Revenue** **\$0.00**

**Farebox Revenue** **\$10,025.00**

**Net Expenses (Less Farebox Revenue)** **\$90,225.00**

**Purchase of Service Local Funds** **\$0.00**

**Excess POS (Above Local Match)** **\$0.00**

**Section 5311 Federal Share** **\$50,125.00**

**Local Share (Includes Any Excess POS)** **\$50,125.00**

**Table 23:**  
**Grantee: Clinch County**

**Reporting Period: 2011**

**Administrative Budget**

|                                |                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Director Salary                | \$0.00             |
| Supervisor Salary              | \$21,000           |
| Bookkeeper Salary              | \$0.00             |
| Secretary Salary               | \$0.00             |
| Training/Travel                | \$630.00           |
| Marketing Expenses             | \$630.00           |
| Telephone Expenses             | \$945.00           |
| Office Supplies                | \$630.00           |
| Rental Expenses                | \$2,100.00         |
| Standard Overhead              | \$0.00             |
| Computer Software              | \$525.00           |
| Audit                          | \$0.00             |
| Other                          | \$0.00             |
| <b>Subtotal Administrative</b> | <b>\$26,460.00</b> |

**Operating Budget**

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Driver Salary              | \$42,000.00        |
| Dispatcher Salary          | \$7,350.00         |
| Mechanic Salary            | \$0.00             |
| Fuel                       | \$15,750.00        |
| Maintenance and Repair     | \$2,100.00         |
| Vehicle Insurance          | \$5,250.00         |
| Drug/Alcohol Testing       | \$577.50           |
| License                    | \$0.00             |
| Uniforms                   | \$525.00           |
| Communications (Radios)    | \$5,250.00         |
| Other                      | \$0.00             |
| <b>Subtotal Operations</b> | <b>\$78,802.50</b> |

**Total Expenses** **\$105,262.50**

**Purchase of Service Revenue** **\$0.00**

**Farebox Revenue** **\$10,526.65**

**Net Expenses (Less Farebox Revenue)** **\$94,735.85**

**Purchase of Service Local Funds** **\$0.00**

**Excess POS (Above Local Match)** **\$0.00**

**Section 5311 Federal Share** **\$52,631.25**

**Local Share (Includes Any Excess POS)** **\$52,631.25**

**Table 24:**  
**Grantee: Clinch County**

**Reporting Period: 2012**

**Administrative Budget**

|                                |                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Director Salary                | \$0.00             |
| Supervisor Salary              | \$22,050           |
| Bookkeeper Salary              | \$0.00             |
| Secretary Salary               | \$0.00             |
| Training/Travel                | \$661.50           |
| Marketing Expenses             | \$661.50           |
| Telephone Expenses             | \$992.26           |
| Office Supplies                | \$661.50           |
| Rental Expenses                | \$2,205.00         |
| Standard Overhead              | \$0.00             |
| Computer Software              | \$551.25           |
| Audit                          | \$0.00             |
| Other                          | \$0.00             |
| <b>Subtotal Administrative</b> | <b>\$27,783.01</b> |

**Operating Budget**

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Driver Salary              | \$44,100.00        |
| Dispatcher Salary          | \$7,717.50         |
| Mechanic Salary            | \$0.00             |
| Fuel                       | \$16,537.50        |
| Maintenance and Repair     | \$2,205.00         |
| Vehicle Insurance          | \$5,512.50         |
| Drug/Alcohol Testing       | \$606.38           |
| License                    | \$0.00             |
| Uniforms                   | \$551.25           |
| Communications (Radios)    | \$5,512.50         |
| Other                      | \$0.00             |
| <b>Subtotal Operations</b> | <b>\$82,742.63</b> |

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                        | <b>\$110,525.64</b> |
| <b>Purchase of Service Revenue</b>           | <b>\$0.00</b>       |
| <b>Farebox Revenue</b>                       | <b>\$11,052.64</b>  |
| <b>Net Expenses (Less Farebox Revenue)</b>   | <b>\$99,473.08</b>  |
| <b>Purchase of Service Local Funds</b>       | <b>\$0.00</b>       |
| <b>Excess POS (Above Local Match)</b>        | <b>\$0.00</b>       |
| <b>Section 5311 Federal Share</b>            | <b>\$55,262.82</b>  |
| <b>Local Share (Includes Any Excess POS)</b> | <b>\$55,262.82</b>  |

**Table 25:**  
**Grantee: Clinch County**

**Reporting Period: 2013**

**Administrative Budget**

|                                |                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Director Salary                | \$0.00             |
| Supervisor Salary              | \$23,152.50        |
| Bookkeeper Salary              | \$0.00             |
| Secretary Salary               | \$0.00             |
| Training/Travel                | \$694.58           |
| Marketing Expenses             | \$694.58           |
| Telephone Expenses             | \$1,041.87         |
| Office Supplies                | \$694.58           |
| Rental Expenses                | \$2,315.25         |
| Standard Overhead              | \$0.00             |
| Computer Software              | \$578.81           |
| Audit                          | \$0.00             |
| Other                          | \$0.00             |
| <b>Subtotal Administrative</b> | <b>\$29,172.17</b> |

**Operating Budget**

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Driver Salary              | \$46,306.00        |
| Dispatcher Salary          | \$8,103.38         |
| Mechanic Salary            | \$0.00             |
| Fuel                       | \$17,364.38        |
| Maintenance and Repair     | \$2,315.25         |
| Vehicle Insurance          | \$5,788.13         |
| Drug/Alcohol Testing       | \$636.70           |
| License                    | \$0.00             |
| Uniforms                   | \$578.81           |
| Communications (Radios)    | \$5,788.13         |
| Other                      | \$0.00             |
| <b>Subtotal Operations</b> | <b>\$86,880.78</b> |

**Total Expenses** **\$116,052.95**

**Purchase of Service Revenue** **\$0.00**

**Farebox Revenue** **\$11,605.30**

**Net Expenses (Less Farebox Revenue)** **\$104,447.66**

**Purchase of Service Local Funds** **\$0.00**

**Excess POS (Above Local Match)** **\$0.00**

**Section 5311 Federal Share** **\$58,026.48**

**Local Share (Includes Any Excess POS)** **\$58,026.48**

**Table 26:**  
**Grantee: Clinch County**

**Reporting Period: 2014**

**Administrative Budget**

|                                |                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Director Salary                | \$0.00             |
| Supervisor Salary              | \$24,310.13        |
| Bookkeeper Salary              | \$0.00             |
| Secretary Salary               | \$0.00             |
| Training/Travel                | \$729.31           |
| Marketing Expenses             | \$729.31           |
| Telephone Expenses             | \$1,093.96         |
| Office Supplies                | \$729.31           |
| Rental Expenses                | \$2,431.01         |
| Standard Overhead              | \$0.00             |
| Computer Software              | \$607.75           |
| Audit                          | \$0.00             |
| Other                          | \$0.00             |
| <b>Subtotal Administrative</b> | <b>\$30,630.78</b> |

**Operating Budget**

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Driver Salary              | \$48,620.25        |
| Dispatcher Salary          | \$8,508.55         |
| Mechanic Salary            | \$0.00             |
| Fuel                       | \$18,232.60        |
| Maintenance and Repair     | \$2,431.01         |
| Vehicle Insurance          | \$6,077.54         |
| Drug/Alcohol Testing       | \$668.54           |
| License                    | \$0.00             |
| Uniforms                   | \$607.75           |
| Communications (Radios)    | \$6,077.54         |
| Other                      | \$0.00             |
| <b>Subtotal Operations</b> | <b>\$91,223.78</b> |

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                        | <b>\$121,854.56</b> |
| <b>Purchase of Service Revenue</b>           | <b>\$0.00</b>       |
| <b>Farebox Revenue</b>                       | <b>\$12,186.46</b>  |
| <b>Net Expenses (Less Farebox Revenue)</b>   | <b>\$109,669.10</b> |
| <b>Purchase of Service Local Funds</b>       | <b>\$0.00</b>       |
| <b>Excess POS (Above Local Match)</b>        | <b>\$0.00</b>       |
| <b>Section 5311 Federal Share</b>            | <b>\$60,927.28</b>  |
| <b>Local Share (Includes Any Excess POS)</b> | <b>\$60,927.28</b>  |

**Table 27:**

| <b>Capital Budget</b>   | <b>Quantity</b> | <b>Cost</b>        |
|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Standard Van            | 0               | \$0.00             |
| Modified Van            | 0               | \$0.00             |
| Conversion Van          | 0               | \$0.00             |
| Conversion Van/Lift     | 0               | \$0.00             |
| Shuttle Van             | 1               | \$33,500.00        |
| Shuttle Van/Lift        | 1               | \$37,500.00        |
| Shuttle Bus             | 0               | \$0.00             |
| Shuttle Bus/Lift        | 0               | \$0.00             |
| Computer Hardware       | 1               | \$4,000.00         |
| <b>Subtotal Capital</b> |                 | <b>\$75,000.00</b> |

Federal Funds (80%): \$60,000.00

State Funds (15%): \$11,250.00

Local Funds (5%): \$ 3,750.00

Total: \$75,000.00

Tables 22-26 illustrate proposed public transportation funding by the federal 5311 program. For the first year, 2010, the estimated total cost is \$100,250, which means the local county would receive \$50,125 from the federal government and match this by 50%. Projected estimates were created by increasing the proposed budget by 5%.

Table 27 illustrates the proposed capital budget. The local government is required to provide 5% of the total capital budget, federal funds provide 80% of the budget, and state funds provide 15% of the budget.

In addition to start up funds, the County can also receive funds to assist in the training of public transit employees. The Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) funds are provided by the state and can be used by all entities eligible to apply for 5310 and 5311 funds. RTAP funds are used for driver training, grants management, vehicle maintenance, individual training needs reimbursement, registration fees, seminars, etc.

**Unfunded Proposed Five Year (2010-2014) Administrative, Operating,  
and Capital Budget**

**Table 28:**

**Grantee: Clinch County**

**Reporting Period: 2010**

**Administrative Budget**

|                                |                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Director Salary                | \$0.00             |
| Supervisor Salary              | \$20,000           |
| Bookkeeper Salary              | \$0.00             |
| Secretary Salary               | \$0.00             |
| Training/Travel                | \$600.00           |
| Marketing Expenses             | \$600.00           |
| Telephone Expenses             | \$900.00           |
| Office Supplies                | \$600.00           |
| Rental Expenses                | \$2,000.00         |
| Standard Overhead              | \$0.00             |
| Computer Software              | \$500.00           |
| Audit                          | \$0.00             |
| Other                          | \$0.00             |
| <b>Subtotal Administrative</b> | <b>\$25,200.00</b> |

**Operating Budget**

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Driver Salary              | \$40,000.00        |
| Dispatcher Salary          | \$7,000.00         |
| Mechanic Salary            | \$0.00             |
| Fuel                       | \$15,000.00        |
| Maintenance and Repair     | \$2,000.00         |
| Vehicle Insurance          | \$5,000.00         |
| Drug/Alcohol Testing       | \$550.00           |
| License                    | \$0.00             |
| Uniforms                   | \$500.00           |
| Communications (Radios)    | \$5,000.00         |
| Other                      | \$0.00             |
| <b>Subtotal Operations</b> | <b>\$75,050.00</b> |

**Total Expenses** **\$100,250.00**

**Farebox Revenue** **\$10,025.00**

**Net Expenses (Less Farebox Revenue)** **\$90,225.00**

**Table 29:**  
**Grantee: Clinch County**

**Reporting Period: 2011**

**Administrative Budget**

|                                |                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Director Salary                | \$0.00             |
| Supervisor Salary              | \$21,000           |
| Bookkeeper Salary              | \$0.00             |
| Secretary Salary               | \$0.00             |
| Training/Travel                | \$630.00           |
| Marketing Expenses             | \$630.00           |
| Telephone Expenses             | \$945.00           |
| Office Supplies                | \$630.00           |
| Rental Expenses                | \$2,100.00         |
| Standard Overhead              | \$0.00             |
| Computer Software              | \$525.00           |
| Audit                          | \$0.00             |
| Other                          | \$0.00             |
| <b>Subtotal Administrative</b> | <b>\$26,460.00</b> |

**Operating Budget**

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Driver Salary              | \$42,000.00        |
| Dispatcher Salary          | \$7,350.00         |
| Mechanic Salary            | \$0.00             |
| Fuel                       | \$15,750.00        |
| Maintenance and Repair     | \$2,100.00         |
| Vehicle Insurance          | \$5,250.00         |
| Drug/Alcohol Testing       | \$577.50           |
| License                    | \$0.00             |
| Uniforms                   | \$525.00           |
| Communications (Radios)    | \$5,250.00         |
| Other                      | \$0.00             |
| <b>Subtotal Operations</b> | <b>\$78,802.50</b> |

**Total Expenses** **\$105,262.50**

**Purchase of Service Revenue** **\$0.00**

**Farebox Revenue** **\$10,526.65**

**Net Expenses (Less Farebox Revenue)** **\$94,735.85**

**Table 30:**  
**Grantee: Clinch County**

**Reporting Period: 2012**

**Administrative Budget**

|                                |                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Director Salary                | \$0.00             |
| Supervisor Salary              | \$22,050           |
| Bookkeeper Salary              | \$0.00             |
| Secretary Salary               | \$0.00             |
| Training/Travel                | \$661.50           |
| Marketing Expenses             | \$661.50           |
| Telephone Expenses             | \$992.26           |
| Office Supplies                | \$661.50           |
| Rental Expenses                | \$2,205.00         |
| Standard Overhead              | \$0.00             |
| Computer Software              | \$551.25           |
| Audit                          | \$0.00             |
| Other                          | \$0.00             |
| <b>Subtotal Administrative</b> | <b>\$27,783.01</b> |

**Operating Budget**

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Driver Salary              | \$44,100.00        |
| Dispatcher Salary          | \$7,717.50         |
| Mechanic Salary            | \$0.00             |
| Fuel                       | \$16,537.50        |
| Maintenance and Repair     | \$2,205.00         |
| Vehicle Insurance          | \$5,512.50         |
| Drug/Alcohol Testing       | \$606.38           |
| License                    | \$0.00             |
| Uniforms                   | \$551.25           |
| Communications (Radios)    | \$5,512.50         |
| Other                      | \$0.00             |
| <b>Subtotal Operations</b> | <b>\$82,742.63</b> |

**Total Expenses** **\$110,525.64**

**Purchase of Service Revenue** **\$0.00**

**Farebox Revenue** **\$11,052.64**

**Table 31:**  
**Grantee: Clinch County**

**Reporting Period: 2013**

**Administrative Budget**

|                                |                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Director Salary                | \$0.00             |
| Supervisor Salary              | \$23,152.50        |
| Bookkeeper Salary              | \$0.00             |
| Secretary Salary               | \$0.00             |
| Training/Travel                | \$694.58           |
| Marketing Expenses             | \$694.58           |
| Telephone Expenses             | \$1,041.87         |
| Office Supplies                | \$694.58           |
| Rental Expenses                | \$2,315.25         |
| Standard Overhead              | \$0.00             |
| Computer Software              | \$578.81           |
| Audit                          | \$0.00             |
| Other                          | \$0.00             |
| <b>Subtotal Administrative</b> | <b>\$29,172.17</b> |

**Operating Budget**

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Driver Salary              | \$46,306.00        |
| Dispatcher Salary          | \$8,103.38         |
| Mechanic Salary            | \$0.00             |
| Fuel                       | \$17,364.38        |
| Maintenance and Repair     | \$2,315.25         |
| Vehicle Insurance          | \$5,788.13         |
| Drug/Alcohol Testing       | \$636.70           |
| License                    | \$0.00             |
| Uniforms                   | \$578.81           |
| Communications (Radios)    | \$5,788.13         |
| Other                      | \$0.00             |
| <b>Subtotal Operations</b> | <b>\$86,880.78</b> |

**Total Expenses** **\$116,052.95**

**Purchase of Service Revenue** **\$0.00**

**Farebox Revenue** **\$11,605.30**

**Net Expenses (Less Farebox Revenue)** **\$104,447.66**

**Table 32:**  
**Grantee: Clinch County**

**Reporting Period: 2014**

**Administrative Budget**

|                                |                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Director Salary                | \$0.00             |
| Supervisor Salary              | \$24,310.13        |
| Bookkeeper Salary              | \$0.00             |
| Secretary Salary               | \$0.00             |
| Training/Travel                | \$729.31           |
| Marketing Expenses             | \$729.31           |
| Telephone Expenses             | \$1,093.96         |
| Office Supplies                | \$729.31           |
| Rental Expenses                | \$2,431.01         |
| Standard Overhead              | \$0.00             |
| Computer Software              | \$607.75           |
| Audit                          | \$0.00             |
| Other                          | \$0.00             |
| <b>Subtotal Administrative</b> | <b>\$30,630.78</b> |

**Operating Budget**

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Driver Salary              | \$48,620.25        |
| Dispatcher Salary          | \$8,508.55         |
| Mechanic Salary            | \$0.00             |
| Fuel                       | \$18,232.60        |
| Maintenance and Repair     | \$2,431.01         |
| Vehicle Insurance          | \$6,077.54         |
| Drug/Alcohol Testing       | \$668.54           |
| License                    | \$0.00             |
| Uniforms                   | \$607.75           |
| Communications (Radios)    | \$6,077.54         |
| Other                      | \$0.00             |
| <b>Subtotal Operations</b> | <b>\$91,223.78</b> |

**Total Expenses** **\$121,854.56**

**Purchase of Service Revenue** **\$0.00**

**Farebox Revenue** **\$12,186.46**

**Net Expenses (Less Farebox Revenue)** **\$109,669.10**

**Table 33:**

| <b>Capital Budget</b>   | <b>Quantity</b> | <b>Cost</b>        |
|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Standard Van            | 0               | \$0.00             |
| Modified Van            | 0               | \$0.00             |
| Conversion Van          | 0               | \$0.00             |
| Conversion Van/Lift     | 0               | \$0.00             |
| Shuttle Van             | 1               | \$33,500.00        |
| Shuttle Van/Lift        | 1               | \$37,500.00        |
| Shuttle Bus             | 0               | \$0.00             |
| Shuttle Bus/Lift        | 0               | \$0.00             |
| Computer Hardware       | 1               | \$4,000.00         |
| <b>Subtotal Capital</b> |                 | <b>\$75,000.00</b> |

Tables 28-33 are a proposed budget without any federal or state funding. As proposed, for the first year, 2010, Clinch County would provide \$100,250 to begin a public transportation system. In addition to the administrative and operating budget, the County would cover the entire operating budget. Therefore the County would need \$100,250 plus \$75,000 for a total budget of \$175,250. Future estimates are projected by increasing the budget by 5% each year.

### **Conclusion**

If, in the future, the County considers rural public transportation, the Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 Program is recommended. Many rural regions are using this program and have found it to work successfully in various cities and counties. Rural public transportation is a great benefit to the citizens, as well as the County. Public transportation provides a reliable way for citizens to attend classes at community college or technical colleges, provides safe transportation for the elderly, and can act as recruiting tool for new industries.