

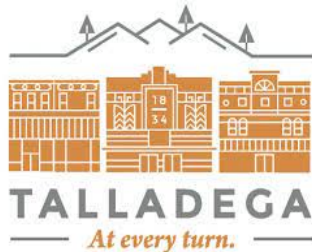
# City of Talladega

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## Comprehensive Plan

2034

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EARPDC









**CITY OF TALLADEGA  
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

**This document was prepared under the direction of the  
CITY OF TALLADEGA PLANNING COMMISSION  
by the  
EAST ALABAMA REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT  
COMMISSION**

**For additional information:  
Talladega City Office  
203 South Street W  
Talladega, Alabama 35160**



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For Information Address:

East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission  
1130 Quintard Avenue, Suite 300  
P.O. Box 2186  
Anniston, Alabama 36202

Source of Copies:

Talladega City Office  
203 South Street W  
Talladega, Alabama 35160

Abstract:

This Comprehensive Plan is intended to guide the city of Talladega, Alabama's future growth and development. It will be used as a basis for community policy and land use decisions through 2034. This study presents recommendations on the general location and extent of residential, commercial, and public land uses needed to serve the city's population.



# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**City of Talladega  
Mayor Ashton Hall**

## **City Council**

Steve Dickerson  
Vickey R. Hall  
Hugh Sims  
Betty C. Spratlin  
Trae Williams

## **Planning Commission**

Robert Mabra  
Marie Player  
Jackie Smith  
Ashton Hall  
Trey Cobb  
Jeanette Jueckstock

## **East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission**

Shelby Peterson, Senior Planner  
Heather Graham, Regional Planner  
Edwin Harbin, Principal Cartographer  
Michael Brewer, Principal GIS Analyst







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## CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

### Comprehensive Planning

Comprehensive planning strives to guide city officials and the public in making decisions for their community's future growth and development through a Comprehensive Plan. The Local Comprehensive Plan, according to the American Planning Association's Growing Smart Legislative Guidebook, is defined as: "The adopted official statement of a legislative body of a local government that sets forth (in words, maps, and illustrations, and tables) goals, policies, and guidelines intended to direct the present and future physical, social, and economic development that occurs within its planning jurisdiction and that includes a unified physical design for the public and private development of land and water." The overall process of the Comprehensive Plan, and in comprehensive planning in general, is to determine essential community goals and aspirations and establish a format that considers all planning aspects of the community, such as transportation, land use, utilities, community facilities, housing, recreation, and economic development to build an all-encompassing plan for the community. From this plan, local government and resident support may properly build, zone, establish policies, and develop their community under various community needs.

Overall, comprehensive planning strives to account for the complete set of topic areas in which the entire city is comprised and make goals and plans for each according to community needs, hence the term comprehensive. In short, comprehensive planning focuses on making communities better places to live. Generally, a comprehensive plan may be organized into five comprehensive planning topic areas. These five areas constitute the following:

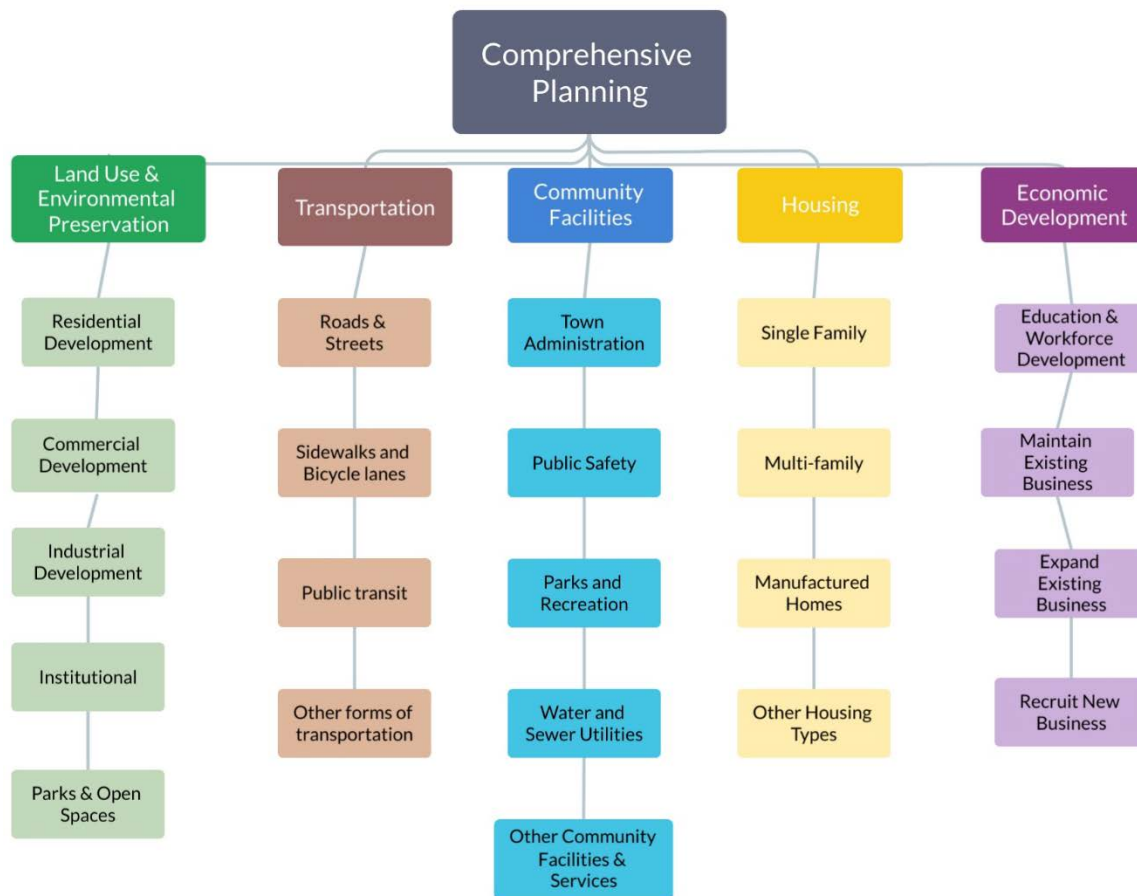
- **Land Use and Environmental Preservation**—entails properly using and managing existing land uses such as residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and open space. Land use needs should be planned for and managed through zoning districts and the administration of a city's zoning map and ordinance. Environmental preservation should also be considered for areas most suited for open space and wildlife conservation following the comprehensive plan and city zoning.
- **Transportation**—primarily constitutes the building, expanding, and repaving improvements to the city's streets and roadways, sidewalks, hiking and bicycling trails, and transit. Other forms of transportation planning could include airports and mass transit such as trains, buses, and subway systems in larger communities. Land use and transportation planning should be considered together in the comprehensive plan due to their close influence and overlap.



- **Community Facilities and Utilities** include facilities such as city administration, law enforcement, fire protection, parks and recreation, community centers, libraries, senior centers, educational facilities, and utility services such as water, sewer, and gas infrastructure provision. These facilities are crucial in adequately developing neighborhoods and the city.
- **Housing** --generally comprises single-family, multi-family, and manufactured housing. However, other types of housing could include RV parks and houseboats. A community should provide and make plans to provide quality housing and different housing options to meet the housing needs of a diverse and often changing population.
- **Economic Development**—often spurred from proper planning with the other elements, could comprise four approaches: education and workforce development, maintaining existing business, expanding business, and recruiting new business. Economic development plays a crucial role in planning simply because a community needs to provide good jobs and employment opportunities for its residents. This draws in more population and a steady revenue stream to run city government and provide community services properly.

Figure INTRO-1. Comprehensive Planning Topic Areas shows the five elements and their accompanying aspects of influence.





A comprehensive plan could be formatted and organized into these five topic areas and plans made for each category; however, in the case of planning for these different areas, there is considerable and common overlap—that is, something that is planned in one area could have various and significant effects on other areas. For example, extending new roads into a residential neighborhood could open opportunities for new housing development and other land uses, such as commercial ones, which would additionally result in economic growth, improved commuting patterns, new jobs, enhanced infrastructure, and possibly tourism. On the other hand, the closure of a public school could have a substantially declining effect on nearby land use, housing, parks and recreation, and neighborhood attractiveness. Figure INTRO-2 Comprehensive Planning Overlap illustrates how these topics overlap and influence one another throughout the planning process and implementation.





As previously mentioned, overlap within the planning topics is common and considerable. Land use planning certainly overlaps with transportation as land use needs are defined and orchestrated by road carrying capacities and vice versa. Community facilities must overlap housing as existing housing and potential housing developments must receive city services in garbage collection, fire and police protection, and water and sewer service.

The overlapping areas furthest inside the circle—tourism, jobs, infrastructure, and neighborhoods further indicate enhancement when the more extensive overlapping services are appropriately provided for or decline when not adequately provided for. For example, neighborhoods may either decline or grow when provided or not provided with nearby parks and recreation and community services. In contrast, jobs may decrease or increase as influenced by economic development and commuting patterns.

Planning topics are the vitally important parts of the Comprehensive Plan. The Talladega Comprehensive Plan follows the format of the five topics as follows:

- Demographics—data and analysis of population, economy, and housing.
- Community Facilities—provisions and needs assessment.
- Transportation—examination, analysis, and plan.
- Environmental Constraints—examination and analysis.
- Land Use and Zoning—examination, analysis, and plan.

The following chapters of the plan consider how these topics overlap and make goals, objectives, strategies, and projects for prioritization, implementation, and evaluation.

- Strategic Planning—summary and prioritization of elements.
- Goals and Objectives—listing along with strategies and projects.



- Implementation and Evaluation—which puts forth an implementation plan for prioritizing and accomplishing the most important projects and strategies and an evaluation procedure for tracking progress on each project/strategy.

## **Planning History**

The need for comprehensive planning first arose in the 1840s, out of demand for city services such as water and sewer; during the Industrial Revolution, cities began to grow dramatically and centralize (urbanize) population and housing into dense clusters around industrial areas. This was done to provide homes and living arrangements for the working class near their jobs. Before this turn in American history, most jobs focused on agriculture and clearing large expanses of wilderness lands for farming and livestock raising. More practicality was needed, and cities must provide services to subsistence farmers in the open country. The industrial era quickly ushered in the Sanitary Reform Movement in newly developed industrial cities as overcrowding and improper disposal of waste in streets led to social disorder and widespread infestations of deadly diseases. Accordingly, the movement showed a clear and robust connection between disease and the lack of a quality sewer system to dispose of waste accumulating in concentrated population areas. This forced public officials to plan for the extension of sanitary services to the dirtiest and most infected parts of the city. People began to understand the environmental and social impacts of building cities and developing ways to slow or cease the spread of disease in already crowded communities. The Sanitary Reform Movement, although not comprehensive, was considered by many as the beginning of comprehensive planning because other factors besides people and jobs were considered and planned for.

In further response to overpopulation, crowding, the spread of diseases in confined areas, and the increased importance placed on planning, the City Beautiful Movement was born. The movement, which began in Chicago in 1890 with the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 and lasted until the 1920s, showcased through beautification, design, and neoclassical architectural grandeur what a city could look like if created to be a work of art—providing an attractive alternative to the over-crowded and dirty nature of cities at the time. The City Beautiful Movement took hold and spread across the U.S., influencing the design of many major American cities such as Cleveland, Detroit, Baltimore, Denver, Philadelphia, and Washington D.C. (Axial Plan for the Mall) thus illustrating the importance of planning and opening possibilities as to what can be done to make cities better places to live. From these movements, and after the turn of the 20th century, as cities continued to grow and develop, the American people began to understand the need more fully for local development and growth plans, looking at the city and which many aspects play important and overlapping roles in their community. Once again, Chicago led the way when Daniel Burnham created the 1909 Plan of Chicago. Although Burnham re-created the city plan for Washington D.C., originally created by Pierre Charles L'Enfant for Paris in 1791, and city growth plans for



Cleveland and San Francisco, the Chicago Plan was the first comprehensive plan because it not only focused on beautification but also on ways to make the city function better in its entirety.

## **Purpose of the Comprehensive Plan**

The primary purpose of the comprehensive plan is to provide direction for local public policy and planning implementation necessary for providing city residents and visitors a prosperous place where people can live, work, learn, play, and invest time and resources into. This purpose incorporates four basic principles listed as follows:

- Promote the health, safety, and welfare of the public,
- Manage growth, change, and renewal of the community,
- Ensure a high quality of life for residents,
- Balance diverse community goals.

The comprehensive plan, also called a master plan, is the most basic public policy guide for a community and its development. All other plans, studies, and land use codes and ordinances should be adopted in accordance with the comprehensive plan and toward the promotion and advancement of its goals and objectives. A comprehensive plan consists of the following components:

- An inventory and assessment of population, housing, and economic trends and community resources (such as schools, roads, public buildings, undeveloped land, constrained land, and natural resources);
- A summary of community needs and goals; and
- A coordinated strategy for the management or improvement of community resources and the future growth and development of the city.

The comprehensive plan serves two major purposes:

- 1) To help local officials better understand growth and development trends and community problems; and
- 2) To develop strategies to use available resources effectively when addressing local problems and building capacity for future growth.

If the growth and development of a city can be compared to the construction of a house, then the comprehensive plan is the blueprint. It contains a list of building tools and materials (the inventory and assessment component), instructions on how to put the pieces together and in what order (the statement of goals, objectives, policy recommendations, and implementation



schedule), and a picture or image of the desired product (the conceptual future land use map).

## **The Benefits of the Comprehensive Plan**

A plan can provide many benefits to a community. In looking to the future, the comprehensive plan should strive to anticipate and properly plan to meet community needs, thus reaping the benefits associated with success and prosperity for the people. Benefits of a comprehensive plan may include the following:

- Draw attention to important community problems or needs;
- Promote the city to outside development interests;
- Communicate public policies to residents of the community;
- Help prioritize and coordinate investments in public improvements;
- Help minimize wasteful spending of tax dollars;
- Identify sources of funds that can be used to address local needs and
- Serve as a guide for local zoning ordinances and other development codes.

Although a plan can offer many benefits to a community, it is important to remember that the plan is only as good as the information it contains and can only benefit the community if it is used by the city and updated regularly to reflect changing needs and conditions. It is recommended that a community adopt a new comprehensive plan once every ten years to accommodate changes in growth and development patterns and the most recent needs and desires of the community.

## **Legal Authority**

Alabama law requires that every municipal planning commission prepare and adopt a plan for the community (Title 11, Chapter 52, Section 8 of the Code of Alabama, 1975). Although the comprehensive plan is adopted by the planning commission, it should serve as the primary guide for the formulation of local public policy and for coordinating the future growth and development of the community. Therefore, the governing body of the community should be involved in the plan preparation process or should be afforded an opportunity to review and comment on the draft plan before its adoption by the Planning Commission. In some communities, the City Council also has adopted the plan after its adoption by the Planning Commission. However, Alabama law recognizes only the Planning Commission's action on the plan, so adoption of the plan by a City Council cannot substitute for adoption by the Planning Commission.



According to Title 11, Chapter 52, Section 10 of the Code of Alabama, 1975, the Planning Commission may adopt a comprehensive plan in its entirety, or it may adopt individual sections or chapters of the plan as they are prepared. Before the plan or any section or portion of it may be adopted by the Planning Commission, a public hearing must be conducted. Alabama law allows the Planning Commission to dispense with the public hearing if the City Council conducts a public hearing on the plan or plan section prior to its adoption by the Planning Commission.

Once the comprehensive plan has been adopted by the Planning Commission, an attested copy of the plan must be certified to the City Council and the Probate Judge.

The law also requires local zoning to be prepared in accordance with the comprehensive plan (Title 11, Chapter 52, Section 72 of the Code of Alabama, 1975). Some communities interpret this provision of law to mean that the zoning map and the future land use map in the comprehensive plan must be identical. However, this interpretation of the relationship between the zoning map and the comprehensive plan only constrains the plan's ability to guide future growth and development. The future land use map contained in the plan should be developed as a general depiction of desired local development patterns at the end of the planning period, which may be ten to twenty years into the future. Therefore, it should identify areas that will be more desirable for more intensive development after the supporting infrastructure improvements have been completed to allow such development. On the other hand, zoning should guide land use and development in areas that are suitable given existing conditions and limitations. This distinction between the future land use map contained in the comprehensive plan and the zoning map gives the zoning map legal authority to regulate current development and allows the plan to serve as a guide for future zoning changes to provide for new growth and development.

The adoption of a comprehensive plan also gives the Planning Commission authority to review and approve the construction of public streets and squares, parks, public buildings, and public utilities (Title 11, Chapter 52, Section 11 of the Code of Alabama, 1975). If the Planning Commission determines that a proposal to construct such public facilities is not consistent with the comprehensive plan, it may disapprove the proposal and provide written notice of its findings to the City Council or the applicable governing authority. The City Council or applicable governing authority can overturn the Planning Commission's disapproval by a two-thirds majority vote of its entire membership.

## **Planning Process**

In January 2022, the City of Talladega contracted with the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission (EARPDC) to create a comprehensive plan for Talladega to



guide and direct land use and development in a logical manner, consistent with the goals and objectives of the city.

Overall, the planning process involved in the Talladega Comprehensive Plan utilized five elements to gather necessary information and formulate goals, objectives, strategies, and projects to guide the future growth and development of the city in conjunction with community needs and aspirations. These elements are listed and described as follows:

## **Inventory and Analysis**

To initiate the planning process, an initial public hearing was called and conducted in August 2022 at the Talladega City Office. The meeting was used to inform the City Council, Planning Commission, and the public about the nature, benefits, and processes involved in creating and using a comprehensive plan for future land use and development in the city. Input for the plan at the inventory and analysis stage was gathered through surveys such as a community survey and a community facilities survey, and input and direction were obtained from planning commission meetings.

To facilitate input through the planning process, EARPDC staff conducted regular meetings with working groups such as the Planning Commission, City Council, and city staff whenever their field of expertise was needed. Meetings were held in conjunction with regularly scheduled planning commission meetings. Input from inventory and analysis consisted of the following:

- Results and discussion from the community surveys
- Results and discussion from the community facilities surveys
- Input from meetings

## **Community Visioning**

From the information gathered and discussions conducted through the inventory and analysis portion of the plan, the community began the process of creating a vision statement for the general direction and guidance of the plan in forming goals, objectives, projects, and strategies for the plan. This is where the plan began to utilize input to create output as previously described. Public input was also gathered through a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats). Staff recorded this information for future use throughout the planning process. Output from the community visioning and work session consisted of the following:

- Mission Statement
- SWOT analysis



- Greatest Opportunities and Weaknesses
- Land Use Visioning Session

## **Goals and Objectives**

Goals and objectives were established from results and discussions in the previous steps and listed in the comprehensive plan along with their respective projects and strategies, as well as additional recommendations. These listings can be found in Chapter 10: Goals and Objectives.

## **Implementation**

Implementation of the comprehensive plan comprises a list of projects/strategies along with respective implementing agencies, potential partners and funding sources, prioritization, and timeframes for completion. The plan implementation process also acknowledges the means of enforcing planning decisions. A prioritization survey was administered by the city to gather information from the Planning Commission on which projects and strategies should be high and low priorities for implementation.

## **Evaluation**

As the final stage of the comprehensive plan, evaluation provides a means of tracking progress on established projects and strategies. However, the evaluation process does not end with the completion of the plan but should provide a practical and sustainable way to track progress after the plan is finished, at least on a yearly basis, with the goal of creating a seamless updating process until the comprehensive plan needs a complete update, depending on community change.



### **Location**

The City of Talladega is in central Talladega County in east-central Alabama. Talladega's average elevation is 705 feet, ranging from 397 feet to 2,372 feet across the city. Shocco Mountain, in the northwest corner of the city, sits at about 1,108 feet. Concerning water resources, Town Creek runs southernly, Bingham's Branch passes through western portions, and Weisingel Branch flows in southeastern areas of the city; all eventually join. Talladega waterways are tributaries to the Coosa River, which also serves as the border from Shelby County.

For more details on Talladega's location in relation to the county, state, and nation, please see Diagram #1: Community Details.

### **General Information**

Talladega is characterized by long, hot summers and cold, wet winters, like most of this part of the state. Average city temperatures range from 74 degrees to 48.9 degrees. The average rainfall is approximately 56.6 inches.

### **Historical Background**

The area that is now Talladega was originally Creek Indian territory, with its name even being derived from the Creek language words for "border" and "town" and drawing inspiration from the nearby Creek village of Talatigi. After General Andrew Jackson defeated the Creek at several battles, this part of Alabama began to be settled, but the land would remain Creek territory until the Treaty of Cusseta was signed in 1832. The land the city was founded on was granted to Joseph Bruner, an African American interpreter in the Creek Indian War. After a land sale to Jesse Duran, the land was donated to the state for the town site in exchange for proceeds when lots were sold.

Talladega has a rich legacy and history of valuing and furthering education. Talladega College, the state's oldest private historically black liberal arts college, got its beginnings in 1865 when two former slaves, William Savery and Thomas Tarrant, pursued the opening of a school. Beginning in a one-room schoolhouse and then moving to the defunct Baptist Academy building and renamed the Swayne School, the school flourished. In 1969, the Swayne School was issued a charter to become Talladega College. Swayne Hall is still on the campus and is listed as a National Historic Landmark. Training for education leaders has remained at the college's forefront, and the school continues to grow and thrive over 150 years later.



In 1858, Talladega became home to the first school for the blind in Alabama, what is now known as the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind (AIDB), established by Dr. Joseph Henry Johnson. According to AIDB, the institute “is the world’s most comprehensive education, rehabilitation, and service program serving individuals of all ages who are deaf, blind, deafblind, and multi-disabled and their families... serves more than 31,000...with hearing and vision loss throughout Alabama each year”. AIDB has revolutionized education and rehabilitation in their field and changed the lives of countless Alabamians.

The Talladega Public Library was opened on September 15, 1908, and funded by the Carnegie Foundation and Mrs. Louisa Jemison. This was the first publicly funded library in the state and was designed by Alabama architect Frank Lockwood. The library was moved to its current location in 1979, behind the Carnegie Building, and the former library hosts the Heritage Hall Museum. After new additions in 2006, the library was renamed The Armstrong-Osbourne Public Library.



In 1835, Talladega was first incorporated as a town. The town grew quickly as businesses and homes were constructed in the area, leading to Talladega being chosen as the county seat. The square soon became the town center after incorporation, with the courthouse being constructed in 1838, and it remains the oldest courthouse in continuous use in Alabama. The Talladega Police Department was established in

the 1880s. Several other buildings on the square are original to Talladega’s beginnings, including Henderson Drug Store (1847), Isbell Bank (1869), the first City Hall (1892), the Kenwin Building (1900), the Federal Post Office (1912), and the Ritz Theatre (1936).

As an older city, Talladega is home to many historic homes, including the Silk-Stocking District, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on December 13, 1979. Home styles in the district include Queen Anne, Classical Revival, Colonial Revival, and American Craftsman, among other Victorian styles. Each April, a tour of the historic homes is held. Talladega also enjoys a rich religious history, being home to several historic churches of various denominations.



In addition, Talladega has a long military history, including the Creek Indian War, and contributions to the Civil War effort, including housing a Confederate hospital and prison. Talladega also contributed to the war effort considerably during World War II, serving as a hub for munitions production and air training.

Talladega famously lends its name to the Talladega Superspeedway. The speedway began construction on May 23, 1968, on a 2,000-acre site and opened on September 13, 1969; it is the longest track in NASCAR, with a peak capacity of 175,000 spectators. Throughout its history, it has been a boon for tourism in the area. From 1969 to 1989, the speedway was called Alabama International Motor Speedway (AIMS). Currently, the track hosts the NASCAR Cup Series, NASCAR Xfinity Series, NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series, and ARCA Menard Series. In addition, the International Motorsports Hall of Fame was opened in 1983, housing historical artifacts from across motorsports, and in 1990, began inducting those who have meaningfully contributed to motorsports.

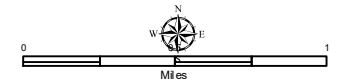
*Sources: Encyclopedia of Alabama, City of Talladega, AIDB, Talladega College, Britannica, Talladega Library, Tour Talladega, NASCAR*



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






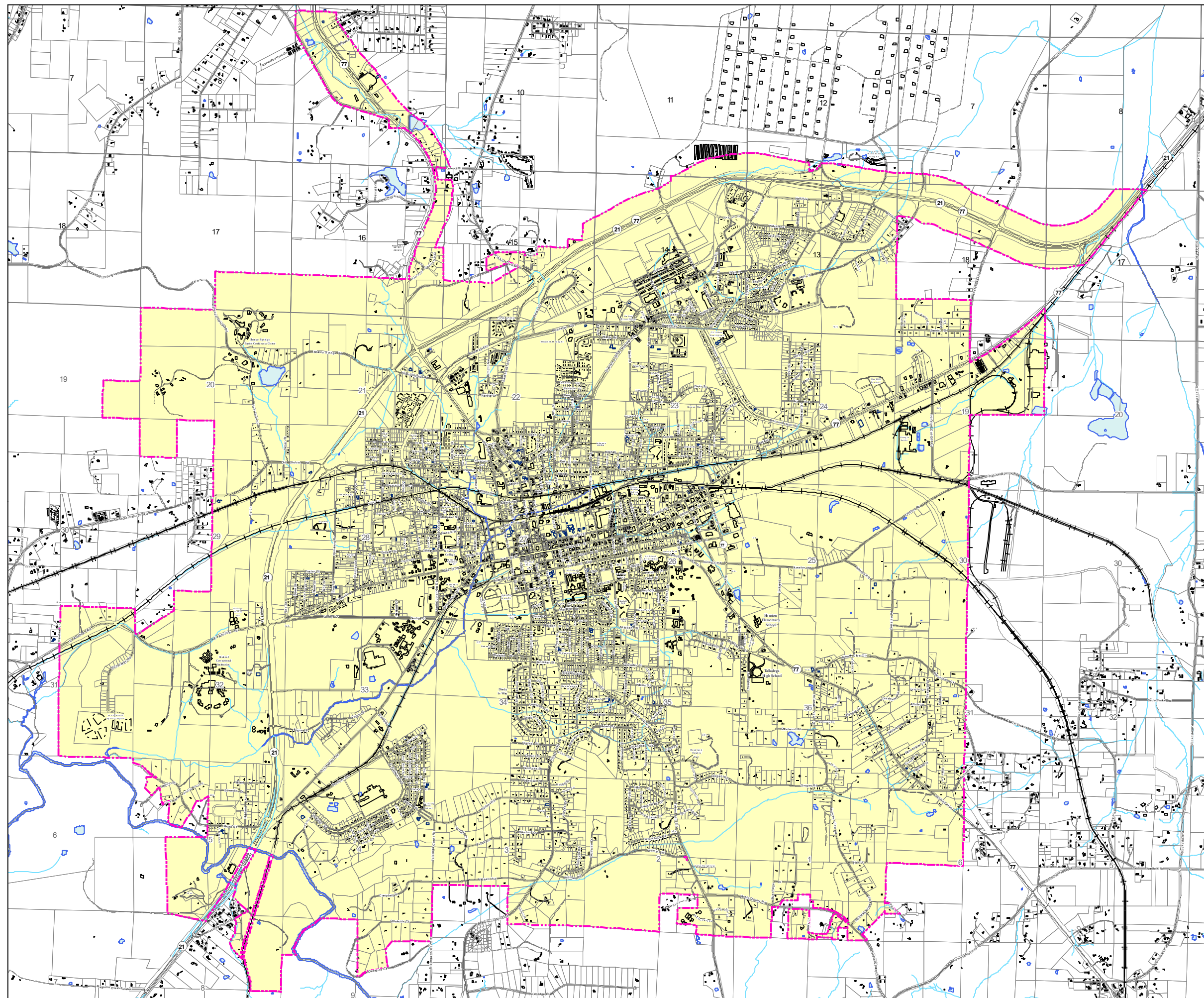
# MAP 1 BASE MAP The City Of Talladega Alabama



Prepared By The East Alabama Regional Planning And Development Commission, 2024.

## LEGEND

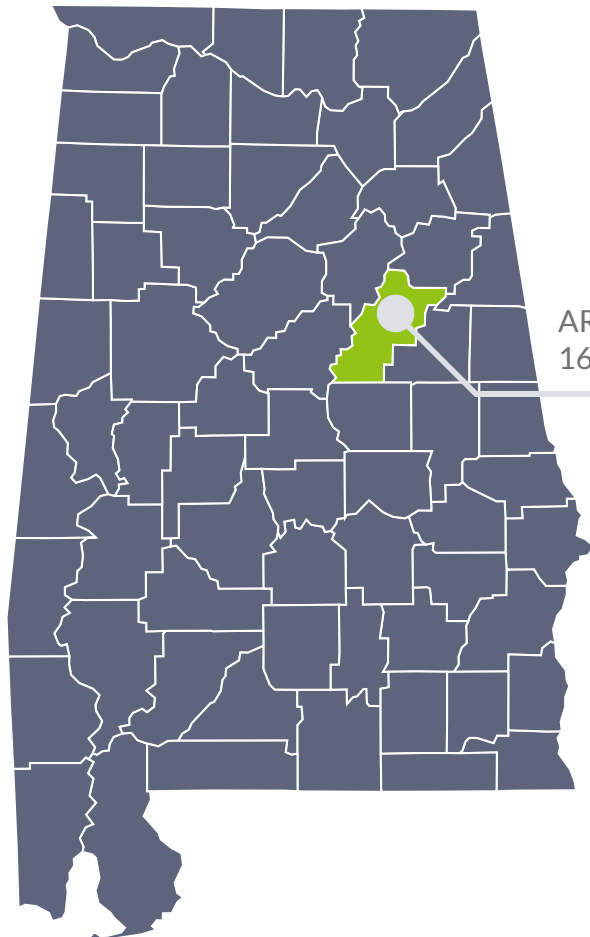
-  Talladega City Limits
-  Parcel Boundary
-  Residential Building
-  Non-Residential Building
-  Pond / Lake
-  Athletic Field
-  Stream / Creek
-  Railroad





# DIAGRAM 01

## COMMUNITY DETAILS

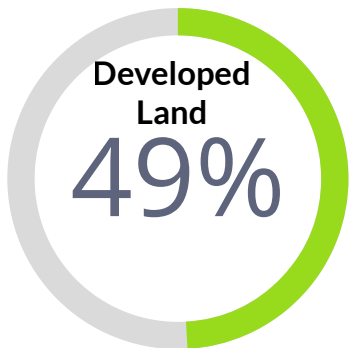


AREA: approximately  
16,544 acres



**\$37,945**

Median Household Income



Population



**15,071**



TOTAL  
HOUSEHOLDS

**6,477**



## CHAPTER 2: POPULATION

Population characteristics and trends play a pivotal role in the planning effort. Since people constitute a city, the general population creates a city's identity, distinguishing it from other communities. Population changes influence land use decisions, economic spending patterns and employment, public services, and needs for public improvements. Furthermore, a clear understanding of existing population characteristics and trends guides city officials in making the most informed and effective decisions in meeting growth and development needs in a diverse and changing community.

This chapter aims to understand population change and composition in the City of Talladega, explore decisions, and develop public policies and plans that will best serve its present and future residents. It examines historical population trends, place of birth, and place of residence. Population composition includes elements such as age, race, gender distribution, and marital status. Finally, an analytical summary of population findings concludes the chapter.

Some population information gathered in this plan section was obtained from the U.S. Census of Population Decennial Census for 2010 and 2020. Decennial Census data is useful for examining changes in the population for such characteristics as historical population trends. This information is collected by the census every ten years; it serves as the most accurate and reliable base information for population patterns and trends due to its collection methodology, utilizing 100% count data of the total population.

Although Decennial Census information gives a dependable snapshot of the nation's population in 2010 and 2020, for making comparisons over consistent 10-year periods, the Census Bureau, in 2005, realized the limitations and shortcomings in using information in 10-year increments, particularly in the latter years of any given decade, and established the American Community Survey. The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that produces estimates every year instead of every ten years to provide more up-to-date information on such characteristics as age, race, income, commute time to work, home value, and other important data at the local level. In collecting information and providing these estimates, about 3.5 million addresses of housing units are surveyed annually in the American Community Survey.

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*While the decennial census provides 100% count population data every 10 years, the American Community Survey provides more up-to-date estimate data every year. By using both, a more accurate picture of the city's population can be understood.*

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The ACS produces both single-year estimates and multi-year estimates. Single-year estimates are produced only for geographic areas with a population of 65,000 or more, while



3-year estimates are produced for geographies with 20,000 or more residents, and 5-year are produced for geographies with less than 20,000 residents. For multi-year estimates, data is collected within the timeframes given and reported on an annual basis. For this plan, the 2016-2020 ACS (5-year estimates) applies since the City of Talladega has a population of less than 20,000. The 2016-2020 ACS in this chapter was used to gather population information on characteristics such as place of birth, place of residence, age distribution, marital status, race, and gender to provide a complete and more up-to-date picture of the recent population data and changes since 2010. The goal of using both decennial data and ACS in conjunction is to create and develop a more accurate picture of the community's population, which may be analyzed and better understood.

## **Population Trends**

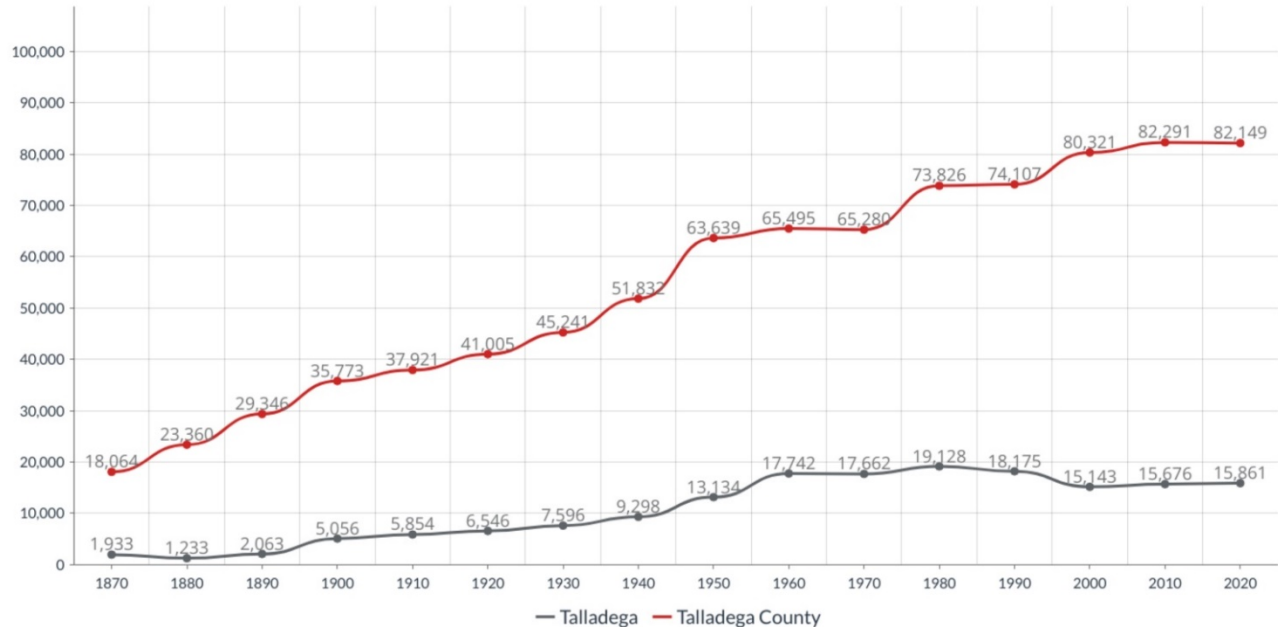
### **Historic Population Trends**

All community populations change to some degree over a given period. Historic population trends are useful in showing when and to what degree the population has increased, decreased, or stabilized over a given period. Major trends usually identify and reflect the goals and values of our nation as a whole and how communities respond to changing times and historical events. Although unfit for predicting the future, this information is useful for planning by understanding how and why social and cultural history shaped the city, making it what it is today.

Regarding historical population trends, Talladega has shown somewhat static growth patterns since the 1960s. Estimates for 2020 report a 1.2% increase from the 2010 population. From its founding in 1835, the Census recorded 1,933 persons in the city in 1870, and in 2020, the city held an estimated population of 15,861. Talladega's most significant growth occurred between 1890 and 1900, with a 145% climb. The city also grew in population substantially from 1880 to 1890 by 67% and from 1940 to 1950, increasing in population by 41%. Another growth spurt occurred from 1950 to 1960, climbing approximately 35%. Such growth could be attributed to the city's position as a center for munitions production and air training during World War II and from the annexation of Bemiston in 1955. Figure P-1 illustrates historic population trends for Talladega and Talladega County from 1870 to 2020.



P-1: Historic Population, Talladega, AL  
Talladega County



In comparison to Talladega, population trends in Talladega County showed differing patterns. The county increased its population most substantially from 1870 to 1880, with a 29% climb, and from 1880 to 1890, with 26% growth. Talladega County's success and growth were most likely due to the operations of major manufacturing across the county, including the Bemis Cotton Mill and Avondale and Eva Jane Mills in Sylacauga, as well as the railroad lines that traverse much of the county. Both Alabama and the U.S., historically, have shown steady and continual increases in population, with the most substantial growth occurring around 1900 to 1920, most likely due to the progressive movement of the 1920s and America's involvement in WWI, which spurred economic development and job growth for the nation. However, following the 1920s, the Great Depression in 1929 led to a decline in growth, as shown from 1930 to 1940. From 1940 to 1950, the nation resumed substantial growth due to its involvement in WWII.

In more recent years, from 1990 to 2000, Talladega reported a population decline, dropping by -5% between 1980 to 1990 and -16.7% between 1990 to 2000. Population decline at this time could be attributed in part to the closure of the Bemis mill in 1989. The county during this time increased slightly by 0.4% between 1980 and 1990 and had a moderate increase of 8.4% between 1990 and 2000, with the state reporting growth of 3.8% and 10.1% and the nation 9.8% and 13.2%. Table P-1 displays historical population trends for Talladega, Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. from 1870 to 2020.



**Table P-1. Historic Population Trends: Talladega, AL 1910-2020**

Year	Talladega	% Change	Talladega Co.	% Change	Alabama	% Change	U.S.	% Change
1870	1,933	N/A	18,064	N/A	996,992	N/A	38,558,371	N/A
1880	1,233	-36.21%	23,360	29.32%	1,262,505	26.63%	50,189,209	30.16%
1890	2,063	67.32%	29,346	25.63%	1,513,401	19.87%	62,979,766	25.48%
1900	5,056	145.08%	35,773	21.90%	1,828,697	20.83%	76,212,168	21.01%
1910	5,854	15.78%	37,921	6.00%	2,138,093	16.92%	92,228,531	21.02%
1920	6,546	11.8%	41,005	8.1%	2,348,174	9.8%	106,021,568	15.0%
1930	7,596	16.0%	45,241	10.3%	2,646,248	12.7%	123,202,660	16.2%
1940	9,298	22.4%	51,832	14.6%	2,832,961	7.1%	132,165,129	7.3%
1950	13,134	41.3%	63,639	22.8%	3,061,743	8.1%	151,325,798	14.5%
1960	17,742	35.1%	65,495	2.9%	3,266,740	6.7%	179,323,175	18.5%
1970	17,662	-0.5%	65,280	-0.3%	3,444,165	5.4%	203,211,926	13.3%
1980	19,128	8.3%	73,826	13.1%	3,893,888	13.1%	226,545,805	11.5%
1990	18,175	-5.0%	74,107	0.4%	4,040,587	3.8%	248,709,873	9.8%
2000	15,143	-16.7%	80,321	8.4%	4,447,100	10.1%	281,421,906	13.2%
2010	15,676	3.5%	82,291	2.5%	4,779,745	7.5%	308,745,538	9.7%
2020	15,861	1.2%	82,149	-0.2%	5,039,877	5.4%	331,449,281	7.4%

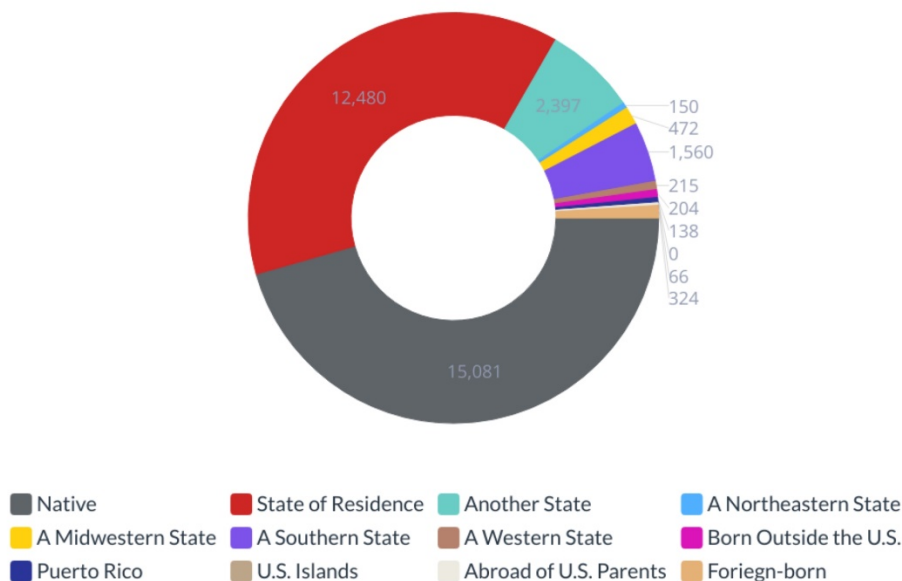
Source: U.S. Census of Population.

## Place of Birth

Place of birth data is useful in determining population trends through migration patterns in the city's population. Examination of this data will show if the community is drawing population from other states and other countries or if the population is predominantly Alabama-born.



P-2: Place of Birth  
Talladega, AL (2020)



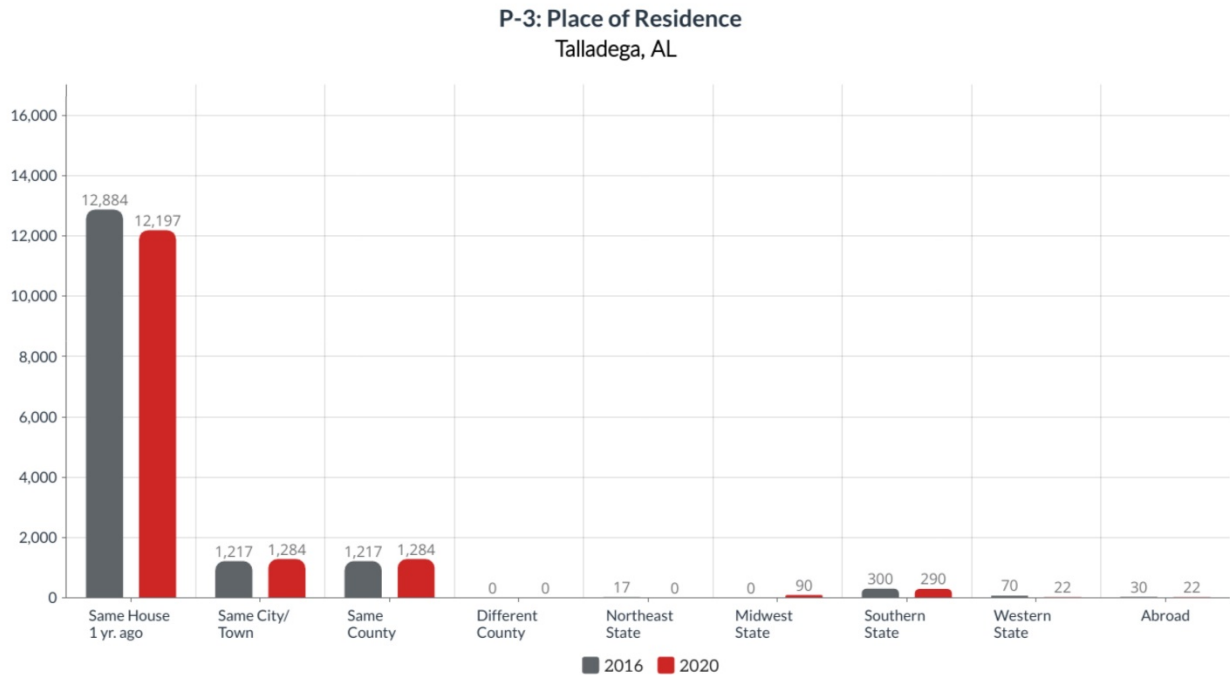
Place of birth patterns show that the substantial majority (81%) of Talladega’s residents were born in Alabama or born in a Southern state (65.1%), indicating minor in-migration from other places around the country or from another country. Interestingly, Talladega also showed a moderate portion of residents born in a Midwestern state at 19.7%, compared to other regions of the country. The city showed little representation of residents born in other states outside southern and western states, with 9% migrating from a Western state and 6.3% from a Northeastern state. Residents born outside the U.S., such as in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Island Areas, and abroad, accounted for 1.3% of the population and foreign-born 2.1%. Figure P-2 illustrates place of birth for the City of Talladega in 2020. For more information, see Table P-2: *Place of Birth* in Appendix A.

## Place of Residence

Place of residence is defined as: The area of residence 1 year prior to the reference date of those who reported moving to a different housing unit (U.S. Census Glossary). This data is useful to determine city migration patterns. Examination of this data will verify if the city has been gaining or losing in population previously living in other states and countries, and if the city’s residents have been stationary or mobile.



According to Census data, Talladega residents have been reasonably stationary. Place of residence information shows that in 2016 most residents (82.4%) remained in their same home 1 year prior; and, in 2020 that figure decreased slightly to 79.8%, indicating most residents remained in place.



Overall, migratory patterns show very minor mobility of residents transitioning to another home in the timeframe from 2016 to 2020. This information coincides with population estimates for 2020, which report a minor 1.2% population increase for the city from 2010 to 2020, as previously discussed. Figure P-3 illustrates place of residence for the City of Talladega from 2016 to 2020. From the chart, notice the slight uptick in the number of residents living in the same home from 2016 to 2020. For more information, see Table P-3: *Place of Residence* in Appendix A.

## Population Composition

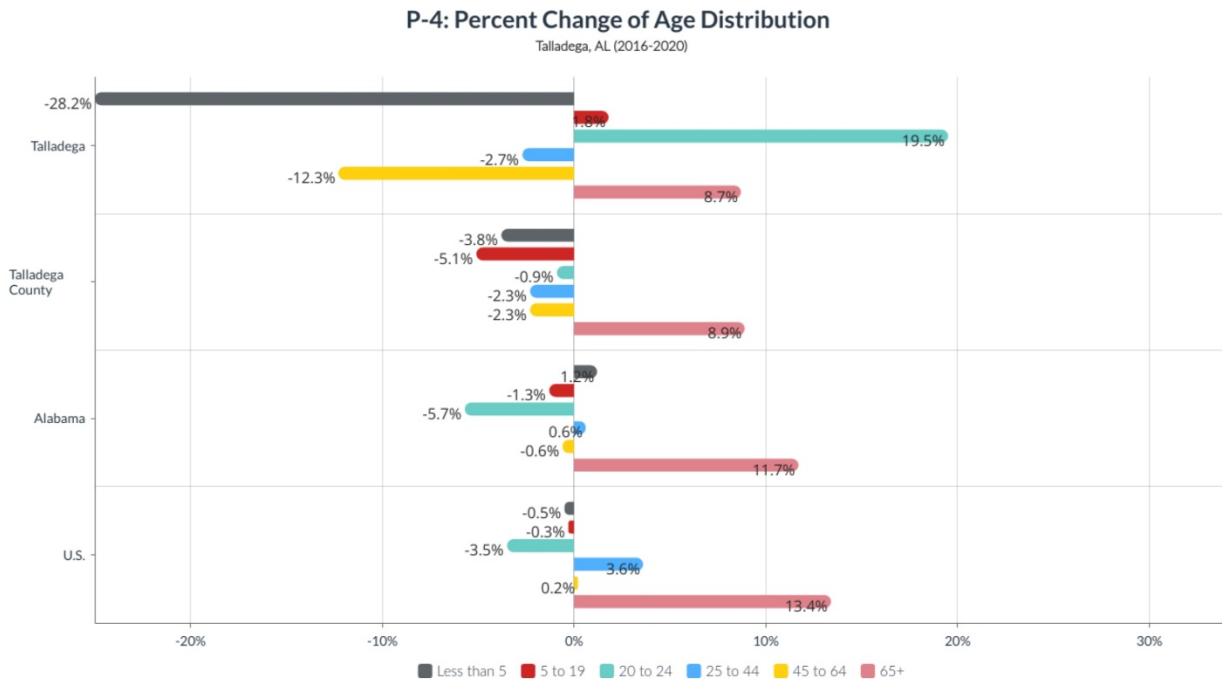
### Age Distribution

Age distribution is a critical element in any population study. A community must structure its budget and resources to meet a wide variety of residents' needs. Needs tend to differ significantly from one age group to another. Therefore, a proper understanding of age distribution in the community is necessary. For the purposes of this study, age distributions are classified as follows: Toddler/Preschool (Less than five years in age), Youth/K-12 (5 to 19), Young Adult/College Age (20



to 24), Young Adult/ Beginning Worker (25 to 44) Middle Age/Working Adult (45 to 64), and Senior/Retired (65+).

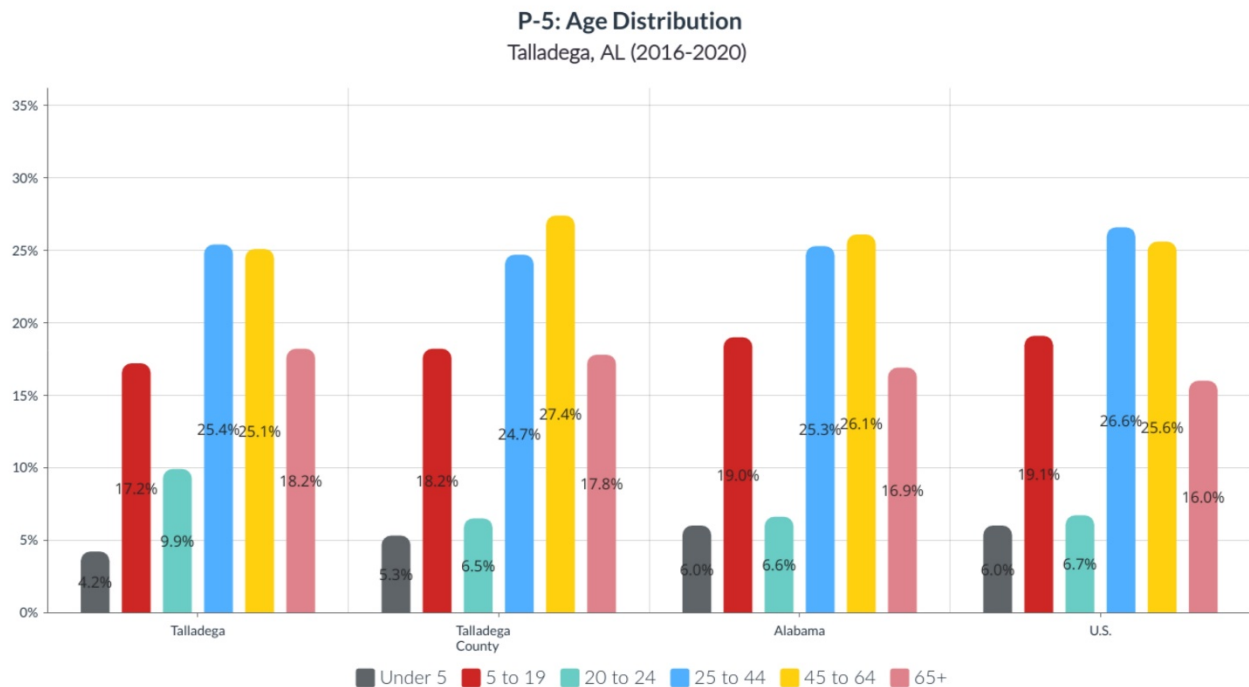
### Change in Age Distribution



Talladega showed differing trends in age distribution compared to Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. Between 2016 and 2020, the city increased most substantially in young adults/college age (20 to 24) by 19.5%. Senior/Retired recorded less considerable growth at 8.7%, as did Youth/K-12 by 1.8%. All other age groups declined in population, with the single largest loss in Toddler/Preschool (Less than 5) by -28.2%, followed by Middle Age/Working Adult (45 to 64) by -12.3%, and Young Adult/Beginning Worker (25 to 44) by -2.7%. For comparison, Talladega County showed population decreases in all categories except for Senior/Retired (65+), which increased by 8.9%. Like Talladega County, both Alabama and the U.S. showed the single largest gains in Senior/Retired with growth of 11.7% and 13.4%, respectively. Additionally, the state and county increased slightly in the Young Adult/Beginning Worker category by 0.6% and 3.6%. Figure P-4 exhibits percent change in age distribution for Talladega, Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. from 2016 to 2020. From the figure, notice the substantial growth for the city, county, state, and nation in senior/retired (65+). For more information see Table P-4: *Age Distribution* in Appendix A.



## Age Distribution



Age distribution for Talladega in 2020 was also examined in the population composition. In 2020, age distribution showed somewhat similar representation compared to Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. Both Young Adult/Beginning Workers and Middle Age/Working Adults ranked the largest age groups in the city at 25.4% and 25.1%. Together, these age groups composed over half of Talladega's population at 50.5%, showing the city to have a good mix of young and older working adults available to the local workforce. The city's College Age/Young Adult population (9.9%) reported a larger portion of the population compared to the county at 6.5%, state at 6.7% and nation at 6.7%, likely due to Talladega College. The Senior population for the city and county also represented a slightly higher portion of the population at 18.2% and 17.8% compared to the state and nation at 16.9% and 16%, indicating that the city needs to account for senior needs as well as needs for younger people. Figure P-5 illustrates age distribution for Talladega, Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. in 2020. For more information see Table P-5: *Age Distribution* in Appendix A, which shows data obtained from the 2016-2020 ACS.

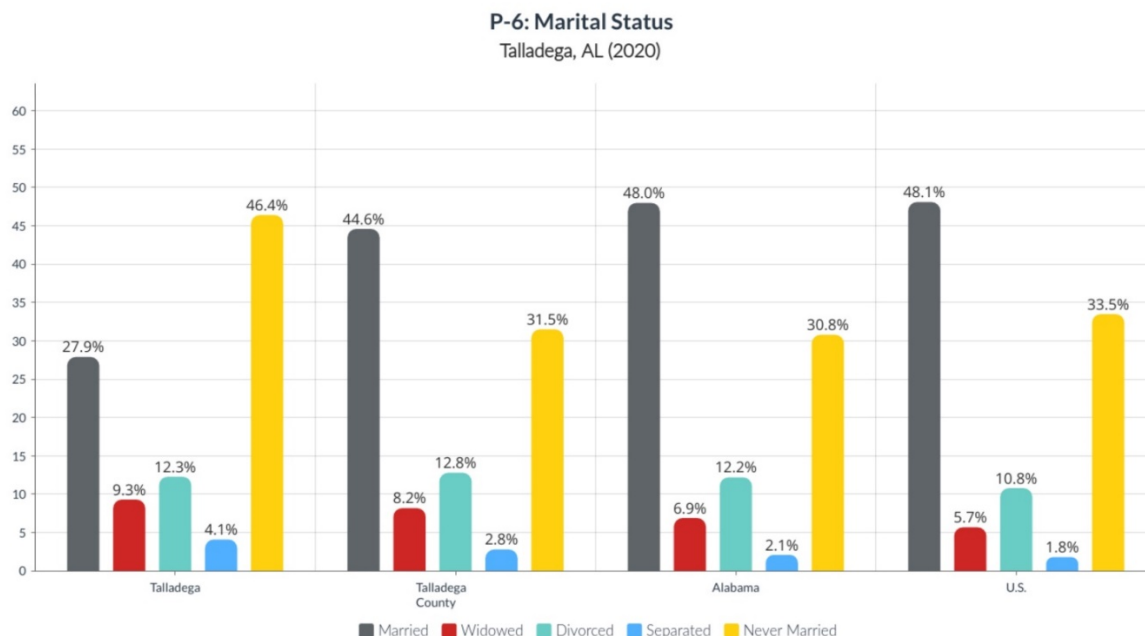


## Median Age

Between 2016 and 2020 median age for Talladega fell slightly from 40.5 to 39.5, which was the opposite trend in comparison to Talladega County, increasing slightly from 40.8 to 41.4. Alabama's median age also increased slightly from 38.6 to 39.2 and the U.S. increased from 37.7 to 38.2 during this time. This information aligns closely with the age distribution data as both Talladega and Talladega County reported a slightly higher portion of seniors than Alabama and the U.S. However, the city showed a slightly higher portion of College Age/Young Adults than the county, state, and nation, which could have contributed to Talladega's slight decrease in median age in 2020. Since both the city and county hold slightly higher older populations than the state and nation, the city should consider plans and policies to meet the needs of seniors and retired persons in addition to the younger, workforce ready, age groups.

## Marital Status

Marital status also plays an important role in demographic studies. A thorough understanding of marital status allows a community to determine family needs and develop programs and policy toward building stronger families. For this study, marital status was reported for all persons aged 15 and older and is organized into 5 categories which are as follows: 1) never married, 2) separated, 3) divorced, 4) widowed, 5) married (except separated). Separated was pulled from "married" status and placed in a separate category.



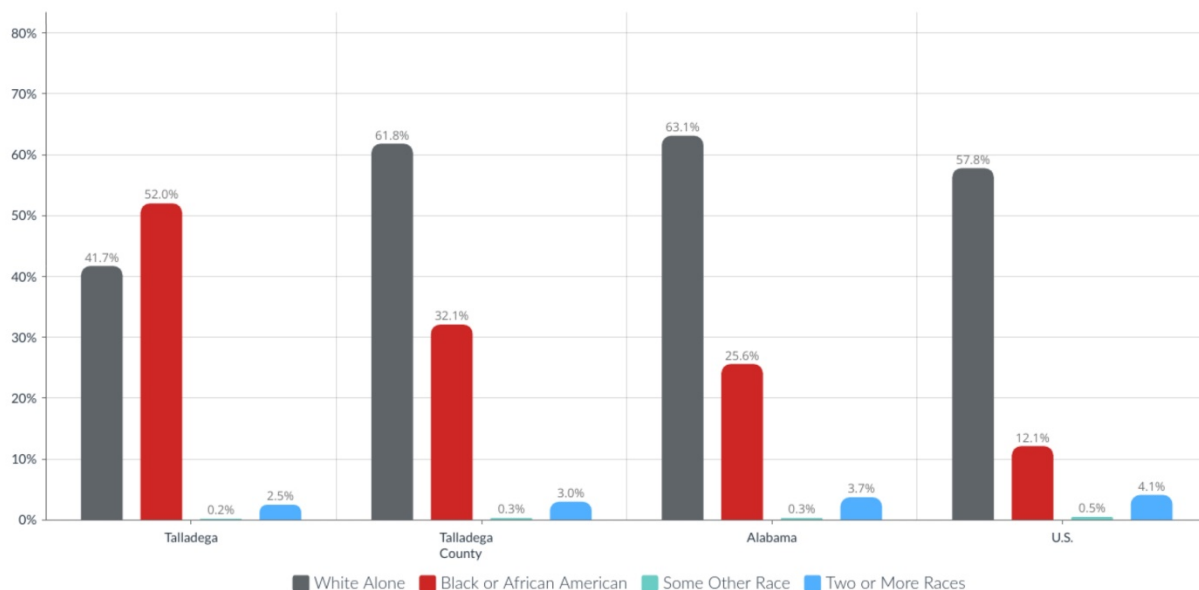


In 2020, Talladega reported somewhat differing portions in marital status compared to Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. Approximately 27.9% of city residents, during this time, were married, while the county reported 44.6%, the state 48%, and the nation 48.1%. The city also showed somewhat larger representation in widowed residents at 9.3% compared to the county at 8.2%, the state at 6.9%, and the nation at 5.7%. This could be attributed to a higher portion of seniors in the city, as previously discussed. In addition, the city recorded a substantially higher representation in residents who had never married at 46.4% in comparison to the county (31.5%), state (30.8%), and nation at 33.5%, which could be due to the city holding a higher portion of young adult/college age population, as discussed in the previous section as well. Figure P-6 shows marital status for Talladega, Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. in 2020. Notice the city's higher portion of persons who had never married and the lower portion of married compared to the county, state, and nation. For more information see Table P-6: *Marital Status* in Appendix A.

## Race Distribution

A general understanding of racial diversity is necessary for a community to better serve its residents. Communities with varying races tend to have differing cultural and ethnic needs, however, these factors can spur greater opportunities for growth within the community.

**P-7: Race Distribution**  
Talladega, AL (2020)





Data from race distribution for Talladega, in 2020, shows most of the population being African American and/or black at 52%, while 41.7% reported white. Only 0.2% were of some other race and 2.5% of two or more races. Talladega County and Alabama reported different findings with the majority 61.8% and 63.1% being white and 32.1% and 25.6% reporting African American and/or black, respectively. The U.S. showed a more diverse race distribution with a substantially larger portion of the population being some other race or two or more races; however, there was a smaller representation of African American and/or black persons than the city, county, or state. This information indicates slightly lower race diversity in the state and nation in comparison to the city and county, both of which held higher African American and/or black population. The nation showed significantly more diversity in other races than did the city, county, and state at this time. Figure P-7 illustrates race distribution for Talladega, Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. in 2020. For more information see Table P-7 *Race Distribution* in Appendix A.

### **Gender Distribution**

In typical American communities, females tend to slightly outnumber males, due primarily to higher male mortality rates and longer female life expectancy. Talladega closely followed this pattern, as well as Talladega County, Alabama communities, and the U.S., in general. Talladega's population, in 2016, comprised 49.3% male and 50.7% female and showed slight change in 2020 with 48.2% male and 51.8% female. Talladega County and Alabama reported similar minor change as the county reported 48.5% male and 51.5% female in 2016 and 48.2% male and 51.8% female in 2020 while Alabama recorded 48.5% male and 51.5% female for 2016 and 48.3% male and 51.7% female in 2020. The U.S. showed a slightly smaller gap with 49.2% male and 50.8% female in 2020. For more information consult Table P-8 *Gender Distribution* for Talladega, Talladega County, and Alabama between 2016 and 2020 and the U.S. in 2020 for comparative purposes in Appendix A.

### **Summary of Population Information**

Population information for this chapter was obtained from the 2010 Decennial Census and the 2016-2020 American Community Survey to examine more recent population trends. Historic population trends for Talladega show that the city has undergone a few changes in population growth, particularly since the 1990's, which could be attributed to the closure of the Bemis mill. From 2000 through present day the city has reported mostly static population trends. Between 2000 and 2010 Talladega's population grew slightly by 3.5%, and Talladega County reported a 2.5% increase, both of which fell somewhat short of population growth in Alabama at 7.5% and the U.S. at 9.7%.



In terms of age distribution, Talladega, between 2016 and 2020, grew in half the age groups represented with the largest growth in Young Adults/College Age (20-24). For marital status, the city reported a slightly larger portion of widowed persons and a substantially higher portion of never-married individuals in comparison to the county, state, and nation. In race distribution, the city has a considerably higher African American and/or black population in comparison to the county, state, and nation with the majority being black, white a distant second, and other minorities representing a smaller fraction of the population. Gender distribution for the city also reported similar findings with females slightly outnumbering males.

### **Analytical Summary**

The analytical summary provides a general review of the topics discussed in each chapter followed by a brief assessment of the information.

#### ***Historical Population Trends***

Estimates for 2020 report a 1.2% increase from the 2010 population. From its founding in 1835 the Census recorded 1,933 persons in the city in 1870 and in 2020, the city held an estimated population of 15,861. Talladega's most significant growth occurred between 1890 and 1900, with a 145% climb. The city also grew in population substantially from 1880 to 1890 by 67% and from 1940 to 1950, increasing in population by 41%. Another growth spurt occurred from 1950 to 1960, climbing approximately 35%.

**Assessment:** From Talladega's early history, between 1890 and 1960, the population grew substantially and consistently, mostly due to employment in cotton milling, manufacturing, and the railways. Then in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to present day, city population leveled off and declined, most likely attributed to decline in the city's most substantial industries.

#### ***Place of Birth***

Place of birth patterns show that the substantial majority (81%) of Talladega's residents were born in Alabama or born in a Southern state (65.1%) indicating minor in-migration from other places around the country or from another country. Interestingly, Talladega also showed a high portion of residents born in a Midwestern state at 19.7%, compared to other regions of the country. The city showed little representation of residents born in other states outside southern and western with 9% migrating in from a Western state and 6.3% from a Northeastern state. Residents born outside the U.S. such as in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Island Areas, and abroad accounted for 1.3% of the population and foreign born 2.1%.



**Assessment:** Talladega reported only minor in-migration from other places in the nation or from other countries. The largest portion of in-migration was in residents born in another southern state and those born in a midwestern state.

### ***Place of Residence***

According to Census data, Talladega residents have been reasonably stationary. Place of residence information shows that in 2016 most residents (82.4%) remained in their same home 1 year prior; and, in 2020 that figure decreased slightly to 79.8%, indicating most residents remained in place.

**Assessment:** Like place of birth, Talladega reported only minor in-migration based on place of residence patterns.

### ***Age Distribution***

Between 2016 and 2020 the city increased most substantially in Young Adult/College Age (20 to 24) by 19.5%. Senior/Retired recorded less considerable growth at 8.7%, as did Youth/K-12 by 1.8%. All other age groups declined in population, with the single largest loss in Toddler/Preschool (Less than 5) by -28.2%, followed by Middle Age/Working Adult (45 to 64) by -12.3%, and Young Adult/Beginning Worker (25 to 44) by -2.7%. For comparison, Talladega County showed population decreases in all categories, except for Senior/Retired (65+) which increased by 8.9%. Like Talladega County, both Alabama and the U.S. showed the single largest gains in Senior/Retired with growth of 11.7% and 13.4%, respectively.

**Age Distribution:** Both young adult/beginner workers and middle age/working adults ranked the largest age groups in the city at 25.4% and 25.1%. Together, these age groups composed slightly over half of Talladega's population at 50.5%, showing the city to have a good mix of young working adults and older working adults available to the local workforce.

**Median Age:** Between 2016 and 2020 median age for Talladega fell slightly from 40.5 to 39.5, which was the opposite trend in comparison to Talladega County, increasing slightly from 40.8 to 41.4. Alabama's median age also increased slightly from 38.6 to 39.2 and the U.S. grew from 37.7 to 38.2 during this time.

**Assessment:** Talladega declined in population somewhat, with the single largest loss in Toddler/Preschool (Less than 5), and the largest growth in Young Adult/College Age (20 to 24). The one age group to see growth among the city, county, state, and nation was in the senior/retired (65+) age range. Median age in Talladega is slightly lower than in the county, but somewhat higher than the state and nation.

### ***Marital Status***



Approximately 27.9% of city residents, during this time, were married, while the county reported 44.6%, the state 48%, and the nation 48.1%. The city also showed somewhat larger representation in widowed residents at 9.3% compared to the county at 8.2%, state at 6.9%, and nation at 5.7%. This could be attributed to a higher portion of seniors in the city, as previously discussed. The city also showed a substantially higher representation in residents who had never married at 46.4% in comparison to the county (31.5%), state (30.8%), and nation at 33.5%.

**Assessment:** In 2020, the city reported a higher portion of never married persons than the county, state, and nation and a slightly higher portion of widowed. This could be attributed slightly higher representation of seniors and young adult/college age population than the state and nation.

### ***Race Distribution***

Data from race distribution for Talladega, in 2020, shows most of the population being African American and/or black at 52%, while 41.7% reported white. Only 0.2% were of some other race and 2.5% of two or more races. Talladega County and Alabama reported different findings with the majority 61.8% and 63.1% being white and 32.1% and 25.6% reporting African American and/or black, respectively. The U.S. showed a more diverse race distribution with a substantially larger portion of the population being some other race or two or more races, however, smaller representation of African American and/or black persons than the city, county, or state.

**Assessment:** Talladega showed differing race distribution with African American and/or black persons representing the substantial majority and white a close second. This representation is the opposite in comparison to the Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S., which reported most of the population as white with black a distant second.

### ***Gender Distribution***

Talladega's population, in 2016, comprised 49.3% male and 50.7% female and showed slight change in 2020 with 48.2% male and 51.8% female. Talladega County and Alabama reported similar minor change as the county reported 48.5% male and 51.5% female in 2016 and 48.2% male and 51.8% female in 2020 while Alabama recorded 48.5% male and 51.5% female for 2016 and 48.3% male and 51.7% female in 2020. The U.S. showed a slightly smaller gap with 49.2% male and 50.8% female in 2020.

**Assessment:** Talladega reported similar gender distribution to Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. with females slightly outnumbering males.



## **CHAPTER 3: ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES**

The natural landscape and its features play an important role in the development and planned growth of any community. Features such as floodplains, wetlands, threatened or endangered species habitats, steep slopes, and sensitive and rocky soils can be a hindrance to development. Other features such as lakes, streams, rivers, mountains, mineral resources, caves, and forests can act as economic catalysts in the form of resource harvesting, recreational opportunities, and/or eco-tourism. Good planning should recognize these benefits natural amenities provide, utilize them to their full extent, and minimize ecological damage in the process. Misguided and unmitigated development on sensitive lands often results in ecological and economic disasters in the form of landslides, sinkholes, and increased flooding. Through prior identification of these hazards and proper guidance of development, many disasters can be avoided, and community enhancements realized. Sensitive lands could be preserved for parks and open space, adding amenities and character to the community. It is in Talladega's best interest to guide and direct what kinds of developments are most suitable for any given area and how much building is feasible. With modern engineering and construction equipment, building in areas once thought impossible is now possible, however, this often is costly and not always the best and most effective option. The natural environment will always be a pivotal factor in development decisions. This chapter examines environmental features, such as soil characteristics, steep slopes, floodplains, water resources, wetlands, wildlife habitats, and threatened and endangered species, to identify areas sensitive to development and to give general guidance on assessing their development feasibility.

### **Overview of Natural Resources and Constraints**

The City of Talladega is in the central portion of Talladega County bordering the west central part of Talladega National Forest. The city is also located near the southern range of the Appalachian Mountains. This mountain range is the eastern equivalent of the Rocky Mountains and is among Earth's oldest mountains. Most of this area is characterized by sedimentary rock and is part of the Valley and Ridge physiographic region.

Notice on the Environmental constraints map, Map # 2, that the quarries are mainly located adjacent to pooling flood prone areas and steep slopes. The hilly and tree-laden area provides Talladega with beautiful natural surroundings well-suited to recreational opportunities, such as Talladega's ten parks.

According to soil inventory data, Talladega showed moderate environmental constraints throughout the city, the most prevalent of which were steep slopes, flood prone areas, septic restrictive (areas requiring sewer), and floodplains (100 year). The most significant environmental constraint for the city was steep slope areas, accounting for approximately 3,746 acres and 23% of the total land area coverage. These areas consist of rough, dry soils and are located primarily on the city outskirts, surrounding the city in all directions and most extensively in the northwestern and southeastern areas.



Substantial development in steep slope areas should take necessary precautions to prevent erosion and water run-off which could cause structural instabilities.

Septic restrictive areas (areas requiring sewer) ranked second to steep slopes in city area coverage accounting for approximately 2,301 acres and 14% of the total land area. These areas consist of soil unfit for septic system percolation and drainage and extend extensively throughout the city.

Flood prone areas comprised approximately 1,975 acres and 12% of the land area in the city limits. These areas are typically located adjacent to or overlapping floodplains which follow from streams and riverbanks. In general, land deemed as floodplains tends to flood more rapidly and excessively than flood prone areas due to the nature of the soils, low elevations, and proximity to water bodies. Data pertaining to floodplain areas have been obtained in accordance with FEMA floodplain FIRM (Federal Insurance Rate Maps) maps and flood prone areas as identified by the USDA's National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) maps. Talladega's flood prone areas and floodplains have formed throughout the city in patterns which follow streams, with high concentrations in the northeast portion of the city. One-hundred-year floodplains constituted approximately 1,271 acres and 8% of the total land within the city, while five-hundred-year floodplains comprised approximately 104 acres and 0.6% of the city's land area.

Freshwater pond, freshwater emergent wetlands, and freshwater forested/shrub together covered approximately 104 acres and 0.6% of land within the city limits. Wetlands have numerous definitions; however, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service define wetlands as, "lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water." This definition implies that a wetland is wet for some period, but not necessarily permanently wet. The National Wetlands Inventory, under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, generally describes freshwater emergent wetland (Map Code: PEM) as herbaceous marsh, fen, swale, and wet meadow. These wetlands are characterized by erect and rooted herbaceous hydrophytes (plants that grow only in water), excluding moss and lichens, with vegetation present for most of the growing season, usually dominated by perennial plants, which die off each year. Freshwater forested/shrub wetland (Map Code: PFO, PSS) is described as forested swamp or wetland shrub bog or wetland. These wetlands are generally denser in plant life than emergent and provide woody vegetation 6 meters tall or taller. Table EF-1 shows environmental features/constraints and distribution for Talladega in 2023.



**Table EF-1. Environmental Features: Talladega, 2023**

Environmental Feature/Constraint	Acreage	Percent Distribution
Depth to Saturated Zone	16.39	0.1%
Steep Slope Areas	3,745.60	22.6%
Septic Restrictive	2,301.22	13.9%
Pits/Quarries	30.39	0.2%
Rock Outcrop	7.74	0.05%
Flood Prone Areas	1,975.00	11.9%
Water	46.93	0.3%
Freshwater Emergent Wetland	11.92	0.1%
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland	57.44	0.3%
Freshwater Pond	34.10	0.2%
100-year Floodplains	1,271.23	7.7%
500-year Floodplains	103.61	0.6%
Total City Acreage	16,544.49	100%

Source: EARPDC database, 2023.

## Soil Characteristics

Proper knowledge and understanding of soil characteristics is useful in determining environmental constraints and land suitability for specified development intensity. Soil types and classifications are extremely numerous, and any given community could discover a myriad of samples to categorize. Therefore, the scope of this soil characteristics study is to examine only the most associated soil types, distinguishing environmental constraints such as steep slopes, flood prone, septic restrictive (areas requiring sewer), and floodplains and wetlands. Talladega’s most prevalent soil type for the entire city is an upland soil classified as Decatur-Dewey-Fullerton association—which comprises deep, well-drained, loamy soils derived from limestone. A small portion of the city is considered a mountain soil classified as Townley-Enders-Montevallo association—which constitutes deep to shallow, well-drained, steep, loamy soils derived from shale. The *Environmental Constraints Map* (Map #2) identifies and locates the city’s environmental constraints based on these and other soil classifications to guide and direct land use and development decisions accordingly. Soil information was made available through the *Soil Survey of Talladega County*, 1974.

## Steep Slopes

Steep slopes are an environmental constraint worthy of attention. Many slopes have weak or loose soils unfit for development. Modern engineering practices may be able to overcome these obstacles, but not without major costs, significant time, and careful planning. Development along steep slopes also accelerates storm-water runoff, as paved ground is less capable of absorbing rain and other water-based elements. Although criterion for slope development varies, the following general thresholds are used in planning and engineering to determine acceptable and non-acceptable developments:



***3 percent***

Generally accepted limit for railroads

***8 percent***

Generally accepted limit for highways, although grades of 6 percent or less are desirable for highways intended to accommodate heavy truck traffic.

***10 percent***

Generally accepted limit for driveways

***15 percent***

Point at which engineering costs for most developments become significant and extensive anchoring, soil stabilization, and stormwater management measures must be applied.

***25 percent***

Generally accepted limit for all development activity.

Talladega has considerable steep slope coverage, as previously discussed, with approximately 3,746 acres and 23% land coverage within the city limits, surrounding the city on all sides, with the most prevalent steep slopes in the northwestern and southeastern corners. Most of this area should be preserved for parks and recreation, with low density residential development where feasible.

## **Floodplains**

Floodplains are areas highly susceptible to flood conditions occurring during extreme rainfall and should thus be reserved for minimal development. According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service a floodplain is defined as, “the nearly level plain that borders a stream and is subject to inundation under flood stage conditions unless protected artificially.” Buildings constructed in floodplains should be placed on significantly tall foundations or built to redirect water flow into more suitable areas of the floodplain. As a rule, development in floodplains should be avoided to allow the floodplain to absorb water and in turn renew groundwater resources. If properly maintained and preserved floodplains can be a valuable resource. Floodplains are rich in nutrients continually cycled through rivers, streams, and lakes, which makes the land primarily suitable for farming and pastureland. The floodplain, secure in its natural state, serves to protect our drinking water, conserve the beauty of our natural resources, and sustain our local ecosystems.

Floodplains are divided into zones determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). According to FEMA, flood hazard areas recognized on the Flood Insurance Rate Map are Special Flood



Hazard Areas (SFHA). SFHA is defined as the area that will be engulfed by a flood event having a 1% chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. The 1% annual chance of flooding is also referred to as the base flood or 100-year flood. SFHAs are labeled as Zone A, Zone AO, Zone AH, Zones A1-A30, Zone AE, Zone A99, Zone AR, Zone AR/AE, Zone AR/A1-A30, Zone AR/A, Zone V, Zone VE, and Zones V1-V30. Moderate flood hazard areas are categorized as Zone B or Zone X (shaded) and are the areas between the limits of the base flood and the 0.2% annual chance (or 500-year) flood. The areas of minimal flood hazard, which are outside the SFHA and higher than the elevation of the 0.2% annual chance flood, are labeled Zone C or Zone X (unshaded).

Talladega's 100-year floodplains are located primarily along Weisingel Branch, Town Creek, and Talladega Creek, and their tributaries, running through central portions of the city. 500-year floodplains in Talladega are dispersed in southwestern and western areas of the city, along Talladega Creek. Floodplain acreage constitutes approximately 1,271 acres of 100-year (8% of the total land area) and 104 acres of 500-year (0.6% of the total land area). Floodplains and flood prone areas are shown on the *Environmental Constraints Map* (Map #2) and may overlap with each other at some locations.

## **Water Resources**

Water resources serve a variety of positive functions for the community. A clean and beautiful aquatic environment not only benefits residents environmentally, but also economically. Eco-tourism adds to local revenue and attracts businesses. Developing in a manner that utilizes this highly valued resource is in the best interest of any community. Overall, quality water resources enhance quality of life. Talladega's primary water resource is Town Creek, located in the central and west-central areas of the city. Other water resources in and surrounding the city include Bingham's Branch in west Talladega, Weisingel Branch in southeast Talladega, Talladega Creek to the southeast, and Elliot Lake to the east. Talladega waterways are tributaries to the Coosa River.

The Alabama Environmental Management Act authorizes the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) to establish and enforce water quality standards, regulations, and penalties to maintain state and federal water quality provisions. From this authorization, the ADEM Administrative Code prohibits the physical, chemical, or biological contamination of state waters through source and non-point source pollution. Point source pollution is defined as pollution originating from a definable source such as a ditch, pipe, concentrated animal feed lot, or container. Non-point source pollution does not originate from a defined source but can be attributed to agricultural and construction related runoff, and runoff from lawns and gardens.



## **Wetlands**

Since the passage of the Clean Waters Act (CWA) in 1977, wetland preservation has gained national attention. More than 100 million acres of wetlands in the continental U.S. and Alaska have been preserved. Wetlands function as a vital aquatic system contributing to habitat diversity, flood control, and recharging and cleaning of polluted water. They also provide green space for communities, which drives up neighboring property values. For this plan, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service defines wetlands as “lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water.”

Wetlands are protected nationally under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, which requires permits for the discharging and dredging of defined “wetlands.” Section 404 is jointly administered by the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Corps administers permits, while the EPA sustains the right to veto any permit issued. Developers should always contact the nearest Corps officials before disturbing considered wetland areas.

Talladega determined wetland areas, such as freshwater pond comprising 34 acres (0.2%), freshwater emergent wetlands covering 12 acres (0.1%) and freshwater forested/shrub accounting for 57 acres (0.3%) are in high concentration east to west through northern Talladega, typically near or overlapping floodplains. For more detail see Map #2: *Environmental Constraints*.

## **Wildlife Habitats**

Every year millions of people across the U.S. spend time and monetary resources viewing wildlife and enjoying the great outdoors. Nature serves as an escape and refuge from the busy and congested urban environment. Talladega should consider identifying lands sensitive to environmental degradation and work with the Georgia-Alabama Land Trust to adequately reserve and manage land for wildlife preservation. The Georgia-Alabama Land Trust is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) conservation organization dedicated to protecting land for present and future generations by helping private landowners protect land through conservation easements and manage their land through Land Protection and Land Stewardship Programs. Conservation easements allow landowners to set aside or protect areas from encroaching development, protecting valuable farms and forestland, ecologically significant areas, water sources, and natural view-sheds. As of 2022, the Georgia-Alabama Land Trust has safeguarded more than 400,000 acres of open space throughout Alabama and Georgia, making the Land Trust the leader in land protection in the southeastern US.

Opportunity exists for wildlife habitat preservation in Talladega. As a planning consideration, Talladega should promote and encourage land and wildlife preservation to enhance the city’s natural beauty and wildlife viability. Wildlife preservation could be promoted through designation of conservation easements in floodplains, steep slopes, and other areas where development is already substantially limited. Although easements reduce property values and decrease its market value, resource



conservation, even on private land, is considered a charitable donation by the IRS and qualifies landowners to take an income tax deduction for as much as the full value of the donation, limited to 50% of the donors adjusted gross income, over the course of 15 years. The conservation value of a particular property depends on the character of the property and the needs of the landowner. An example of such value may include any one or more of the following (according to the Georgia-Alabama Land Trust):

- Maintain and improve water quality
- Perpetuate and foster the growth of healthy forest
- Maintain and improve wildlife habitat and migration corridors
- Protect scenic vistas visible from roads and other public areas
- Ensure that lands are managed so that they are always available for sustainable agriculture and forestry

## **Threatened and Endangered Species**

National environmental policies protect this country's natural resources and amenities. The Endangered Species Act (ESA), passed by Congress in 1973, was established to protect species of plants and animals from extinction. Plants and animals listed as threatened or endangered species by the U.S. Department of Interior are to be protected on both public and private land. Endangered species are defined, according to the ESA, as: "any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range." Threatened species are defined as: "any species that are likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future." Plant and animal species may be placed on the threatened and endangered species list if they meet one or more of the following scientific criterion: (1) current or threatened destruction of habitat, (2) overuse of species for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes (3) disease or predation, (4) ineffective regulatory mechanisms, and (5) other natural or manmade factors affecting the species' chances of survival. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is charged with the responsibility of enforcing ESA regulations. Although most forest and lake related activities would not affect endangered species, developers, loggers, and other landowners should review their plans with the USFWS or the Alabama Department of Natural Resources to verify ESA compliance.

Alabama is an ecologically diverse state with a significant amount of threatened and endangered species. Only the States of California at 291 and Hawaii (490) have more plants and animals than Alabama (148) placed on the threatened and endangered species list. According to the USFWS Alabama Ecological Services Field Station, the latest listing for threatened and endangered species in Talladega County have been listed as follows:



**Birds**—The Red-cockaded Woodpecker *Picoides borealis* was listed as endangered in Talladega County as well as in Alabama in general and several other southeastern states. Broadly described, the bird has a longish bill, black barred white with a black crown, nape, and moustachial stripe border white cheeks and side of neck. The male shows a small red mark on the side of nape.

**Flowering Plants**—Flowering plants reported as endangered in Talladega County constituted the Tennessee Yellow-eyed grass *Xyris tennesseensis*, while threatened species included Mohr's Barbara's buttons *Marshallia mohrii* and Kral's Water Plantain *Sagittaria secundifolia*.

**Clams**—Clams listed as endangered consisted of the Southern Acornshell *Epioblasma othcaloogensis*, Upland Combshell *Epioblasma metastrata*, Ovate Clubshell mussel *Pleurobema perovatum*, Coosa Moccasinshell mussel *Medionidus parvulus*, Triangular Kidneyshell mussel *Ptychobranhus greenii*, Southern Clubshell mussel *Pleurobema decisum*, and Southern Pigtoe *Pleurobema georgianum*. The Fine-lined Pocketbook mussel *Lampsilis altilis* was listed as threatened.

**Fish**—The Blue Shiner *Cyprinella caerulea* was listed as threatened.

**Mammals**—Mammals listed as endangered included the Gray bat *Myotis grisescens*, while the Northern Long-Eared Bat *Myotis septentrionalis* was listed as threatened.

**Snails**—Snails reported as threatened in Talladega County include the Lacey Elimia *Elimia renetella*, Painted Rocksnail *Leptoxis taeniata*, and Tulotoma Snail *Tulotoma magnifica*, while the Cylindrical Lioplax *Lioplax cyclostomaformis* is considered endangered.

Illustrated in Figure EF-1 are a few of the threatened and endangered species in Talladega County.



*Figure EF-1. Threatened and Endangered Species in Talladega County*





To preserve the natural environment and inherent species diversity, the city should implement best management practices for forestry, as maintained and updated by the Alabama Forestry Commission, taking the above-mentioned species into account. These management practices are not regulations, but rather general guidelines for development and construction which best manages environmental protection and impact mitigation. The *Best Management Practices for Forestry* guidelines include preservation and maintenance procedures for the following amenities and tactics: 1) Streamside Management Zones, 2) Stream Crossings, 3) Forest Roads, 4) Timber Harvesting, 5) Reforestation/Stand Management, 6) Forested Wetland Management, 7) and Revegetation/Stabilization.

## **Analytical Summary**

The analytical summary provides a general review of the topics discussed in each chapter.

### ***Steep Slopes***

Talladega has considerable steep slope coverage, as previously discussed, with approximately 3,746 acres and 23% land coverage within the city limits, surrounding the city on all sides, with the most prevalent steep slopes in the northwestern and southeastern corners. Most of this area should be preserved for parks and recreation, with low density residential development where feasible.

### ***Floodplains***

Talladega's 100-year floodplains are located primarily along Weisingel Branch, Town Creek, and Talladega Creek, and their tributaries, running through central portions of the city. 500-year floodplains in Talladega are dispersed in southwestern and western areas of the city, along Talladega Creek. Floodplain acreage constitutes approximately 1,271 acres of 100-year (8% of the total land area) and 104 acres of 500-year (0.6% of the total land area).

### ***Flood Prone Areas***

Flood prone areas account for approximately 1,975 acres and 12% of the total land area. These areas are typically adjacent to or overlapping floodplains following streams and riverbanks.



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### ***Septic-Restrictive Area (Areas Requiring Sewer)***

Septic restrictive areas (areas requiring sewer) had substantial city area coverage, accounting for approximately 2,301 acres and 14% of the total land area. These areas consist of soil unfit for septic system percolation and drainage and extend extensively throughout the city.

### ***Water Resources***

Talladega's primary water resource is Town Creek, located in the central and west-central areas of the city. Other water resources in and surrounding the city include Bingham's Branch in west Talladega, Weisingel Branch in southeast Talladega, the Talladega Creek to the southeast, and Elliot Lake to the east. Talladega waterways are tributaries to the Coosa River.

### ***Wetlands***

Talladega determined wetland areas, such as freshwater pond comprising 34 acres (0.2%), freshwater emergent wetlands covering 12 acres (0.1%) and freshwater forested/shrub accounting for 57 acres (0.3%) are in high concentration east to west through northern Talladega, typically near or overlapping floodplains.

### ***Wildlife Habitats***

Opportunity exists for wildlife habitat preservation in Talladega. As a planning consideration, Talladega should promote and encourage land and wildlife preservation to enhance the city's natural beauty and wildlife viability. Wildlife preservation could be promoted through designation of conservation easements in floodplains, steep slopes, and other areas where development is already substantially limited.

### ***Threatened and Endangered Species***

There are 19 threatened and endangered species that call Talladega County home. As a planning consideration, to protect and maintain plant and animal species, Talladega could implement Best Management Practices for Forestry. *The Best Management Practices for Forestry* guidelines include preservation and maintenance procedures for the following amenities and tactics: 1) Streamside Management Zones, 2) Stream Crossings, 3) Forest Roads, 4) Timber Harvesting, 5) Reforestation/Stand Management, 6) Forested Wetland Management, 7) and Revegetation/Stabilization. These practices are regularly maintained and updated by the Alabama Forestry Commission.





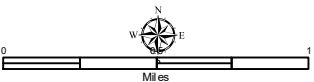


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MAP 2  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONSTRAINTS

The City Of  
Talladega  
Alabama

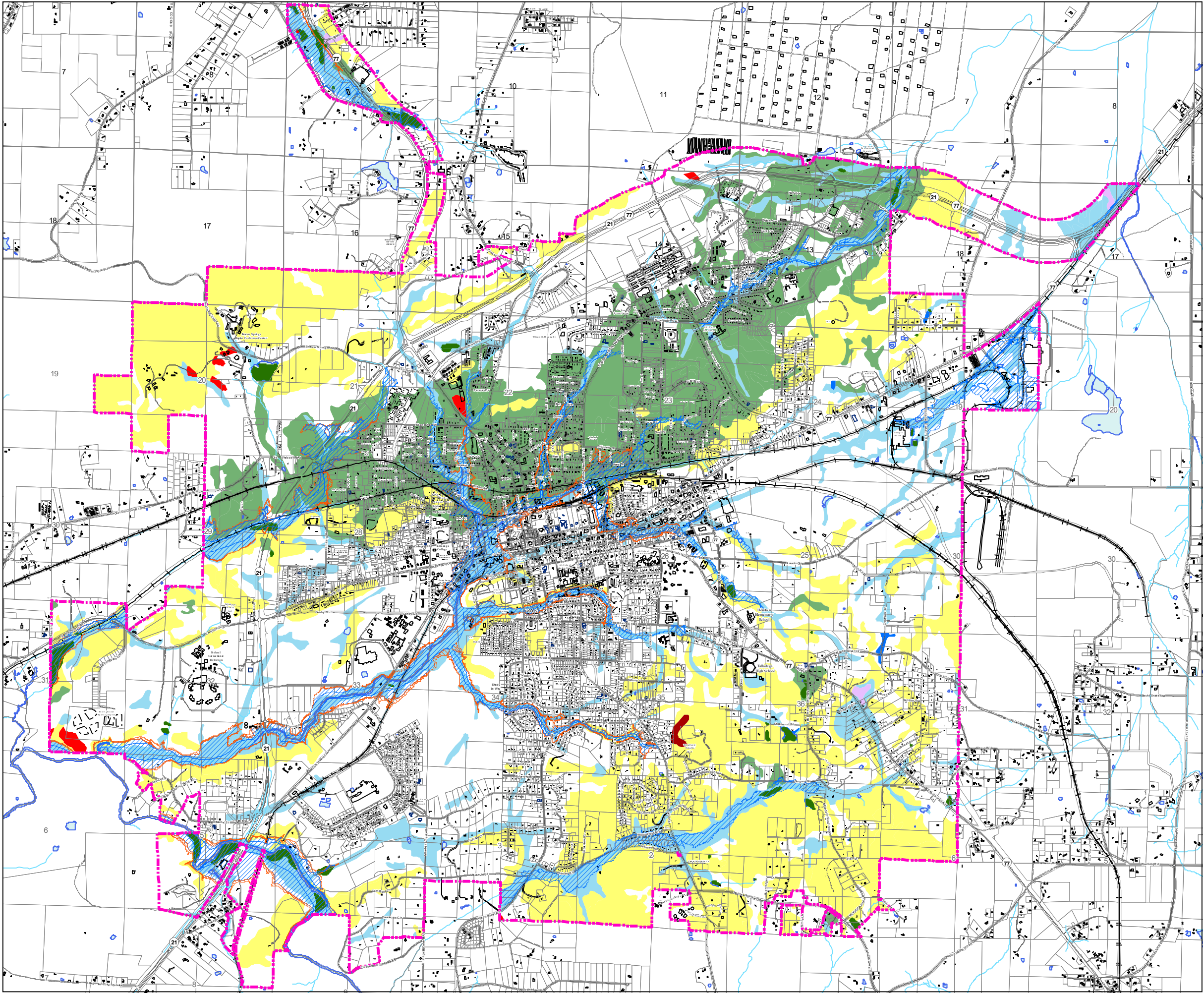


Prepared By The East Alabama Regional Planning And Development Commission, 2024.

Environmental Constraints

- Wetlands
- Flood Hazards
  - 100 Year Flood Hazard
  - 500 Year Flood Hazard
- Soil Limitations
  - Steep-Slope Areas
  - Areas Requiring Sewer
  - Flood Prone Areas
  - Depth To Bedrock
  - Depth To Saturated Zone
  - Pits/Quarries
  - Rock Outcrop
  - Water

Source: National Wetlands Inventory  
USDA-NRCS Soil Survey  
FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer





## CHAPTER 4: LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

A comprehensive plan must explore existing land use, development trends, and zoning patterns to understand how the city has developed, why it developed as it did, and what development will most likely occur given the current trends. A proper understanding of land use, zoning, and development patterns allows officials to make informed decisions affecting the orderly growth and development of their city.

The purpose of the land use chapter is to guide and direct development with the goal of sustaining orderly and coordinated development in accordance to changing needs, presently and in the future. This chapter examines existing land use, zoning patterns, compares the two, and proposes a future land use plan which gives recommendations for coordinating better land use within the city. The future land use plan and accompanying *Future Land Use Map* (Map #5) is a conceptual plan to be used in guiding zoning and development decisions. It is not intended to be used as a zoning map or even to reflect similarities to districts on the *Zoning Map* (Map #4), rather it is to be used as a conceptual vision for the community's future. *Existing Land Use* (Map #3) categorizes land by its current utilization.

### Definitions

The following land use categories are described below for use in the Talladega Comprehensive Plan.

#### ***Single-Family Residential***

Areas intended for a detached residential dwelling unit, other than a mobile home, designed for and occupied by one family only.

#### ***Multi-Family Residential***

Areas intended for detached residential units containing two or more dwelling units such as duplexes, townhomes, condominiums, dormitories, and apartments.

#### ***Commercial***

Areas intended for shopping centers, free-standing stores, service establishments, offices, and in some cases residential uses.

#### ***Industrial***

Areas intended for manufacturing and research and development facilities.

#### ***Public and Semi-Public***



Areas intended for public and semi-public uses including city governmental offices, public schools, churches, and cemeteries.

***Parks and Recreation***

Public areas intended for recreational use including athletic fields, playgrounds, and nature areas.

***Agriculture***

Areas actively engaged in or suited for farm production under specified conditions.

***Undeveloped/Forestry***

Includes private and vacated land upon which no development or active use is apparent. Included in this category is roadway, railroad, and utility rights-of-way and forested land, which may or may not be actively engaged in timber production.

***Utilities***

Areas utilized for utility services, such as water and sewer facilities, cell towers, etc.

## **Existing Land Use**

Existing land use data helps communities determine how a city will develop and what types of development it favors and does not favor. The East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission maps and records data on land use in the city limits. Talladega has approximately 16,544 total acres within the city limits, which includes rights-of-way and bodies of water and 14,703 land use acres, which does not include rights-of-way and water. Approximately 8,072 acres in the city are undeveloped leaving room for development as environmental constraints allow. For more detail on existing land use see Map #3: *Existing Land Use*. Table LU-1 shows existing land use acreage for the City of Talladega in 2023.



**Table LU-1. Existing Land Use Acreage: City of Talladega, 2023**

Land Use Category	Acres in City	% of Total Land Area	% of Developed Land Area
Agricultural	1,053.13	6.4%	15.2%
Commercial	454.95	2.7%	6.6%
Industrial	384.32	2.3%	5.6%
Single-Family Residential	3,116.22	18.8%	45.1%
Multi-Family Residential	202.64	1.2%	2.9%
Parks and Recreation	125.10	0.8%	1.8%
Public/Semi-Public	1,248.83	7.5%	18.1%
Undeveloped/Vacant	8,071.57	48.8%	N/A
Utilities	46.20	0.3%	0.7%
Total Land Use Area (minus water & ROW)	14,702.96	88.9%	N/A
Total Developed Land	6,908.56	41.8%	100.0%
Total City Acreage	16,544.37	100.0%	N/A

Source: EARPDC database, 2023.

## Agriculture

Agriculture constitutes a moderate portion of the city with 1,053 acres (6% of the total city land area and 15% of developed land within the city limits). Much of the agricultural land extends to the southern and eastern parts of the city, following various rivers and streams.

## Commercial

Approximately 454 acres (3% of the total land area and 7% of the total developed areas) in Talladega is dedicated to commercial development. Much of this land is in the downtown and along State Route 77 and Battle Street East, running across central portions of the city. Additional commercial areas are smattered around the city periphery. Downtown is comprised mostly of small business establishments around Talladega Square and various surrounding roads. A substantial goal for the city is to promote and encourage adaptive reuse and redevelopment through commercial areas, in the downtown and throughout the city, and attract more commercial uses in the city, as environmental constraints, particularly floodplains, allow.

## Industrial

Talladega utilizes about 384 acres for industrial development (2% of the total land area and 6% of the total developed). The City of Talladega boasts a thriving industrial environment. Much of the city's industrial land is in the north-eastern parts of the city, including Koch Foods, Georgia Pacific, RK Allen Oil Co. Inc, Precision Strip Inc., Elbit Systems of America, Talladega Castings and Machine Co., Synaflex Rubber Products Co., Filterbuy, and Weaver & Sons Inc. Other industrial areas are located to the north



of downtown, such as Kirkpatrick, Waites Construction, Talladega Foundry & Mach Co., and Talladega Pattern and Aluminum. In east-central Talladega, Alabama Industries for the Blind operates a manufacturing facility. As a general goal the city should continue to promote and enhance industrial development in areas on the outskirts of the city, yet with convenient access to major highways and railways for transport of goods and services.

### **Residential**

Residential land use in the form of single-family housing is spread consistently throughout the city, with the largest concentrations in southern sections. Single-family residential is, significantly, the largest and most dominant developed land use with approximately 3,116 acres in the city (19% of the total land use area and 45% of the developed). Multi-family residential comprises a much smaller portion of land use with 202 acres in the city (1% of total land use area and 3% developed) and occupies pockets in the north-central portion of the city, with a few smaller areas used as such in the southern area, south of Battle Street E.

### **Parks and Recreation**

Ample Parks and Recreation lands can tremendously impact the health and quality of life of citizens. The City of Talladega offers 125 acres for parks and recreation, accounting for 0.8% of total land area and 2% of developed land area in the city. Parks and Recreation land uses are spread throughout central, southwestern, and northeastern Talladega.

### **Public/Semi-Public**

Provision of public land use plays an important role in community services. Talladega's public/semi-public land is the second most prevalent developed land use in the city, accounting for 1,248 acres (7% total land use and 18% of the developed). It is spread throughout the city with most of the land serving the city cemeteries, public service facilities, correctional institutions, churches, and schools, among various other parcels located in the central/downtown area of the city.

### **Undeveloped**

The single most dominate land use in the city is undeveloped, consisting of 8,071 acres and 48% of total land area. Most of this land is located along steep slopes and flood-prone areas surrounding developed portions of the city. Some of this land could be considered for parks and recreation expansion or agriculture and woodland.



## Zoning Patterns

Zoning plays an important role in the growth and development of the city and its citizens. The zoning ordinance is created to promote desirable standards in land use, prevent land use conflicts, and maintain and guide growth and development in accordance with the comprehensive plan and its goals and objectives for the city. A properly prepared zoning ordinance clarifies to property owners what can and cannot be developed on their property so as not to interfere with the rights and privileges of their neighbors. The city's zoning ordinance and zoning map (Map #4: *Zoning*) should be periodically updated to ensure it represents the goals, objectives, and policies best suited for the future growth and development of the community. Table LU-2 shows city zoning classifications and the amount of acreage used for each zone in 2024.

Table LU-2. Zoning Acreage: City of Talladega, 2024					
Zoning	District Classification	Acres Zoned	% of Total	Acres Zoned	% of Total
R-1	Agricultural	5,357.33	32.4%	11,904.58	72.0%
R-2	Rural Residential	3,053.85	18.5%		
R-3	Single Family Residential	2,473.25	14.9%		
R-4	Low Density Multi-Family Residential	539.19	3.3%		
R-5	Medium Density Multi-Family Residential	286.41	1.7%		
R-6	High Density Multi-Family Residential	194.56	1.2%		
C-1	Neighborhood Commercial	70.86	0.4%	1,530.24	9.2%
C-2	Central Business	37.47	0.2%		
C-3	General Commercial	916.97	5.5%		
C-4	Shopping Center District	504.95	3.1%		
I-P	Institutional Park	698.35	4.2%	698.35	4.2%
M-1	Limited Industrial	824.55	5.0%	2,329.59	14.1%
M-2	General Industrial	1,505.04	9.1%		
M-H	Mobile Home Park	66.49	0.4%	66.49	0.4%
O-S	Offices and Services	15.11	0.1%	15.11	0.1%
Total Zoning		16,544.37	100.0%	16,544.37	100.0%

Source: EARPDC database, 2024.

The City of Talladega provides approximately 16,544 acres of zoning, which includes rights-of-way but not bodies of water. The city's single most dominant zoning district is Agricultural (R-1), with approximately 5,357 acres, accounting for a third (32.4%) of the total zoning acreage. Residential zoning for the city, which includes agricultural, rural residential, single-family, low-density multi-family, medium-density multi-family, and high-density multi-family, comprises over 11,904 acres and nearly three-quarters (72%) of all zoned areas. Many intensive residential zoned areas, such as high density, are situated in the northern part of the city. Although many single-family homes are zoned in the city center, some are located on the outskirts in the northeast. Mobile Home zoning is situated on parcels



in the city's northern parts, accounting for 66 acres and 0.4% of total acres zoned. It should be noted there are substantial areas (2,053 acres) designated as Mobile Home Area Special District in southeast portions of the city.

Business zoning classifications include neighborhood commercial, central business, general commercial, and shopping center, and they constitute 1,530 acres and 9.2% of the total land area. Most of the business-zoned land in the city is in the city center and downtown area, with the single-largest areas along AL Hwy. 21 and AL Hwy. 77.

Industrial zoning comprises approximately 2,329 acres (14.1% of the total zoned land). Much of this land incorporates manufacturing along the railroad and in the northeastern part of the city.

## **Existing Land Use and Zoning Patterns**

A comparison of land use and zoning is beneficial in determining land use and zoning patterns. Zoning should reflect community needs and guide land use and development throughout the city. Comparing these elements of the plan based on land use acreage totals and total acreage of land zoned for specific purposes helps determine current development patterns and direct how the city should grow, namely how much land is available for any particular land use expansion, and how much more land should be zoned or rezoned to accommodate expanding land use, factoring in environmental constraints such as steep slopes, floodplains, wetlands, and septic restrictive areas.

According to the EARPDC land use database and city zoning acreage, Talladega shows ample land available, through zoning, for land use expansion, particularly with agricultural and rural residential. Agricultural areas show substantially large acreages zoned for such use in the city's peripheries; however, the development of much of this land is restricted by steep slopes and some areas of floodplains, particularly along southern and northwestern Talladega. Areas east and south of the city could be explored for more dense residential expansion outside steep slopes and septic restrictions. The majority (48.8%) of land in the city is undeveloped, which could be attributed to extensive coverage of environmental constraints. Most commercial land use is in the city center and downtown and could be expanded in this area. However, somewhat extensive floodplains need to be taken into consideration. The city could consider un-zoned land, without constraints, in the north and northeast portions for annexation, thus opening additional opportunities for business and residential expansion. Although agricultural land covers a substantially large portion of land outside the city limits in the north part of the city, only a minor portion has been brought into the city for such use. Most of the land within the city limits to the north is zoned for industrial and commercial. Table LU-3 compares land use acreage for each land use type with acreage total for each zoning district related to their corresponding



land use. Notice the substantially more significant amount of residential and industrial zoning compared to their respective land use acreage. This information shows that land is available for expansion in agriculture, residential, commercial, and industrial use. However, environmental constraints, such as steep slopes, floodplains, wetlands, and septic restrictive areas, must be considered and adequately planned for in terms of land use expansion and future development.

**Table LU-3. Existing Land Use Acreage: City of Talladega, 2023**

Land Use Category	Acres in City	% of Developed Land Area	Zoning Classification	Acres Zoned	% of Total Zoned
Residential (Single and Multi-family)	3,318.86	48.0%	Residential (R-1-R-4)	11,904.58	72.0%
Commercial	454.95	6.6%	Commercial (C-1-C-4)	1,530.24	9.2%
Industrial	384.32	5.6%	Industrial (M-1 & M-2)	2,329.59	14.1%
Total	4,158.13	N/A	N/A	15,764.41	N/A

Source: EARPDC Database. 2023-2024

## Land Use Plan

As a community grows and expands, a plan for land use and development is critical for guiding the city in a manner that logically and efficiently meets city goals and objectives. The City of Talladega desires to grow in a manner that effectively and efficiently utilizes land and community resources. The future land use plan and accompanying map (See Map #5: *Future Land Use*) provide general guidance in this directive. This land use plan offers advice and direction for planning based on land use types and gives some specific recommendations for improvement in the city.

## Land Use Planning

The following were identified through the planning process to offer general guidance for land use planning and development in the city:

- ❖ **Infill Development:** Development should be directed to areas with existing infrastructure and discourage the sprawl of development.
- ❖ **Mixed-Use:** Encourage more mixed-use in the city center.
- ❖ **Targeted Areas for Future Development:** The City must prioritize and highlight the locations for future development without impacting the infrastructure.



- ❖ **Development and Environmental Protection:** Future developments should not impact open spaces and should be designed to protect environmental resources. Encourage more clusters or nodes-like development in context with the surrounding land use.
- ❖ **Redevelop:** Transform the aging commercial corridors and encourage walkability in the community.

## Land Use Recommendations

The future development framework for the City of Talladega should encourage the Smart Growth approach reflecting the following principles as outlined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:

1. Mix land uses
2. Take advantage of compact building design
3. Create a range of housing opportunities and choices
4. Create walkable neighborhoods
5. Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place
6. Preserve open space, farmland, natural beauty, and critical environment areas
7. Strengthen and direct development toward existing communities
8. Provide a variety of transportation choices
9. Make development decisions predictable, fair, and cost-effective
10. Encourage community and stakeholder collaboration in development decisions

**Land Use and Transportation Coordination:** The type, location, density, and growth pattern will determine the traffic flow. Transportation improvements can open new opportunities for development. Focus on creating more alternative modes of transportation, like transit, cycling, and walking.

Map #6 exhibits the Future Land Use Framework as determined by the public in a work session. The Future Land Use Framework is a consensus-built structure that supports and prepares for future growth and development in the city. Citizens identified areas where pedestrian connectivity would be most beneficial, such as signature corridors in the community and gateways to the city, which are used as the main entrances and exits from the city. More explicit and welcoming gateways were pinpointed to leave great first and last impressions on those entering and exiting the city. Connectivity across the city for those utilizing alternative transportation, such as walking and biking, was also identified, including connectivity to parks and facilities. Two signature corridors,



roadways where many citizens live, work, and play, were also designated to improve appearance and safety over time. Please see Map #6: Future Land Use Framework for more information.

Talladega citizens also participated in a Land Use visioning session. This workshop was designed to gain input on the idea of creating more neighborhood commercial nodes in the city and identifying the kinds of improvements the public would like to see in residential neighborhoods. Citizens were asked to identify areas that need to:

- Evolve (red)- intended desire of change? (infill, reinvestment)
- Maintain (green)- areas of stability (minor fixes)
- Transform (blue)- areas of significant change

Please see Map #7: Land Use Vision and Appendix A for more information.

## **Analytical Summary**

The analytical summary provides a general review of the topics discussed in each chapter.

### **Agriculture**

Agriculture constitutes a moderate portion of the city with 1,053 acres (6% of the total city land area and 15% of developed land within the city limits). Much of the agricultural land extends to the southern and eastern parts of the city, following various rivers and streams.

### **Commercial**

Approximately 454 acres (3% of the total land area and 7% of the total developed areas) in Talladega are dedicated to commercial development. Much of this land is downtown and along State Route 77 and Battle Street East, across central portions of the city. Additional commercial areas are also scattered around the city periphery. Downtown comprises mostly small business establishments around Talladega Square and various surrounding roads. A substantial goal for the city is to promote and encourage adaptive reuse and redevelopment through commercial areas, in the downtown, and throughout the city, and attract more commercial uses in the city, as environmental constraints, particularly floodplains, allow.



### **Industrial**

Talladega utilizes about 384 acres for industrial development (2% of the total land area and 6% of the total developed). The City of Talladega boasts a thriving industrial environment. Much of the city's industrial land is in the north-eastern parts of the city, including Koch Foods, Georgia Pacific, RK Allen Oil Co. Inc, Precision Strip Inc., Elbit Systems of America, Talladega Castings and Machine Co., Synaflex Rubber Products Co., Filterbuy, and Weaver & Sons Inc. Other industrial areas are located north of downtown, such as Kirkpatrick, Waites Construction, Talladega Foundry & Mach Co., and Talladega Pattern and Aluminum. In East-central Talladega, Alabama Industries for the Blind operates a manufacturing facility. As a general goal, the city should continue to promote and enhance industrial development in areas on the city's outskirts, with convenient access to major highways and railways for transporting goods and services.

### **Residential**

Residential land use in single-family housing is spread consistently throughout the city, with the largest concentrations in southern sections. Single-family residential is the largest and most dominant developed land use, with approximately 3,116 acres in the city (19% of the total land use area and 45% of the developed). Multi-family residential comprises a much smaller portion of land use with 202 acres in the city (1% of total land use area and 3% developed) and occupies pockets in the north-central portion of the city, with a few smaller areas used as such in the southern area, south of Battle Street E.

### **Parks and Recreation**

Ample Parks and Recreation lands can tremendously impact citizens' health and quality of life. The City of Talladega offers 125 acres for parks and recreation, accounting for 0.8% of the total land area and 2% of the developed land area in the city. Parks and Recreation land uses are spread throughout central, southwestern, and northeastern Talladega.

### **Public/Semi-Public**

Provision of public land use plays an important role in community services. Talladega's public/semi-public land is the second most prevalent developed land use in the city, accounting for 1,248 acres (7% of total land use and 18% of the developed) is spread throughout the city, with most of the land serving the city cemeteries, public service facilities, correctional institutions, churches, and schools, among various other parcels located in the central/downtown area of the city.



## **Undeveloped**

The city's single most dominant land use is undeveloped, consisting of 8,071 acres and 48% of the total land area. Much of this land is located along steep slopes and flood-prone areas surrounding developed portions of the city. Some of this land could be considered for parks and recreation expansion or agriculture and woodland.



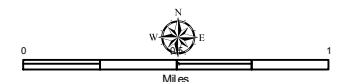
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# MAP 3 EXISTING LAND USE

## The City Of Talladega

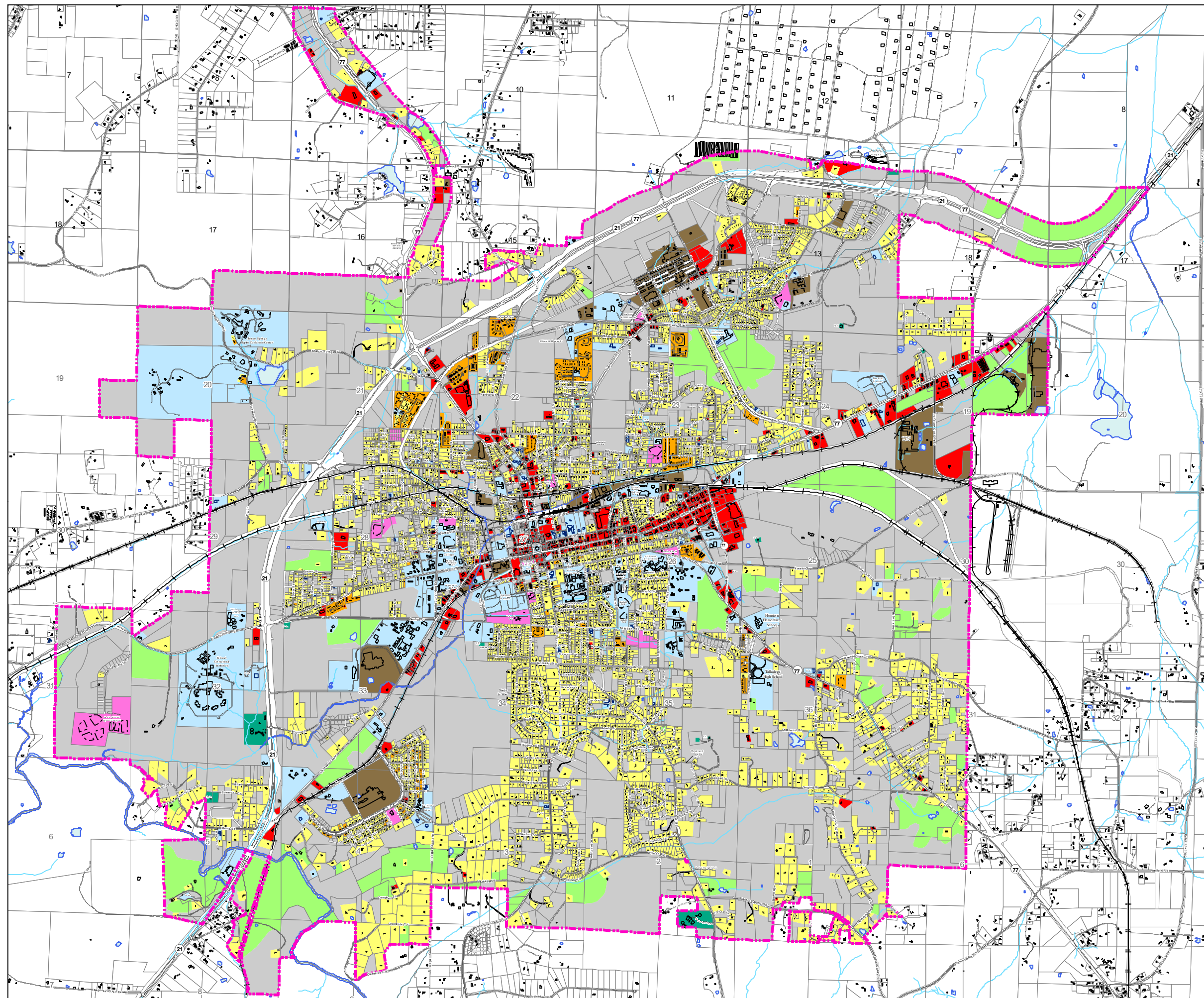
Alabama



Prepared By The East Alabama Regional Planning And Development Commission, 2024  
Note: Land Use Data Obtained By 2013 Windshield Survey and Aerial Photography.

### Existing Land Use

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Multi-Family Residential
- Parks / Recreation
- Public / Semi-Public
- Single Family Residential
- Undeveloped
- Utilities

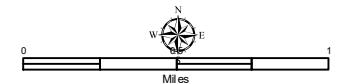




# MAP 4 ZONING MAP

## The City Of Talladega

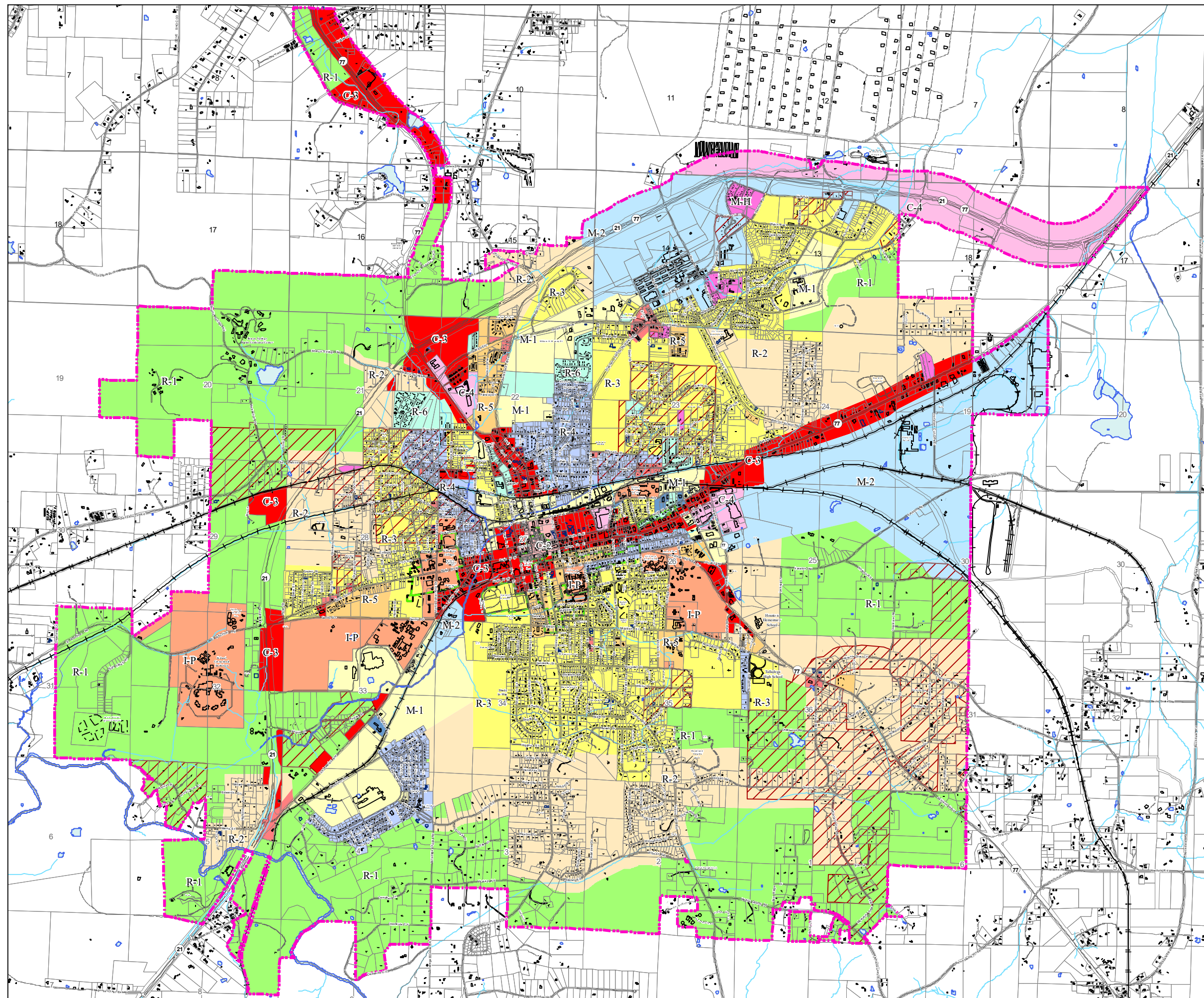
Alabama



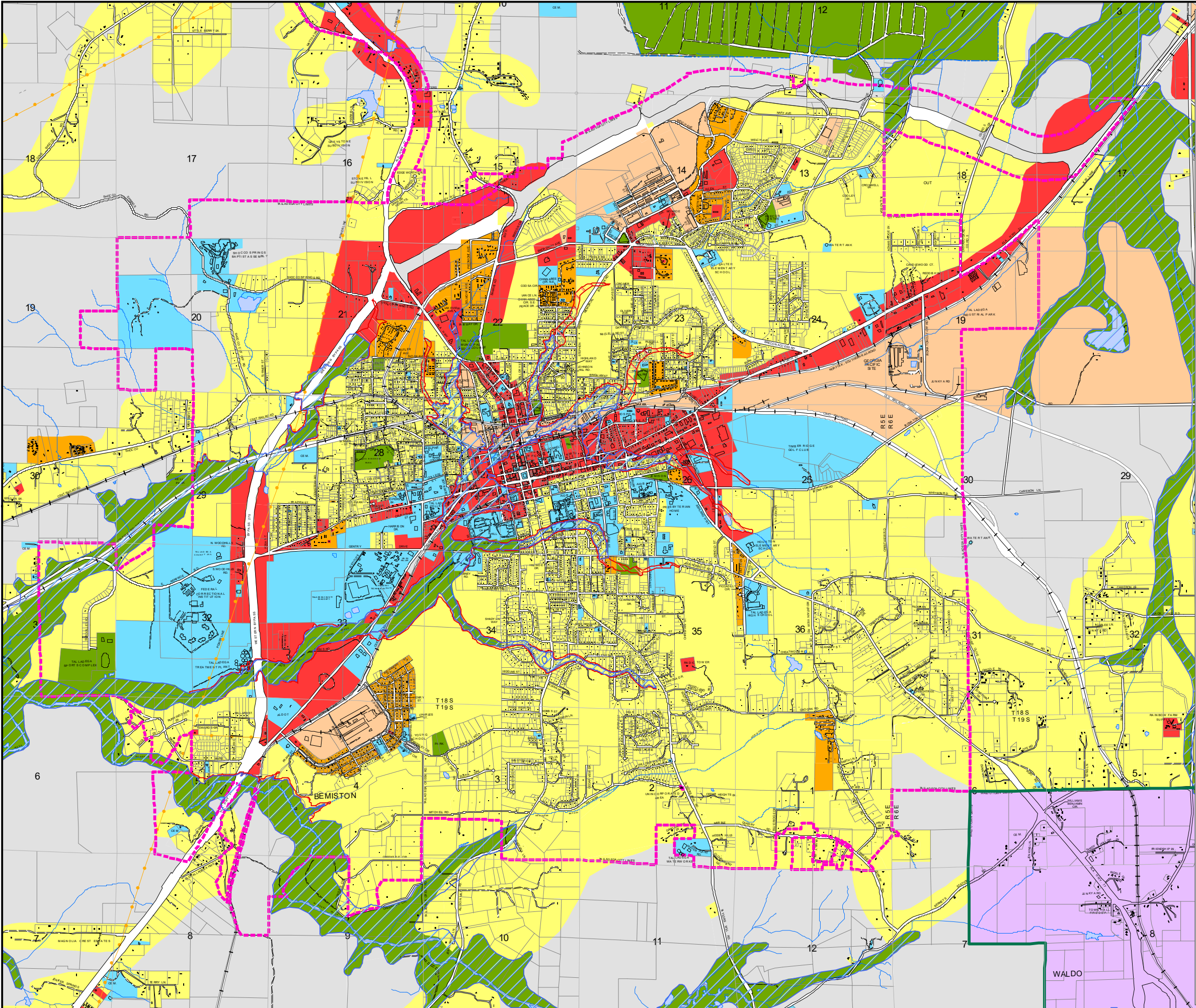
Prepared By The East Alabama Regional Planning And Development Commission, 2024  
Note: Land Use Data Obtained By 2023 Windshield Survey and Aerial Photography.

### Zoning

- C-1 Neighborhood Commercial
- C-2 Central Business
- C-3 General Commercial
- C-4 Shopping Center District
- Historical Preservation Area
- I-P Institutional Park
- M-1 Limited Industrial
- M-2 General Industrial
- M-H Mobile Home Park
- MHA Mobile Home Area
- O-S Offices And Services
- R-1 Agricultural
- R-2 Rural Residential
- R-3 Single Family Residential
- R-4 Low Density Multi-Family Residential
- R-5 Medium Density Multi-Family Residential
- R-6 High Density Multi-Family Residential



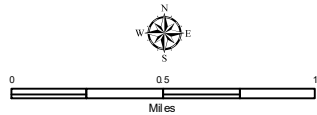




Map 5

Future Land Use

The City Of  
**Talladega**  
Alabama



Prepared By The East Alabama Regional Planning And Development Commission, 2024  
Note: Land Use Data Obtained By 2023 Windshield Survey and Aerial Photography.

LEGEND

- CITY LIMIT
- LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
- MEDIUM TO HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
- COMMERCIAL
- INDUSTRIAL
- PUBLIC / SEMI - PUBLIC
- PARKS / RECREATION / GREENWAYS
- AGRICULTURAL / WOODED / UNDEVELOPED
- FLOOD HAZARD AREA (100 YEAR)
- FLOOD HAZARD AREA (500 YEAR)



MAP 6  
FUTURE LAND  
USE  
FRAMEWORK  
The City Of  
Talladega  
Alabama



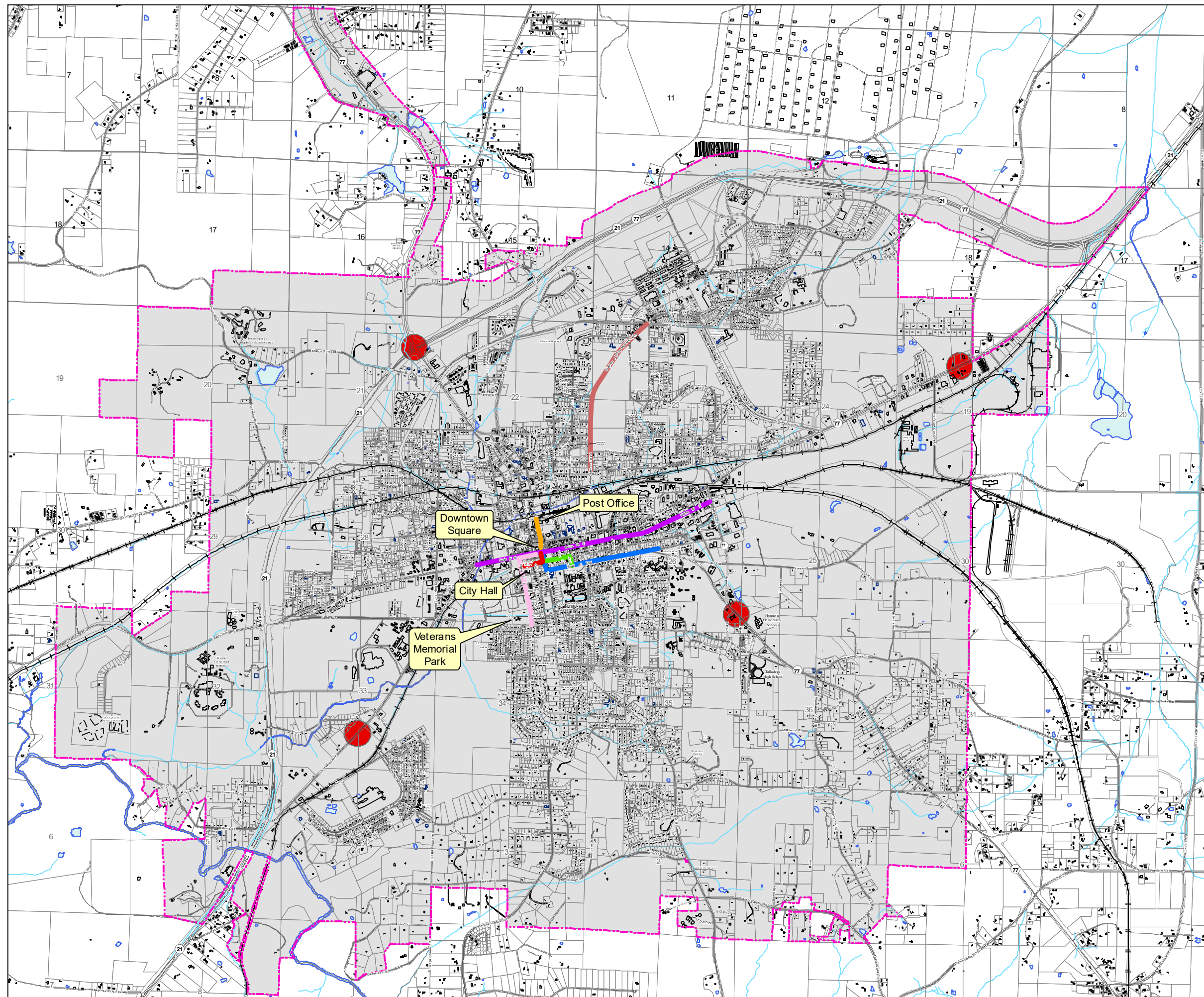
Prepared By The East Alabama Regional Planning And Development Commission, 2024.

**Designated Roads**

- Battle St E
- City Hall - Coffee St E
- Coffee St E
- East St N
- East St S
- South St East
- Stephan White Memorial

**Entry Ways**

**Talladega City Limits**





## **CHAPTER 5: TRANSPORTATION**

Transportation is an essential element and must be carefully planned and developed to meet the needs of the community best. As America continues to grow in population and more people rely on vehicular travel, transportation planning for the automobile will continue to be of major importance. Traffic flow and mobility influences the economic welfare and overall quality of life within a community. Routes with high traffic concentrations need to be identified and properly planned to accommodate present conditions and anticipated future growth. Traffic patterns also direct locations for growth and development. Industries and businesses wishing to be made visible and accessible to the public and to their suppliers tend to locate along major traffic routes. A well-planned transportation system should save businesses and the general population time and money by allowing its users to deliver goods, services, and other resources as efficiently and safely as possible. Therefore, it is important to analyze a city's existing transportation infrastructure and outline efforts for improving its local transportation network.

The purpose of this chapter is to provide information on existing traffic conditions and recommend actions to further enhance the transportation infrastructure within the City of Talladega. Traffic volumes along four major routes through the city, State Route 77, State Route 21, Battle Street and Fort Lashley Avenue, and East Street have been used to calculate maximum capacity and future growth projections to prioritize roadway improvement projects on these routes. Talladega also plans to conduct roadway improvements such as widening and repaving on other streets in the city as well as maintaining and building sidewalks and bicycling trails to promote and enhance this alternative form of transportation throughout the community.

### **Definitions**

When studying road transportation, it is useful to classify roads and streets according to their function. Road classifications can be used to identify road characteristics and whether these roads are eligible for federal funding. The highway functional classification system is organized into a hierarchical structure with interstates exhibiting the highest traffic volumes, followed by arterials —principal and minor, collectors—major and minor, and local roads. The following roadway definitions of the functional classification of roads and streets are described by the Alabama Highway Department of Transportation. For more information, please see Map #8: Transportation Network.



### ***Interstates***

Interstates are divided highways with full control of access and grade separation at all intersections. The controlled access inherent in interstates results in high-lane capacities, enabling these roadways to carry up to three times the amount of traffic per lane as arterials. Interstates move traffic at relatively high speeds. The City of Talladega is located with nearby access to an interstate freeway system. Interstate 20, the section traveling east to west from Birmingham and Atlanta, is accessible within approximately 12 miles to the north.

### ***Arterial Streets***

Arterial streets are designed to handle large volumes of traffic. Arterials serve primarily as feeders to the interstate system and act as major connectors between land-use concentrations. With a suggested lane width of twelve feet, this class of roadway may be separated by a median. A secondary purpose of an arterial is to provide some access to adjacent property. The use of a curb lane for parking, loading, and unloading should not be permitted due to interference with the flow of traffic. There are two classifications of arterials: principal and minor. Principal arterial highways connect communities to freeways and expressways while minor arterial highways join with principal arterial highways and collectors. The major state principal arterial highways traversing through Talladega are State Route 77 and State Route 21.

### ***Collector Streets***

Collector streets serve the purpose of collecting and distributing the traffic from the local streets to the arterials. With a suggested lane width of twelve feet, collectors are important for serving adjacent property and loading and unloading goods. Typically, collectors have lower volumes of traffic to accommodate shorter distance trips.

### ***Local Streets***

Local streets, designed to provide access to abutting property, are usually no wider than twelve feet. Most residential streets and alleys are considered local streets.

## **Administrative Street Classification**

Streets are not classified by function only, but also by which entity owns and maintains them. Through an administrative street classification system, governments can identify which entity is responsible for a particular roadway and designate funding for projects accordingly. The Administrative Street classification categories are as follows:



### ***Federal Highways***

Federal highways are owned and funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation, the State Department of Transportation coordinates improvements on these roadways.

### ***Other Federal Roads***

These roads are owned and maintained by other federal agencies, such as the U.S. Department of the Interior. These roadways include national forest roads and national park service roads.

### ***State Highways***

State Highways are owned and maintained by the State Department of Transportation both in unincorporated portions of a county and within municipal corporate boundaries. State Route 77 and State Route 21 are the state routes passing through Talladega.

### ***County Roads***

County roads can be divided into two types: (1) roads owned and maintained by the county; and (2) roads owned by the county but maintained by the municipality with county agreement.

### ***Municipal Streets***

Municipal streets consist of all other public roads inside city boundaries (excludes private roads). All public roads in Talladega not listed in the other classifications fall into this category.

### ***Private Roads***

Private roads are not publicly funded but should be considered when planning future municipal street network expansions. This classification includes subdivision roads that have not been dedicated to the city and substantially long, shared driveways.

## **Traffic Volumes and Capacity**

Traffic volumes are useful to determine traffic flow throughout a community, identify areas of high, medium, and low traffic volumes, and how traffic flow has been directed and changed over time. This data can be used to direct where road improvements, property access, and land developments should occur and the extent to which these occurrences should be administered. Traffic volume data was collected from strategically placed traffic counters, which are identified by their mile



marker positions. Traffic volumes are measured from Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) counts at these positions. Annual Average Daily Traffic is simply an indicator of the number of vehicles traveling on a particular section of roadway on any day for a given year.

After AADT is determined, it is compared to practical capacity to check if present volumes can adequately serve the public or not. Capacities are calculated by ALDOT using three data inputs: functional classification, number of lanes, and type of developments adjacent to the roadway. The *Talladega County- County Transportation Plan* provides additional information on roadways.

To determine how many more vehicles a particular portion of roadway can adequately serve the formula  $V/C$  ( $V$ = Traffic Volume and  $C$ = Traffic Capacity) is calculated to produce a ratio. If the ratio is less than 1 then capacity is adequate for that road and improvements are not mandatory. However, if the ratio is 1 or more than 1 then capacity is surpassing or has surpassed the maximum number of vehicles the road is designed to properly serve. For example, a rural principal arterial in an undeveloped area may adequately serve up to 32,500 vehicles per day. Should the AADT be 25,000 then:  $V/C$  calculates as 0.76. Next:  $100 - 0.76 = 0.24\%$  capacity available.

Another method used to determine if present volumes are adequate or not is to compare traffic volumes along a road type with Level of Service (LOS). The Alabama Department of Transportation has provided definitions for LOS, which are as follows:

Level of Service A	Free traffic flow
Level of Service B	Stable traffic flow
Level of Service C	Stable traffic flow
Level of Service D	High-density stable traffic flow
Level of Service E	Capacity level traffic flow
Level of Service F	Forced or breakdown traffic flow

Ideal traffic flow is Service level A, but B and C permit adequate traffic flow as well. Service level D is high-density stable traffic flow. When traffic volumes reach level D, plans to accommodate higher traffic volumes should be taken into consideration. Plans to accommodate more traffic are mandatory should traffic volumes meet or exceed levels E and F.

Traffic conditions in Talladega on State Route 77 indicate LOS A at the eastern and western portions of the route, with LOS B at the center. State Route 21 shows LOS A continuously throughout its run, with a spot of LOS B as the route exits the western city limits. Battle Street and Fort Lashley Avenue reported LOS A through much of its route, with LOS C near the turn off State Route 77, while East Street indicated LOS C-D in the northern segment, and LOS A in the southern portion of the route.



## State Route 77

State Route 77 is a major roadway extending through eastern portions of Talladega, connecting the community to the City of Lincoln and Interstate 20 to the north and the City of Ashland to the southeast. The route is therefore classified as a 2-lane undivided minor arterial for much of its run through the city; some portions of the route widen to 3-lanes, the traffic station in that area will be noted in the table. Table T-1 shows AADT volumes for State Route 77 in the City of Talladega and the periphery from 2017 to 2022, 2022 Level of Service, and traffic count stations.

Station	Location of Traffic Count	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	# Change	% Change	LOS
507	SR 77 west of Kw Lane (2 lanes)	9,650	6,568	6,640	6,600	6,426	5,816	-3,834	-39.7%	A
506	SR 77 west of city limits (3 lanes)	7,180	7,399	7,477	7,477	7,564	7,276	96	1.3%	A
505	SR 77 east of Tinney Street (2 lanes)	8,780	9,032	8,845	8,615	8,418	8,203	-577	-6.6%	B
813	SR 77 north of Ironaton Road	6,380	6,102	9,121	8,784	8,784	8,560	2,180	34.2%	B
814	SR 77 north of Ashland Highway	5,910	5,654	5,666	5,295	5,049	4,755	-1,155	-19.5%	A
815	SR 77 south of Hubbard Drive	4,260	4,053	4,124	3,854	4,028	3,904	-356	-8.4%	A
522	SR 77 southeast of city limits	4,110	3,939	3,979	3,221	3,268	3,247	-863	-21.0%	A

Source: ALDOT website: Traffic Data, Statewide Traffic Volume Map.

According to the Alabama Department of Transportation approved roadway capacities, maximum capacity for a 2-lane undivided urban minor arterial highway is set at 17,800 AADT, indicating that present traffic volumes between 3,247-8,560 AADT could at least double before reaching capacity. Most traffic volumes along this portion of State Route 77 indicate decline since 2016, apart from one station showing a considerable increase of 34.2% near the major business district. State Route 77 shows LOS A-B throughout, indicating that traffic in this section is currently free-flowing and stable. Consequently, traffic congestion along State Route 77 does not appear to be a major concern for the city and substantial improvements do not need consideration for the near future.

## State Route 21

State Route 21 runs from the Florida state line, entering Alabama in Escambia County, to Piedmont, Alabama and is the longest signed state route in Alabama. The Federal Highway Administration classifies routes that pass-through communities with a population of 5,000 or more as urban (FHWA Functional Classification Guidelines, Section II). Talladega satisfies this requirement. Therefore, the route is classified as a 4-lane divided urban principal arterial throughout its length in the city. The route links the city to the City of Oxford, City of Anniston, City of Sylacauga, U.S. Hwy. 231, U.S. Hwy. 78, and U.S. Hwy. 431.



Table T-2 shows AADT volumes for State Route 21 in the City of Talladega and the periphery from 2017 to 2022 as well as accompanying LOS for each station location.

Station	Location of Traffic Count	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	# Change	% Change	LOS
6004	SR 21 east of Eastaboga Road	7,450	7,731	6,520	7,078	6,739	5,607	-1,843	-24.7%	A
700	SR 21 east of city limits	7,420	7,751	7,253	7,653	7,869	6,547	-873	-11.8%	A
6003	SR 21 west of Thornton Street	6,350	6,649	7,678	7,678	7,848	7,451	1,101	17.3%	A
1031	SR 21 north of Piedmont Avenue	6,270	6,589	5,987	6,082	6,556	6,225	-45	-0.7%	A
525	SR 21 south of Shocco Springs Road	10,040	10,550	11,169	11,169	10,856	10,307	267	2.7%	A
526	SR 21 south of Old Shocco Road	8,970	9,549	10,387	10,387	10,625	10,088	1,118	12.5%	A
527	SR 21 south of West McMillan Street	7,630	8,246	8,944	8,944	8,720	8,548	918	12.0%	A
503	SR 21 southwest of city limits	10,000	10,991	10,991	10,809	11,288	11,065	1,065	10.7%	B

Source: ALDOT website: Traffic Data, Statewide Traffic Volume Map.

According to ALDOT traffic counts for State Route 21 in Talladega, traffic volumes declined at the beginning, and then grew at the end of the route, with the most significant change being a decrease east of Eastaboga Road, reporting a decline of -24.7%. The maximum capacity for a 4-lane divided urban principal arterial is 33,900 AADT, which means that with traffic counts in the city ranging from 5,607 AADT to 11,065 AADT traffic volumes could increase significantly before capacities would be reached. Given the volume increase which would be needed to reach maximum capacity, State Route 21 should not need significant improvements in Talladega soon. The route through the city also mostly shows LOS A, free flowing traffic flow, with one spot of LOS B, stable traffic flow, further indicating that significant improvements soon should not be needed.

## Battle Street/Fort Lashley Avenue

Battle Street and Fort Lashley Avenue are undivided urban collectors, with lanes varying from 2,3, and 4 through its length in the city. This route extends roughly east to west, connecting to State Route 77 and State Route 21. Table T-3 exhibits AADT volumes for Battle Street and Fort Lashley Avenue in Talladega and the city periphery from 2017 to 2022.



**Table T-3. Traffic Volumes, Battle Street and Fort Lashley Avenue: City of Talladega**

Station	Location of Traffic Count	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	# Change	% Change	LOS
504	Btw Norman C Woods Street and Ashbury Street (3 lanes)	11,380	11,687	11,687	10,583	10,598	10,790	-590	-5.2%	C
808	North of South Street West (4 lanes)	8,150	5,359	5,359	5,359	5,645	5,693	-2,457	-30.1%	A
609	Southwest of Angus Road (2 lanes)	3,950	3,695	3,695	3,695	3,825	3,934	-16	-0.4%	A

Source: ALDOT website: Traffic Data, Statewide Traffic Volume Map.

According to the Alabama Department of Transportation approved roadway capacities, maximum capacity for a 2-lane collector is 16,600 AADT and a 4-lane is 26,200 AADT, indicating that with traffic counts ranging from 3,934 to 10,790 AADT the road has room for moderate volume increases before capacity would be reached. All ALDOT traffic counts along this route experienced decline, with the West Battle Street location dropping the most, by -30.1%. Given this information and Level of Service A and C, free flow and stable traffic volumes, major improvements should not be needed on this route soon.

## East Street

East Street is an undivided urban collector, varying between 2 and 4 lanes and extending through Talladega from north to south, connecting to State Route 77 and State Route 21. Table T-4 shows AADT volumes for the route along East Street in the City of Talladega and the periphery from 2017 to 2022, over a six-year period, 2022 Level of Service, and traffic count stations.

**Table T-4. East Street: City of Talladega**

Station	Location of Traffic Count	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	# Change	% Change	LOS
520	North of city limits (4 lanes)	14,550	15,151	17,136	15,987	16,526	14,789	239	1.6%	C
2	South of Valley Road (4 Lanes)	16,470	17,086	16,094	16,094	16,275	15,514	-1,956	-11.9%	D
521	South of SR 275	9,730	9,995	9,995	8,980	9,049	8,940	-790	-8.1%	C
812	West of Boynton Avenue	9,200	8,843	8,843	8,562	8,628	8,524	-676	-7.3%	C
1321	East of the Talladega County Courthouse	5,150	4,934	4,934	4,934	5,017	4,957	-193	-3.7%	A
1344	Btw Elizabeth Avenue and Meadowview Lane	1,350	2,326	2,326	2,259	2,259	2,229	879	65.1%	A

Source: ALDOT website: Traffic Data, Statewide Traffic Volume Map.



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According to the Alabama Department of Transportation approved roadway capacities, maximum capacity for a 2-lane undivided urban collector is set at 16,000 AADT, indicating that present traffic volumes on the two-lane portions of this roadway could nearly double before reaching capacity. The maximum capacity for a 4-lane undivided urban collector is 26,200 AADT, indicating that present traffic volumes on the 4-lane portions of the roadway, at 14,789-15,514 AADT, are approaching high density and capacity level, and therefore should be monitored for potential needed improvements in the future. However, traffic volumes at most locations indicate a decline. The traffic volume between Elizabeth Avenue and Meadowview Lane reported the most change, with a considerable 65.1% increase. Traffic congestion along East Street does not appear to be a major concern for the city and, therefore, substantial improvements do not need consideration for the near future.

## **Traffic Projections**

Traffic projections are used to give an indication of future traffic counts given current conditions occurring at the same rate for the same span of time. It is important to remember that these projections are not used to predict future traffic volumes. They only provide an expectation of what could happen if current trends and conditions remain the same. An example of how traffic count projections are calculated for a 5-year period is shown below:

1. Calculate the difference between the traffic volumes in the past 5 years.  
  
2022 AADT is 7,276 - 2017 AADT is 7,180.  $7,276 - 7,180 = 96$ .
2. Second, the difference is divided by the earliest AADT examined, which is 2017 data.  
  
The difference is  $96 / \text{AADT 2017 is } 7,180$ .  $96 / 7,180 = .0134$  or 1.3%, which is the growth rate for the 5-year period.
3. Third, the growth rate is multiplied by the traffic volume of the most recent year.  
  
Growth rate is  $1.3\% \times 7,276 \text{ AADT 2022}$ .  $.0134 \times 7,276 = 97$ . This calculation produces the estimated increase over the next 5-year period, which is 97.
4. Lastly, the estimated increase and the most recent AADT are summed.  
  
Estimated increase  $97 + 7,276 \text{ AADT 2022}$ .  $97 + 7,276 = 7,373$ . This calculation gives us the projected traffic count on this section of road for 2027, which is 7,373.

Talladega traffic projections from 2017 to 2033 show mostly minor to moderate changes in traffic volumes. Half of the traffic count locations project LOS A, free flow traffic, with LOS B being the next most identified, stable traffic flow, and many count stations reported loss in traffic volumes. State Route 77, at the location north of Ironaton Road, showed a somewhat substantial growth in traffic volumes, thus projecting higher traffic volumes and increasing Level of Service from LOS B in 2022 to LOS E in 2033, suggesting more traffic congestion in the future. Table T-5 displays AADT along Talladega's major routes from 2017 to 2022 and projects traffic volumes for 2027 and 2033 and LOS for 2033.



Table T-5. City of Talladega: Traffic Volume Projections, 2017-2033						
Roadway	Location of Traffic Count	2017	2022	2027	2033	LOS
State Route 77	SR 77 west of Kw Lane (2 lanes)	9,650	5,816	3,505	2,112	A
	SR 77 west of city limits (3 lanes)	7,180	7,276	7,373	7,471	A
	SR 77 east of Tinney Street (2 lanes)	8,780	8,203	7,664	7,160	B
	SR 77 north of Ironaton Road	6,380	8,560	11,485	15,409	E
	SR 77 north of Ashland Highway	5,910	4,755	3,826	3,079	A
	SR 77 south of Hubbard Drive	4,260	3,904	3,578	3,279	A
	SR 77 southeast of city limits	4,110	3,247	2,565	2,026	A
State Route 21	SR 21 east of Eastaboga Road	7,450	5,607	4,220	3,176	A
	SR 21 east of city limits	7,420	6,547	5,777	5,098	A
	SR 21 west of Thornton Street	6,350	7,451	8,743	10,259	A
	SR 21 north of Piedmont Avenue	6,270	6,225	6,180	6,135	A
	SR 21 south of Shocco Springs Road	10,040	10,307	10,581	10,862	B
	SR 21 south of Old Shocco Road	8,970	10,088	11,345	12,759	B
	SR 21 south of West McMillan Street	7,630	8,548	9,576	10,728	B
	SR 21 southwest of city limits	10,000	11,065	12,243	13,546	B
East Street	North of city limits (4 lanes)	14,550	14,789	15,032	15,279	D
	South of Valley Road (4 Lanes)	16,470	15,514	14,613	13,764	C
	South of SR 275	9,730	8,940	8,214	7,547	C
	West of Boynton Avenue	9,200	8,524	7,898	7,318	B
	East of the Talladega County Courthouse	5,150	4,957	4,771	4,592	A
	Btw Elizabeth Avenue and Meadowview Lane	1,350	2,229	3,680	6,076	B
	Btw Norman C Woods Street and Ashbury Street (3 lanes)	11,380	10,790	10,231	9,701	D
Battle Street and Fort Lashley Avenue	North of South Street West (4 lanes)	8,150	5,693	3,977	2,778	A
	Southwest of Angus Road (2 lanes)	3,950	3,934	3,918	3,902	A

Source: ALDOT website: Traffic Data, Statewide Traffic Volume Map



## **Highway Access Management**

Highway access management plays an important role in transportation efficiency, management, and safety. Many communities and other developed areas throughout the country have neglected proper access management standards, resulting in mismanaged and unnecessary traffic congestion and gridlock at major intersections. As development continues along Talladega's major roadways the city would benefit substantially from logical and practical highway access management guidelines, serving to ease access and enhance traffic flow at important intersections and other access points along the city's major highway. Once established, these guidelines could be used to create a practical set of access management regulations to be included in the city's zoning ordinance and implemented through lawful enforcement of zoning codes.

The basic purpose of highway access management is to improve traffic flow along the highway while maintaining efficient, adequate, and safe vehicular accessibility. Highway access management guidelines included in this Comprehensive Plan format must not be enforced as law but are useful in providing basic direction and guidance in establishing practical and effective highway access. These guidelines and subsequent diagrams, selected from the Alabama Department of Transportation Highway Access Management Guidelines manual, are listed as follows: 1) Placement of Commercial Activity Centers, 2) Corner Parcel Access, 3) Throat Length, 4) Grid Pattern Connectivity, 5) Connectivity in Local Neighborhoods, 6) Frontage Roads.

### **Placement of Commercial Activity Centers**

As a common pattern in commercial development, commercial activity centers tend to locate around major street corners and intersections. These commercial activity centers, also known as commercial nodes, begin with a location at the corners of intersections and can significantly inhibit traffic flow and access if all four corners are developed with entrance and exit points. In planning for proper access management, this practice should be avoided. Commercial property should be promoted and encouraged to develop as commercial activity centers at only one corner of the intersection, undivided by the major intersection instead of on all four corners and spread out along the highway. This type of access management permits more highway frontage due to proper separation and distance from the major intersection, creating better traffic circulation throughout the commercial area along with greater flexibility in site design and fewer potential access problems at the intersection. Although commercial developments tend to favor close and convenient proximity to the intersection, along with higher visibility to incoming traffic, the placement of commercial nodes better prepares the community and business areas for more manageable and sustained growth in the future. Figure T-1 shows the improper placement of commercial nodes while T-2 shows proper placement.



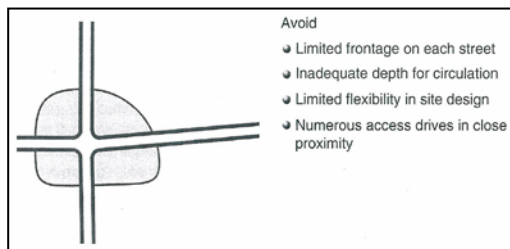


Figure T-1 Improper Commercial Node

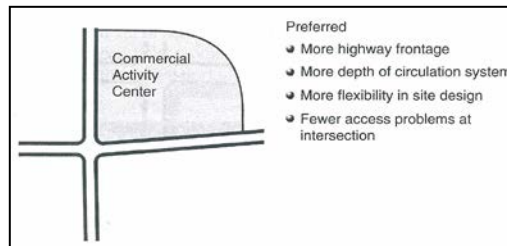


Figure T-2. Proper Commercial Node

## Corner Parcel Access

Corner parcel lots, also known as outparcels, enlist high priority and value to businesses due to efficient access and convenient visibility along two major roads instead of a single road. To avoid access management problems and congestion at the intersection these parcels need to be tightly regulated with limited access. As a sustainable traffic management practice, the preferred strategy is to permit a maximum of two access points, one located on each intersecting highway, into a collectively shared parking area, as opposed to allowing several access points, each with single access into individual parcels with separate parking. This preferred strategy enhances traffic flow and access by utilizing shared parking and keeping access to a minimum along the major roadway, while the non-preferred strategy produces numerous traffic access conflicts and unnecessary congestion. Figure T-3 shows improper corner parcel access with multiple single access points for each parcel and non-shared parking, while Figure T-4 illustrates proper access management with two major access points and shared parking.

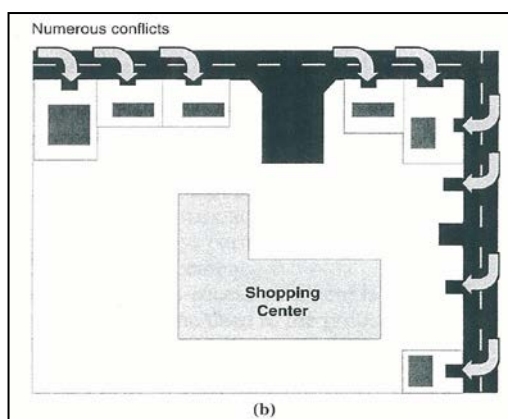


Figure T-3. Improper Corner Parcel Access

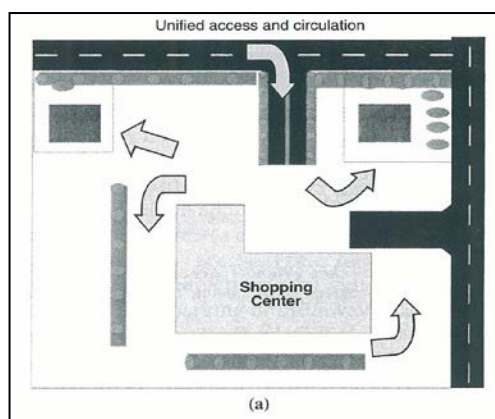


Figure T-4. Proper Corner Parcel Access



## Throat Length

Throat length is characterized as the length of roadway or driveway used to connect the highway intersection to the on-site traffic circulation intersection, namely a parking lot parcel or another parallel roadway. Proper throat length is necessary to provide safe vehicular clearance at both intersections and mitigate bunching of vehicles at these access points. Adequate throat length should allow left-turning vehicles sufficient clearance of traffic, in the opposing right hand lane, before meeting on-site circulation. Generally, a minimum of two vehicles should be able to remain safely stationary within the throat at any given moment. This practice should substantially reduce congestion and crash rates on the abutting roadway and circulation site. Figure T-5 demonstrates proper throat length between the abutting roadway and on-site circulation. For specific land uses the following throat lengths have been recommended:

- 300 feet for mall or supercenter
- 250 feet for retail development with more than 150,000 square feet of floor space
- 150 feet for retail development with 100,000 to 150,000 square feet of floor space
- 50 feet for small retail strip developments at intersection corner parcels
- 30 feet for convenience store at intersection corner parcels

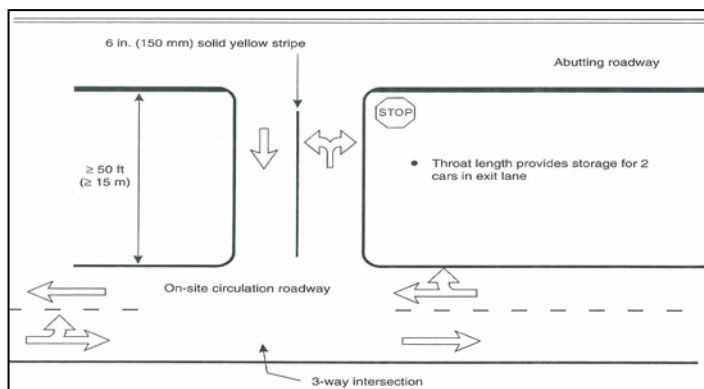


Figure T-5. Proper Throat Length



## Grid-pattern Connectivity

The most critical component of highway access management is a unified and well-integrated roadway network system. Without such a system, street connectivity fails, and the result is increased traffic congestion and reduced safety. The common grid-pattern system is the most basic, yet efficient, safe, and overall useful road network strategy available. This pattern should be the basis for street networking and accompanying city development. Grid pattern connectivity is designed to promote and encourage access to major thoroughfares through connector routes and the local road system instead of giving direct access to individual parcels. To free traffic flow and reduce congestion individual parcels should be accessed directly only through connector and local roads, not arterial roads. In addition to free flow and reduced congestion, streets with better access management provide for safer and more recognizable access to establishments along the roadway.

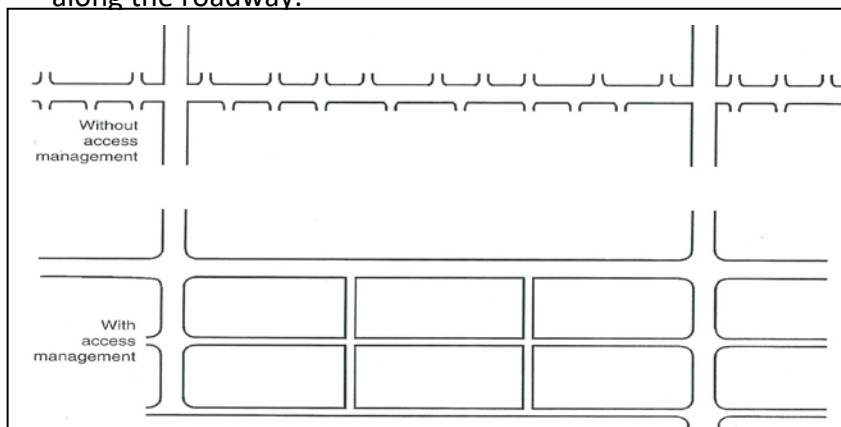


Figure T-6 illustrates two street systems—one without access management and numerous direct access points to individual parcels, and the other with access management showing a supporting street system with direct access only at connector and local street intersections. Proper access management should allow entrance and exit to and from properties

chiefly through numerous minor connection roadways and limit curb cut access on the major arterial street to mitigate potential collisions and improve traffic flow.

## Connectivity in Local Neighborhoods

Grid pattern connectivity should also be promoted and encouraged in local neighborhoods to create safe and efficient transportation throughout the community. Connectivity hindrances such as dead-ends, cul-de-sacs, and gated communities force drivers to use major roadways for even short trips, thus adding to congestion. A fragmented street system will also increase length of trip and time driving, as well as impede emergency access. As a basic connectivity strategy, cities should create transportation plans and policies to mitigate the use of connectivity hindrances and promote and encourage an integrated vehicular transportation network. Figure T-7 shows improper connectivity, heightening demand for arterial access, while Figure T-8 illustrates proper and efficient connectivity, creating less demand for arterial access.



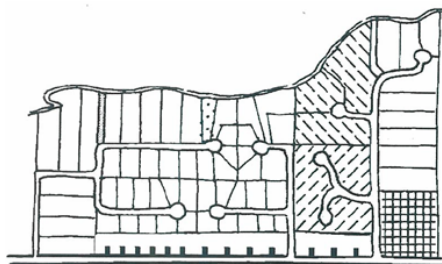


Figure T-7. Improper Connectivity

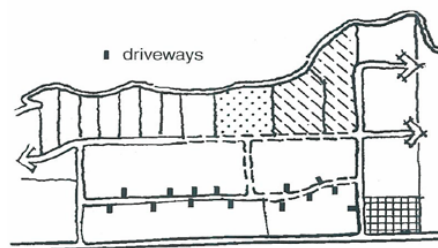


Figure T-8. Proper Connectivity

## Frontage Roads

Common alternatives to direct grid access roads consist of frontage roads and service roads. These roads run parallel to the major highway, providing access points only along connectors to the major road. The two main goals of this strategy are 1) to decrease direct access along the major route, thus creating and sustaining uninhibited traffic flow along the major route and 2) diverting and separating business oriented traffic from through routing traffic. The only barrier to using frontage roads is highly limited access, which is itself the basis. Figure T-9 shows minimum separation between the frontage road and the major roadway.

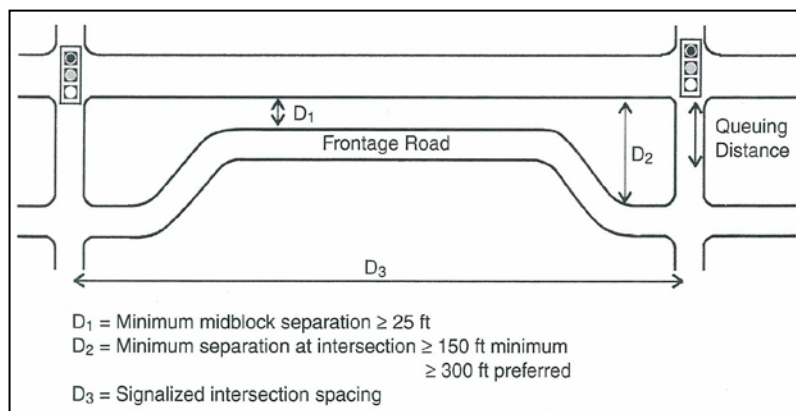


Figure T-9. Minimum Separation for Frontage Roads



## **Transportation Plan**

As a growing and thriving community, Talladega needs to plan for effective and efficient transportation. The primary form of transportation throughout the City of Talladega is personal vehicular with most traffic generation along the four main routes, State Route 77, State Route 21, Battle Street/Fort Lashley Avenue, and East Street. According to ALDOT traffic counts State Route 77 reported a decline in traffic volumes along much of the route, with some growth near major business. State Route 21 showed growth in traffic volumes along much of the route, with some decline in the northeastern portion of the city. Battle Street/Fort Lashley Avenue reported a decline across the length of the route, while East Street reported a decline along most of the route, but experienced considerable growth at the southernmost traffic station.

Although, as shown in traffic volume information, there is little need for street widening improvements in the immediate future, Talladega should create and implement a plan to improve and enhance local roadways which are not owned and maintained through state or federal jurisdiction, namely local and collector streets.

### **Paving/Repaving Projects**

As a part of Talladega's transportation plan, the city should consider maintaining existing roadways through properly planned paving and re-paving projects. To properly maintain existing roadway infrastructure, the paving/repaving projects in the city should be considered, identified, and prioritized. In a survey to the citizens of Talladega, a lack of pedestrian facilities and traffic/roads shortcomings were identified by a third of citizens surveyed. Citizens also expressed concern for infrastructure and transportation challenges.

### **New Road Projects**

In addition to re-paving, a city needs an efficient and effective traffic circulation on its roadway network. Although major improvements to the road system should not be needed in the immediate future, the city should consider better linking its roadways to increase road access thus opening more areas to development and improving traffic flow.



## **Analytical Summary**

The analytical summary provides a general review of the topics discussed in each chapter and sets forth broad recommendations.

### **Traffic Volumes and Capacity**

#### ***State Route 77***

##### **Traffic Capacity and Assessment:**

According to the Alabama Department of Transportation approved roadway capacities, maximum capacity for a 2-lane undivided urban minor arterial highway is set at 17,800 AADT, indicating that present traffic volumes between 3,247-8,560 AADT could at least double before reaching capacity.

**Recommendations:** No improvements should be needed in the near future.

#### ***State Route 21***

##### **Traffic Capacity and Assessment:**

The maximum capacity for a 4-lane divided urban principal arterial is 33,900 AADT, which means that with traffic counts in the city ranging from 5,607 AADT to 11,065 AADT traffic volumes could increase significantly before capacities would be reached.

**Recommendations:** No improvements should be needed soon.

#### ***Battle Street & Fort Lashley Avenue***

##### **Traffic Capacity and Assessment:**

According to the Alabama Department of Transportation approved roadway capacities, maximum capacity for a 2-lane collector is 16,600 AADT and a 4-lane is 26,200 AADT, indicating that with traffic counts ranging from 3,934 to 10,790 AADT the road has room for moderate volume increases before capacity would be reached.

**Recommendations:** No improvements should be needed soon.



## ***East Street***

### **Traffic Capacity and Assessment:**

According to the Alabama Department of Transportation approved roadway capacities, maximum capacity for a 2-lane undivided urban collector is set at 16,600 AADT, indicating that present traffic volumes on the two-lane portions of this roadway could nearly double before reaching capacity. The maximum capacity for a 4-lane undivided urban collector is 26,200 AADT, indicating that present traffic volumes on the 4-lane portions of the roadway, at 14,789-15,514 AADT, are approaching high density and capacity level, and therefore should be monitored for potential needed improvements in the future.

**Recommendations:** Improvements along the 4-lane section should be considered for the future.



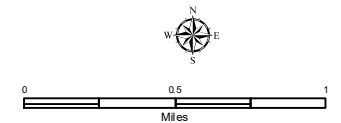
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# MAP 8 TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

## The City Of Talladega

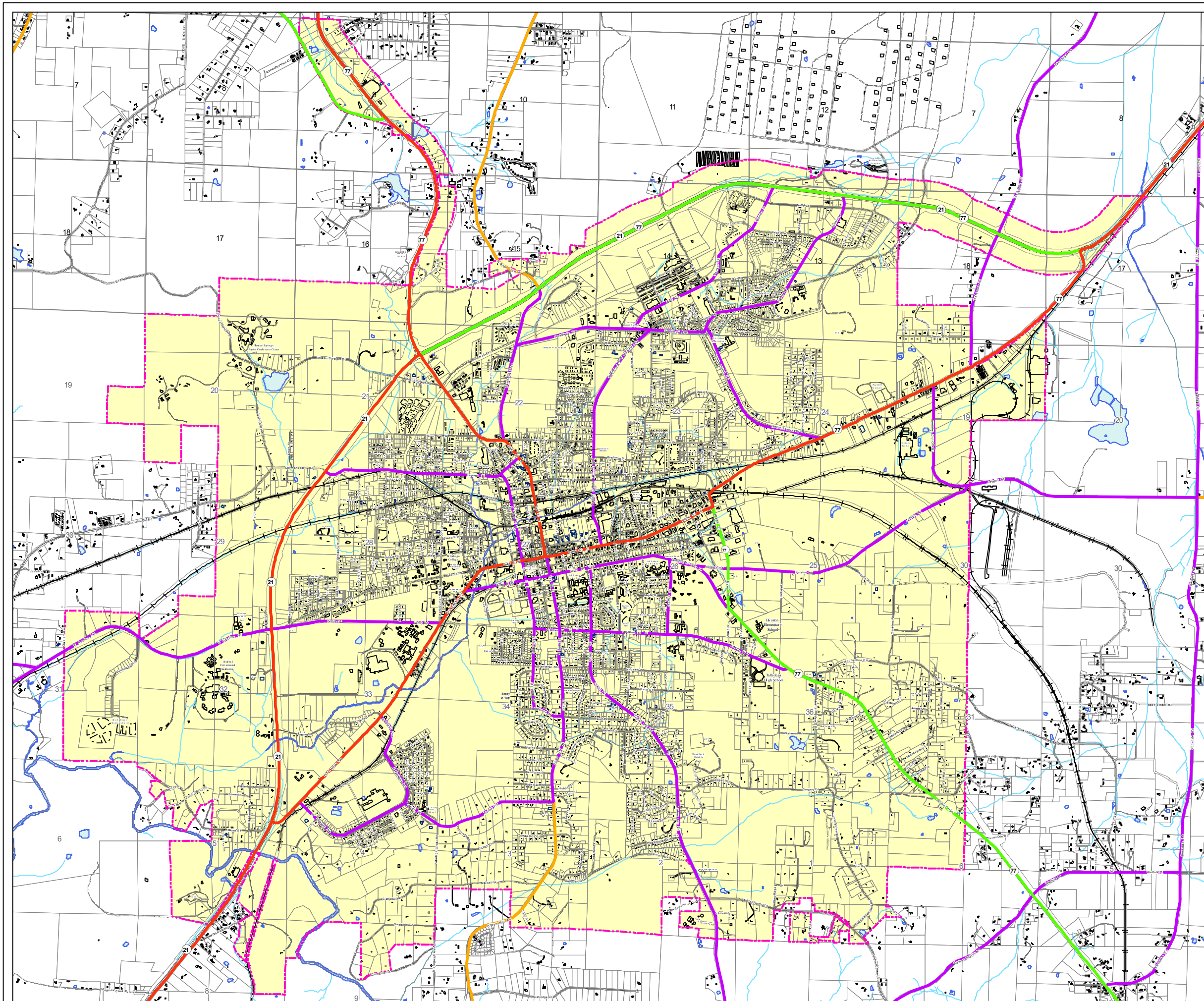
Alabama



Prepared By The East Alabama Regional Planning And Development Commission, 2024.

### HFC (ALDOT 2016)

- Interstate
- Principal Arterial - Other  
Freeways and Expressways
- Principal Arterial - Other
- Minor
- Major Collector
- Minor Collector
- Local Road
- Talladega City Limits





## **CHAPTER 6: COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

Community facilities are crucial to the planning effort, affecting growth and development throughout the city. Accessibility to community facilities and the extent to which they serve the community has a direct influence on land use patterns and development trends within the city. Properties with direct access to utilities such as municipal water, sewer, and gas can develop at reduced costs and safely support greater developments than properties in more remote and unserviceable areas. Also, a city creates additional opportunities for growth and development by upgrading and extending their services to other areas of the city. Community facilities must have plans for conducting continued maintenance while ensuring quality service and meeting the needs of a diverse and changing population. A total of eleven community facilities have been identified and discussed in this chapter. These include city administration, law enforcement, fire and rescue, education, public library, parks and recreation, senior center, housing authority, community appearance department and public works, wastewater treatment plant, and utilities such as water, sewer, and gas.

The purpose of this chapter is to inventory existing community facilities and services, assess their capacity to serve existing and future needs, and suggest improvements and expansions for meeting these needs. To determine current community facility goals and needs, surveys were distributed to facility and department leaders and collected by the Talladega City Administration. This chapter reviews these findings in context and as a summation of needs in the analytical summary at the end of the chapter. For additional information, please see Map #9: *Community Facilities*

### **City Administration**

City administration for the City of Talladega oversees the daily tasks and functions needed to operate and maintain city-owned public facilities and services throughout the community. Offices located in Talladega City Hall include the following:

- City Manager's Office
- City Clerk's Office
- Mayor
- Finance
- Municipal Court Office
- Building Inspector
- Public Information Officer
- City Planner
- Human Resources Department



- Purchasing Department
- Police Department
- Fire Station 1

City Hall is used for a variety of city functions such as City Council meetings, Planning Commission meetings, Public Hearings, bid openings, board meetings, and Municipal Court. The building consists of nine offices with various equipment. This municipal building is not currently adequate for the needs of the city; the city has outgrown the facility, needing more storage space for records and offices.

### **City Council**

Talladega's city government consists of five council members, the mayor, and the city manager. Elected officials serve 4-year terms. Council meetings are recorded and available on the city's website.

### **Planning Commission**

Talladega's Planning Commission is a public advisory board. Commission representation consists of nine (9) members, seven (7) of which are appointed by the mayor and approved by City Council, one (1) council member, and the Mayor or the Mayor's designee. Terms are served in staggered one to six-year duration for the members appointed by the mayor while the Mayor and City Zoning Official serve during the mayor's tenure. In addition, the Planning Commission may elect members currently serving within the Commission as Chairman (to serve for 1 year), Chairman Pro-tempore (1 year), and Secretary (to serve at the pleasure of the Commission). The Commission meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month.

### **Board of Adjustment**

The purpose of the Talladega Board of Adjustment is to hear appeals from decisions of municipal administrative officials relating to the application of municipal zoning regulations, to grant or deny variances and special exception uses permitted on appeal. Member composition includes seven (7) members. Appointments are made by the City Council. Members are required to serve three-year, staggered terms. The board meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month, as necessary.

### **Civil Service Board**

The Talladega Civil Service Board is tasked to act in an advisory capacity to the governing body on problems concerning personnel administration, to hear and decide employee appeals and protests,



manage the position classification system, make recommendations on pay plans, and provide lists of eligible applicants. The board consists of five individuals, all registered voters of the City of Talladega and over the age of 25. Two members are appointed by the council, two by the Governor, and one member is elected by the employees who are members of the Classified Service. Members appointed by the Governor serve staggered four-year terms, members elected by classified service serve initially for a term of three years, and thereafter for a term of four years, and the two members appointed by the council serve for an initial term of two years, with the renewal terms being terms of four years each. The board meets in the months of February, May, August, and November on the second Wednesday of the month at 3:30 p.m.

### **Airport Board**

The Talladega Municipal Airport Board was created on March 31, 1953. The Board consists of twelve members that serve four-year staggered terms. One seat on the board is held permanently by the Airport's Fixed Base Operator or their designee. The board advises the City Council on measures pertaining to the operation of the Municipal Airport located off Speedway Boulevard. Meetings of the board are held monthly on the third Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. at a place designated by the Chairperson.

### **Heritage Hall Commission**

The Talladega Heritage Hall Commission was created on October 7, 1981, and delegated certain powers and responsibilities regarding the operation of a local history museum and cultural center (specifically Heritage Hall Museum and Art Center) to help serve the cultural needs of the people of Talladega and Talladega County, Alabama. The Talladega Heritage Commission works in unison with the Jemison-Carnegie Foundation (incorporated to raise funds for the Heritage Hall), the Docent group and the Jemison-Carnegie Heritage Hall Service Guild to provide experiences of excellence in both the arts and humanities for the community and the region. The Commission consists of twelve members: eight are voting members and two members serve in ex-officio capacity. Members are elected by the Council and serve 3-year terms. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at Heritage Hall at 5:00 p.m.

### **Industrial Development Board**

The Industrial Development Board works with and advises the City Council on potential industrial prospects and on economic development efforts through attracting businesses and jobs to the city. The Board is comprised of nine members, appointed by Council, who serve four-year staggered terms. The Board meets on a quarterly basis or at the call of the Chair.



## **Library Board**

The Talladega Library Board is composed of the trustees that advise and support the Talladega Armstrong-Osbourne Public Library. The board is composed of five members appointed by the City Council to four-year staggered terms. The board meets the third Tuesday of every other month at the library at 4:00 p.m.

## **Citizens Advisory Board**

The Talladega Citizens Advisory Board was created to help bridge the divide between the community and the city government. The board works with all municipal departments and assists citizens who have a need that isn't being met; citizens may file complaints or comments, and the board will investigate and follow-up with the appropriate municipal department. The board consists of eleven members, two of which are appointed by the City Manager, two by the Police Chief, one by the mayor, one by the NAACP, and one per each council member. The board meets when called by the Chairperson.

## **Redevelopment Authority**

The Talladega Redevelopment Authority was created to rebuild, renew, and revitalize the city, with initiatives and programs to improve the downtown, neighborhood business, and residential areas. The Redevelopment Authority consists of 5 members appointed by the City Council.

## **City Administration Needs**

Talladega City Administration proposed needs include the following:

- ❖ Transportation
- ❖ Affordable housing
- ❖ Paving/sidewalks
- ❖ ADA compliance on all sidewalks



## **Public Safety**

### **Law Enforcement**

The Talladega Police Department was founded in the late 1880's with the mission to serve and protect the community each day. "Through diverse community engagement initiatives, we seek to build strong relationships with residents in order to better protect lives and property, prevent and reduce crime, and maintain order." The police department is currently located at 203 South Street W, at the City Hall. The city does not operate a jail, as there is a metro jail serving the entire county.

Department staff currently consists of 35 full-time officers, which includes ten supervisors. The department also employs two civilian administrators and 1 part time officer. The current ratio of residents to officers is .0022 of officers to city limit residents. In the department's professional opinion, the ratio of officers to citizens is too low, especially for a college town and the volume of crime.

Emergency calls are dispatched by the central dispatch system that serves Talladega County. Talladega's police jurisdiction extends 3 miles outside the corporate limits. At present there are no plans to expand the police jurisdiction.

The most frequent crimes in the city are drugs/narcotics possession, domestic violence, and thefts. The department is in the process of hiring a Domestic Violence Coordinator to educate victims and find resources to keep them from returning to their aggressors. Talladega Police Department provides extra patrol in high crime areas, which is somewhat of a theft deterrent; however, patrol officers are limited in number.

The Talladega Police Department currently owns and maintains the following vehicles:

8-2023 Ford Explorer SUV, 14-2021 Chevrolet Silverado PU, 6-2021 Dodge Durango SUV, 3-2021 Dodge Charger, 9-2019 Dodge Charger, 5-2017 Dodge Charger, 4-2016 Dodge Charger, 4-2015 Dodge Charger, 4-2014 Dodge Charger, and 1-2013 Dodge Charger.

The department plans to upgrade radios with grant funding if awarded. Laptops were recently upgraded through a gift from the State of Alabama Administrative Office of Courts, and desktops were also upgraded through capital improvement funds. Vest upgrades are coming soon, with grant funding of 50%. Firearms were also recently upgraded through funds earned from selling old firearms.

Programs in which the police department is involved include the following:



- School Resource Officer Program- has been helpful in schools for approximately 20 years. The city only has one SRO who spends most of th time at the high school. The department would like to hire more SROs to have at least one at every school in the city.
- Citizen Advisory Board- a new committee formed in the past year.
- DHR Christmas for Kids Program- officers and staff donate to purchase gifts for foster children, with participation for the last 8 years or so.
- Kiwanis Club- officers assist with Christmas for families.

Needs for the police department include:

- ❖ Retain our sworn officers- surrounding agencies (even smaller ones) offer better incentives and pay and we often lose officers as quickly as we gain them.
- ❖ Better technology to assist in crime solving, as well as IT professionals to operate the equipment.
- ❖ The facility is dated and broken in many areas.

## **Fire and Rescue**

The Talladega Fire and Rescue Department was founded on March 23, 1881, with the mission to guard the lives and property of citizens from fires or any hazardous occurrences. The fire department is a paid department with department staff currently comprising 30 full-time firefighters and 13 part-time firefighters, including five firefighters who have completed paramedic training, and two in the process of paramedic training. In the department's opinion, there currently aren't enough personnel to adequately serve the community, with nine additional firefighter II positions needed. Other services offered by the fire department, besides fire protection, include: vehicle and machinery extrication, technical rescue (high angle rescue, confined space rescue, water rescue), hazardous materials response, fire investigations, fire inspections, airport firefighting, wild land search and rescue, dive rescue, plans review, public education, pre-incident planning, and an internship program.

Emergency calls are handled and dispatched by Central Dispatch and Talladega County 9-1-1. Fire department jurisdiction encompasses approximately 124 square miles for primary coverage, including 24 square miles within the city limits.

Current vehicles used by Talladega Fire Department include:

- 1-Aerial American LaFrance
- 1-Light Rescue Truck
- 4-Pumpers
- 1-Service/Rescue Ford F-550
- 1-Brush Ford F-350
- 1-Command Ford F-150



- 1-Chief/Command Ford Expedition
- 1-AC/Command Ram 1500
- 1-Utility Ford F-250

The department is planning to purchase the following equipment and vehicles:

- New Fire Chief SUV
- Captain's Command Vehicle 4x4 Pick-up Truck
- City Fire Marshall Vehicle

The fire department should work with the city to create fire protection and prevention efficiency and effectiveness, which is based on criteria and classified into a rating system, developed by the International Standards Organization's (ISO) Public Protection Classification Program (PPCP). This rating system ranks approximately 44,000 fire department jurisdictions across the country on a scale of 1 to 10. A rating of 1 signifies exemplary fire protection while a 10 indicates that the department does not meet minimum ISO standards and stronger measures must be taken. The ISO defines any property within 1,000 feet of a hydrant as "city" and any property further than 1,000 feet from a hydrant as "rural". Thus, a dual rating is assigned with the first rating being the city rating (area with hydrants) and the second the rural rating (area without hydrants). ISO criteria are based on three major evaluated categories which include:

- Fire alarms—communications center, telephone service, emergency listings in phone book, and dispatch circuits,
- Fire department—type and extent of fire personnel training, number of people in training, emergency response time, maintenance and testing of fire-fighting equipment,
- Water supply—available water supply exceeding daily consumption, components of water supply system such as pumps, storage, and filtration, water flow rate, fire hydrant condition, maintenance, and distribution.

These ISO measures, through the PPCP, give communities an objective approach in evaluating fire suppression services by establishing country-wide standards that help its departments plan and budget for facilities, equipment, training, water infrastructure, and emergency communication. In addition to mitigating fire damage and loss of lives, an improved ISO rating benefits the community through reduced insurance premiums to homeowners and businesses, saving of taxpayer dollars, and in enhancing an overall prestige component to the community and its fire department. Talladega's Fire Department ISO rating was 3/3x, which is an average score for a city the size of Talladega. A recently conducted risk analysis determined that, for safety purposes, Talladega Fire Rescue needs to put more firefighters on the ground on the first arriving apparatus, as the current first arriving engine only contains two firefighters. The department's most recent ISO assessment calculated that the ISO rating



(Class 3) would be greatly improved if two major factors could be addressed- fire department staffing shortages and better water supply from the water department. According to professional opinion, the most important thing the fire department could do to improve would be to increase personnel by three per shift, purchasing a new 100-foot aerial apparatus, and adding a third fire station.

The Talladega Fire Department identified three items needed to provide better services to the community. These include the following:

- ❖ Increase the number of firefighters on duty. To achieve this, the department has submitted a SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) Grant.
- ❖ Increase the number of EMTs on each shift. To accomplish this, the department has applied for an Advanced Life Support (ALS) license and submitted for state funding through Senator Katie Britt's office.
- ❖ Lower the ISO Public Protection Classification (PPC) from a class 3X to a 2 or 1. To achieve this the department has increased the number of firefighters on duty and added additional equipment.

## Educational Facilities

Educational facilities and services play a major role in community development by preparing and training individuals and youth for the competitive workforce and life-long learning.

The Talladega City School System was established in the City of Talladega during the 1880s under the leadership of Mayor William Skaggs. Talladega City Schools will provide a safe and supportive learning environment that cultivates positive relationships, promotes trust, and instills high expectations in the pursuit of excellence.

In overview, the Talladega City School District provides six schools within Talladega—C.L. Salter Elementary, Evelyn D. Houston Elementary, Raymond L. Young Elementary, Zora Ellis Junior High School, Talladega High School, and Talladega Career/Technical Center. Table CF-1 displays educational facilities for the Talladega City School District in 2023.

<b>Table CF-1. Educational Facilities: Talladega City School District, Talladega, AL, 2023</b>									
School District	Teachers Available		# Students	# Classrooms	Programs				
	Full	Part			Band Room	Gym	Career Tech	Library	Technology
Talladega City School District	145	0	1556	118	2	4	1	5	3



The current teacher/student ratio is 17:1. In an educator's professional opinion, the current student/teacher ratio in many schools is not adequate to properly educate students. With larger class sizes, teachers have less time to provide individualized attention to students and to differentiate instruction to meet the needs of all learners. This can lead to students falling behind academically and to a decline in student engagement. A more adequate student/teacher ratio would be one that allows teachers to provide more individualized attention to students and to differentiate instruction. This would allow all students to reach their full potential and to succeed academically.

Talladega City School District offers the following programs: Bridges (after school, Kindergarten- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade), Boys and Girls Club (afterschool, 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade), BreakThrough Birmingham (Summer, 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Grade), iReady Remediation, and SAVVAS Instructional Support. The school system is accredited by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement, the Northwest Accreditation Commission, and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement.

Several schools need renovations within the school system. Most of the buildings are extremely old and are in substandard conditions. A thought has been created to build a new high school that would house grades 7-12, an estimated cost of approximately \$35 million. The school system hopes to accomplish this within the next 4-5 years.

The Talladega City School District identified improvements needed to provide students with a better education and prepare them for today's workforce:

- ❖ To enhance the quality of education and equip students with the skills required for the current job market, the high school should prioritize the adoption of modern teaching methods and technologies, provide continuous professional growth opportunities for teachers, and establish a dynamic and immersive learning atmosphere. Additionally, collaborating with other educators and exchanging best practices can significantly enhance instructional approaches. By focusing on these aspects, the high school can guarantee that students receive a worthwhile education that equips them with the tools needed for professional triumph.

### **Talladega Armstrong-Osbourne Public Library**

The Talladega Armstrong-Osbourne Public Library was established in 1908. The mission of the library is to provide and promote a collection that satisfies and stimulates informational, recreational, and cultural needs from the age of earliest word and picture awareness through the senior years. It exists to serve the citizens of Talladega County. The word "citizens" refers to individuals of any age, economic or educational level, occupational, philosophy, or ethnic origin. Recognizing that it cannot provide all



services, the library undertakes to fill the following roles: community information center, formal education support center, popular materials center, preschoolers' door, and reference library. To this end, it shall strive toward the following goals:

- To serve the community as a reliable source of information
- To assemble, preserve, and administer the best in books and other library materials in order to promote an enlightened citizenship and enrich personal lives
- To initiate activities which will encourage the most effective use of these materials
- To provide opportunity and encouragement for life-long education for people of all ages
- To cooperate with educational, civic, and cultural groups and organizations whose aims are compatible with those of the Library.

The library is not a part of any library system and is funded through local, state, and federal funds, serving Talladega County.

The library collection offers approximately 80,307 volumes, 82 periodicals, 3 newspapers, 589 audio tapes, and 400 video DVDs. Average monthly circulation varies by season, averaging 1,700 in the summer, and 1,450 in the winter. Presently, the library serves 21,864 registered/active card holders, with memberships on the rise in the past five years.

Programs and services offered by the library include the following:

- Storytime- weekly from September through April.
- Summer Reading Program- twice a week in the month of June.
- YA Summer Reading Program- twice weekly in the months of June and July.
- Adult Summer Reading Program- every two weeks in the months of July and August, with the theme "A Book and a Movie".
- Library Book Club- meets monthly.
- Yoga- meets twice a month.
- Painting Class- meets every Tuesday and Saturday.
- Brown Bag Speaker- once a month.
- YA Program- meets twice a month.

The Talladega Armstrong-Osborne Public Library identified three improvements needed to provide better library services to the community. These are listed as follows:

- ❖ Covered walkway to the parking lot- it is a long walk from the parking lot to the library.
- ❖ A coffee shop in the library so patrons do not have to leave their work at lunch to grab a sandwich; this would allow them to get it here and not lose their place on their computer or study spot.
- ❖ A bookstore- patrons often ask if a bookstore is offered.



## Parks and Recreation

The Talladega Parks and Recreation Department was created August 6, 1927, and offers a wide array of opportunities for parks and recreation to the community.

The City of Talladega provides the following facilities and services to the community:

- Spring Street Recreation Center (Swimming, Basketball, Pickleball, Walking, Ballet, Zumba, Nautilus, Bridge, Water Aerobics, Senior Chair Aerobics, various programs, and meeting rooms)
- Mabra Center (Senior Nutrition daily, games and interactions with congregate, meeting rooms)
- Bemiston Recreation Center (Basketball, Archery, Summer Youth Feeding Program)
- Brecon Recreation Center (Gymnastics classes)

Event space plays an important role in the community's offering to the public. Rental space is available at the Spring Street Recreation Center (Banquet Room, Room B, Basketball Court), Veterans Park, Jemison Park, Duncan Pinkston Park, Amanda Bingham Park, Edith Sims Park, Westgate Park, Harmon Park, and McMillian Park.

The present staff consists of 9 employees. Staff currently consists of full-time Director, Programs Manager, Athletics Coordinator, Program Coordinator, Center Nutrition Manager, Recreation Center Associate, Driver Transportation, and part-time Rec Aid and Lifeguard.

Parks and Recreation programs include organized sports programs such as basketball, baseball, softball, t-ball, soccer, swim team, Special Olympics, archery, football, track and field, cheerleading, ballet, gymnastics, pickleball, and water aerobics. Senior programs are also offered such as chair aerobics and trips. The Aquatic Program offers lap swim, adult swim, swim team practice, group swim lessons, and open swim.

Talladega owns and maintains 15 city recreational facilities, listed as follows:

- **Davey Allison Memorial Park**—located on Coffee Street, offering a walking track and picnic tables.
- **Edith Sims Park**—sited on 6 acres, located on Knox Street, providing one basketball court, one baseball field, a picnic pavilion, a playground, a running track.
- **Bemiston Recreation Center**—consists of 4.5 acres, located along West Damon Avenue, offering a basketball court, two tennis courts, a multi-purpose court, a baseball field, an emergency shelter, five archery ranges, and restrooms.
- **Westgate Park**—located at Pearl Street, providing a baseball field and a playground.



- **Brecon Recreation Center**—located along Horne Street, offering a multi-purpose court and restrooms.
- **Jemison Park**—located at South Street East, providing eight tennis courts, a picnic pavilion, picnic tables, a playground, a park office building, and restrooms.
- **Duncan Pinkston Park**—comprising 7.9 acres, located on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, offering a picnic pavilion, picnic tables, a playground, a running track, restrooms, and an amphitheater.
- **Amanda Bingham Park**—sited on approximately 24 acres, located along Sims Circle, providing two basketball courts, two tennis courts, a softball field, a playground, a running track, concessions stand, and restrooms.
- **McMillian Park**—consists of 8.7 acres, located on Nimitz Avenue, offering a baseball field and playground.
- **Harmon Park**—located at Broome Street, providing a baseball field and a playground.
- **Spring Street Recreation Center**—located on South Spring Street, offering a basketball court, a multi-purpose court, a picnic pavilion, picnic tables, a running track, an emergency shelter, restrooms, a swimming pool, and two pool bathhouses.
- **B.N. Mabra Center**—located at Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, providing a senior citizen center, an emergency shelter, a park office building, and restrooms.
- **Pope Hill Park**—comprising approximately 9 acres, located on McMillian Street East, offering picnic tables, a playground, an exercise trail, and a running track.
- **Ben Bruner Sports Complex**—located at Sun Valley Road, offering 4 baseball/softball fields and soccer fields.
- **Veterans Park**—located along Spring Street, offering two pavilions, a walking track, and playground equipment.

The department is working on plans to add features to improve and update parks throughout the City of Talladega and is looking at grants and possibly bonds to help with the expenses.

The Talladega Parks and Recreation Department identified three improvements needed to provide better recreational services to the community. These are listed as follows:

- ❖ Funding
- ❖ Updated recreation centers and city parks
- ❖ Support for all the programs and sports offered by the Parks and Recreation Department

### Senior Center

Located at 309 North MLK Drive at the B.N. Mabra Community Center, the Talladega Senior Program was established with the mission to promote healthy eating and provide nutritious foods to seniors at a reduced cost. The target population is older individuals with economic needs, severe disability, individuals at risk for institutional placement, and limited English proficiency.



Approximately 40-46 meals are served daily at the center, and the average cost of a meal is \$5.53. Seniors must be 60 years or older to participate in this program. Approximately 74-76 daily meals are delivered to homebound residents, at a cost of \$7.53 each, based on fuel and meal expenses. There is currently a wait list for meals, with health and longevity of participants effecting meal availability. Homebound meal requirements are as follows: elderly participants who are frail, and site or medical condition prohibits participation in a congregate setting. Participants are low-income individuals and living in rural areas. If someone misses a meal because of an appointment or personal business, a meal is delivered to a participant on the waiting list, so a meal isn't wasted.

Various activities are offered along with health-related information. Activities offered by the center include chair aerobics two days a week with an instructor, card games available daily, bingo, sip and paint ventures, gardening, fashion shows, and monthly birthday celebrations. The activities range from weekly to monthly depending on participation.

The Talladega Senior Citizen Program identified improvements needed to provide better recreational services to the community. These are listed as follows:

- ❖ Transportation for 25-30 seniors to excursions to adjacent cities. There are a lot of activities in the Oxford area seniors don't attend due to lack of transportation. A 15-passenger van is a top priority and dire need for the Talladega Center.
- ❖ The center needs giant connect 4, cornhole, and toss across games which facilitate standing and moving.
- ❖ Funds for crafts like paint, canvas boards, brushes, and other items would be an asset to the center. Normally, craft supplies are purchased from employee personal monies.

## Housing Authority

The Housing Authority of Talladega was organized on January 30, 1941, and incorporated on February 3, 1941. The mission of the housing authority is to provide decent, safe, and sanitary rental housing for eligible families and to provide opportunities and promote self-sufficiency and economic independence for Housing Choice Voucher participants. The housing authority currently provides information tenants about the resources available and works with organizations and provides to tenants any resources that would benefit a need when need awareness arises.

Talladega offers four housing project options, listed as follows:

- **Curry Court Family**—established November 30, 1942, comprises 150 units, renovated from 2012-2019.



- **Curry Court Elderly**—established June 1, 1972, contains 100 units, 4 two-bedroom units update in 2013, and 24 one-bedroom units update from 2019-2023.
- **Knoxville Homes**—established September 1, 1958, consists of 100 units, renovated from 2000-2007.
- **Westgate**—established June 1, 1972, providing 149 units, renovated to add metal roofs, HVAC, and water heaters from 2009-2010.

The Housing Authority follows a twenty-year needs assessment for modernization of existing housing projects, annual cost varies, but in fiscal year 2022 \$990,000 was spent. Of the applicants for housing, 29% are with children, while 50% of those currently housed are with children. There is currently a waiting list for Section 8, which is as follows:

- 1-bedroom: 176
- 2-bedroom: 58
- 3-bedroom: 7
- 4-bedroom: 16
- 5-bedroom: 2
- Total: 259

The Housing Authority of Talladega identified three items needed to provide better services to the public. These include the following:

- ❖ Road and accessibility improvements
- ❖ Transportation
- ❖ Job opportunities

## **Community Appearance Department and Public Works**

The first known mention of this department was made in the minutes of the regular meeting of March 21, 1973. According to the administrative assistant for Community Appearance, the department was formed in 2005, but was a part of the Public Works Department prior to that. The primary objective of Community Appearance is to keep the rights of way and landscaping around city properties as well-maintained and aesthetically pleasing as possible. The mission of Public Works is to effectively design and construct capital improvement projects, to develop and maintain infrastructure assets in a fiscally responsible manner, and to respond to citizen inquiries effectively and accurately.



Solid waste disposal is provided by GSL, and waste is taken to the Calhoun County landfill. The City of Talladega also offers a Recycling Center, which is located on South Street West at the intersection of George Holdridge Lane and South Street West.

The Public Works and Community Appearance Departments provide street cleaning and street maintenance for the city. Types of services provided to the city include the following:

- Street Maintenance
- Street Sign Installation
- City Rights-Of-Way Maintenance
- Street and Traffic Light Maintenance
- Illegal Dump Site Clean-up
- Property Weed Abatement
- Pothole repair
- Speed table installation
- Bridge and culvert repair
- Drainage ditches

Talladega Public Works and Community Appearance identified items needed to provide better services to the community, which are listed as follows:

- ❖ Close and free access to a landfill to deter illegal dumps.
- ❖ Street maintenance equipment
- ❖ Updated traffic lights
- ❖ Updated crosswalks
- ❖ Additional staff/employees and competitive pay

## **Talladega Water and Sewer Treatment Plant**

Talladega Water and Sewer Treatment Plant was established in 1966. The plant utilizes a trickling filter, and has an average daily flow of 2,500,000 gallons, which is currently handling the flow and is half of the plant's total capacity. The plant has a capacity of 5,000,000 gallons per day, which is sufficient for handling flow without overload unless the city experiences heavy rainfall; an upgrade that could address this would be the addition of a small, activated sludge plant. Treated effluent from the plant flows to Town Creek. The facility is in compliance with ADEM (Alabama Department of Environmental Management) standards, with no significant environmental issues. The Board is currently in the process of upgrading the SCADA system. Staff serving is comprised of 7 full-time staff and 1 part-time staff, including 1 Supervisor, 3 full-time and 1 part-time Operators, 1 Maintenance, 1 Operator Trainee, and 1 Operator Trainee/Maintenance.



The Talladega Water and Sewer Board identified three items needed to better serve the community, which are listed as follows:

- ❖ Addition of 2 new grit pumps
- ❖ Addition of 3 new raw sewage pumps
- ❖ Upgrade to electrical service in older buildings

## **Utilities**

The Talladega Water and Sewer Department was established in 1966 with the goal to provide water and sewer services to residents of Talladega.

### **Water Utilities**

Talladega water utilities currently provide water services to approximately 763 commercial establishments, 4,397 residential customers, and 11 industries, which includes customers outside the city limits but in the general service area. Water sources serving the city include Talladega Creek, Bingham Well, Sloan Well, Amanda Bingham Well, and Harmon Well and hold a combined capacity of approximately 7.132 million gallons per day, which is adequate in meeting demand.

The city's water system has been determined to provide adequate service in sustaining needs. Water line size of 6 inches is, in general, the minimum required line diameter for general use and fire protection in areas zoned for agriculture and single-family residential, while water lines 8 inches lines, or larger, are usually required in multi-family and commercial areas. Twelve inches diameter is generally the minimum size required for light industrial and 16 inches for heavy industry. Water piping for the city broadly consists of approximately 384,300 linear feet, ranging in size from less than 2-inch to 16-inch diameter lines, spread out in wide array throughout the city as needed. Large diameter lines such as 12 inches or higher are used to serve industries located off SR 21, while smaller lines of 6 inches or less serve small and compact residential areas in and around the downtown. Table CF-3 displays water line size and distribution for Talladega in 2023. Water line size and locations are shown on Map #10: *Water Utilities*.



Table CF-3. Talladega: Water Line Size and Distribution 2023	
Water Line Size (Inches Diameter)	Linear Distance (Feet)
Less than 2-inch	6,000
2-inch	10,000
4-inch	40,000
6-inch	15,000
8-inch	90,000
10-inch	8,300
12-inch	210,000
16-inch	5,000
Total	384,300

Source: Talladega Water and Sewer Department, 2023.

The city's water treatment plant uses a chlorine and filtration system to prepare potable water for customers. Average daily use for the water system is around 1,781,763 gallons per day with an average monthly residential water bill of \$19.67 currently. Last year's average water rate was \$18.73; the rate has increased over the last five years. Storage capacity is 460,000 gallons, which does not provide adequate storage for the public, with an additional 1,000,000-gallon tank needing to be added. In terms of fire protection, the city has installed 1,000 fire hydrants throughout the community, covering 6,200 of the city's housing units, thus giving adequate protection to residents.

Recent improvements to water utilities include the installation of variable frequency drives on the high service pumps, the addition of SCADA to control and monitor the system, and the rebuilding of one of the high service pumps. SCADA was installed using USDA loan/grant money, and the Board funded the other improvements.

The Talladega Water and Sewer Department identified two items needed to provide better water services to the community, which are listed as follows:

- ❖ Additional finished water storage tank
- ❖ Two additional wells

## **Sewer Utilities**

The Talladega Water and Sewer Department provides sewer services to approximately 3,192 residential customers, 541 commercial establishments, and 2 industries. Sewer service is restricted to locations within the city limits.

Talladega's sewer system comprises approximately 439,273 linear feet of sewer lines sized 6 inches to 30 inches diameter, extending throughout the city. Sewer line size of 6 inches is the generally accepted minimum standard diameter for private land use. Eight-inch lines are acceptable for public land use,



while 12 inches and above should support light to moderate industry. Heavy industry may require 16-inch diameter line. All of Talladega's sewer system consists of mains 6 inches or larger, which means the city provides adequate sewer service throughout the community. Table CF-4 displays sewer line size and distribution for Talladega in 2023. Sewer line size and location is shown on Map #11: *Sewer Utilities*.

<b>Table CF-4. Talladega: Sewer Line Size and Distribution 2023</b>	
<b>Sewer Line Size (Inches Diameter)</b>	<b>Linear Distance (Feet)</b>
6-inch	60,968
8-inch	286,187
10-inch	49,762
12-inch	13,919
15-inch	4,024
18-inch	11,313
27-inch	1,540
30-inch	11,560
Total	439,273

Source: Talladega Water and Sewer Department, 2023.

Talladega's sewage utilities provide adequate service to the community. Capacity is 5 million gallons per day with an average daily flow of 2 million gallons per day, which has been deemed acceptable to meet needs. The average monthly residential sewer bill is presently \$20.68 and has increased over the past 5 years. Effluent is treated and discharged into Town Creek. The treatment plant is not currently in compliance with ADEM (Alabama Department of Environmental Management) standards for sewage treatment and discharge. A consent order was received from ADEM for Brecon Wastewater Plant for permit violations. Additives will be started this week, and the current project of adding filters to Brecon Wastewater Plant should help resolve the issues.

Recent improvements to the treatment plant include generator replacement, sludge pumps and diffusers replacement, and the addition of the SCADA system. These improvements were funded with bond issues and have a life cycle of 10-20 years.

Talladega Water and Sewer Department identified an improvement needed to provide better sewer services to the community. This includes the following:

- ❖ Expand/upgrade the Wastewater plant with bond issue.

## **Analytical Summary**



This analytical summary outlines the top needs determined by each community facility department/organization in the City of Talladega in 2023. Results were based on the 2023 Community Facilities Survey distributed and collected by the Talladega City Administration.

### ***City Administration***

- ❖ Transportation
- ❖ Affordable housing
- ❖ Paving/sidewalks
- ❖ ADA compliance on all sidewalks

### ***Law Enforcement***

- ❖ Retain our sworn officers- surrounding agencies (even smaller ones) offer better incentives and pay and we often lose officers as quickly as we gain them.
- ❖ Better technology to assist in crime solving, as well as IT professionals to operate the equipment.
- ❖ The facility is dated and broken in many areas.

### ***Fire and Rescue***

- ❖ Increase the number of firefighters on duty. To achieve this, the department has submitted a SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) Grant.
- ❖ Increase the number of EMTs on each shift. To accomplish this, the department has applied for an Advanced Life Support (ALS) license and submitted for state funding through Senator Katie Britt's office.
- ❖ Lower the ISO Public Protection Classification (PPC) from a class 3X to a 2 or 1. To achieve this the department has increased the number of firefighters on duty and added additional equipment.

### ***Education***

- ❖ To enhance the quality of education and equip students with the skills required for the current job market, the high school should prioritize the adoption of modern teaching methods and technologies, provide continuous professional growth opportunities for teachers, and establish a dynamic and immersive learning atmosphere. Additionally, collaborating with other educators and exchanging best practices can significantly enhance instructional approaches. By focusing on these aspects, the high school can guarantee that students receive a worthwhile education that equips them with the tools needed for professional triumph.

### ***Talladega Armstrong-Osbourne Public Library***



- ❖ Covered walkway to the parking lot- it is a long walk from the parking lot to the library.
- ❖ A coffee shop in the library so patrons do not have to leave their work at lunch to grab a sandwich; this would allow them to get it here and not lose their place on their computer or study spot.
- ❖ A bookstore- patrons often ask if a bookstore is offered.

### ***Parks and Recreation***

The Talladega Parks and Recreation Department identified three improvements needed to provide better recreational services to the community. These are listed as follows:

- ❖ Funding
- ❖ Updated recreation centers and city parks
- ❖ Support for all the programs and sports offered by the Parks and Recreation Department

### ***Senior Citizen Center***

- ❖ Transportation for 25-30 seniors to excursions to adjacent cities. There are a lot of activities in the Oxford area seniors don't attend due to lack of transportation. A 15-passenger van is a top priority and dire need for the Talladega Center.
- ❖ The center needs giant connect 4, cornhole, and toss across games which facilitate standing and moving.
- ❖ Funds for crafts like paint, canvas boards, brushes, and other items would be an asset to the center. Normally, craft supplies are purchased from employee personal monies.

### ***Housing Authority***

- ❖ Road and accessibility improvements
- ❖ Transportation
- ❖ Job opportunities

### ***Talladega Public Works and Community Appearance***

- ❖ Close and free access to a landfill to deter illegal dumps.
- ❖ Street maintenance equipment
- ❖ Updated traffic lights
- ❖ Updated crosswalks
- ❖ Additional staff/employees and competitive pay

### ***Wastewater Treatment Plant***

- ❖ Addition of 2 new grit pumps



- ❖ Addition of 3 new raw sewage pumps
- ❖ Upgrade to electrical in older buildings

## ***Utilities***

### ***Water Utilities***

- ❖ Additional finished water storage tank
- ❖ Two additional wells

### ***Sewer Utilities***

- ❖ Expand/upgrade the Wastewater plant with bond issue.

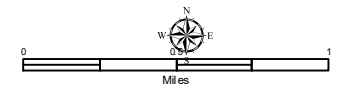


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# MAP 9 COMMUNITY FACILITIES

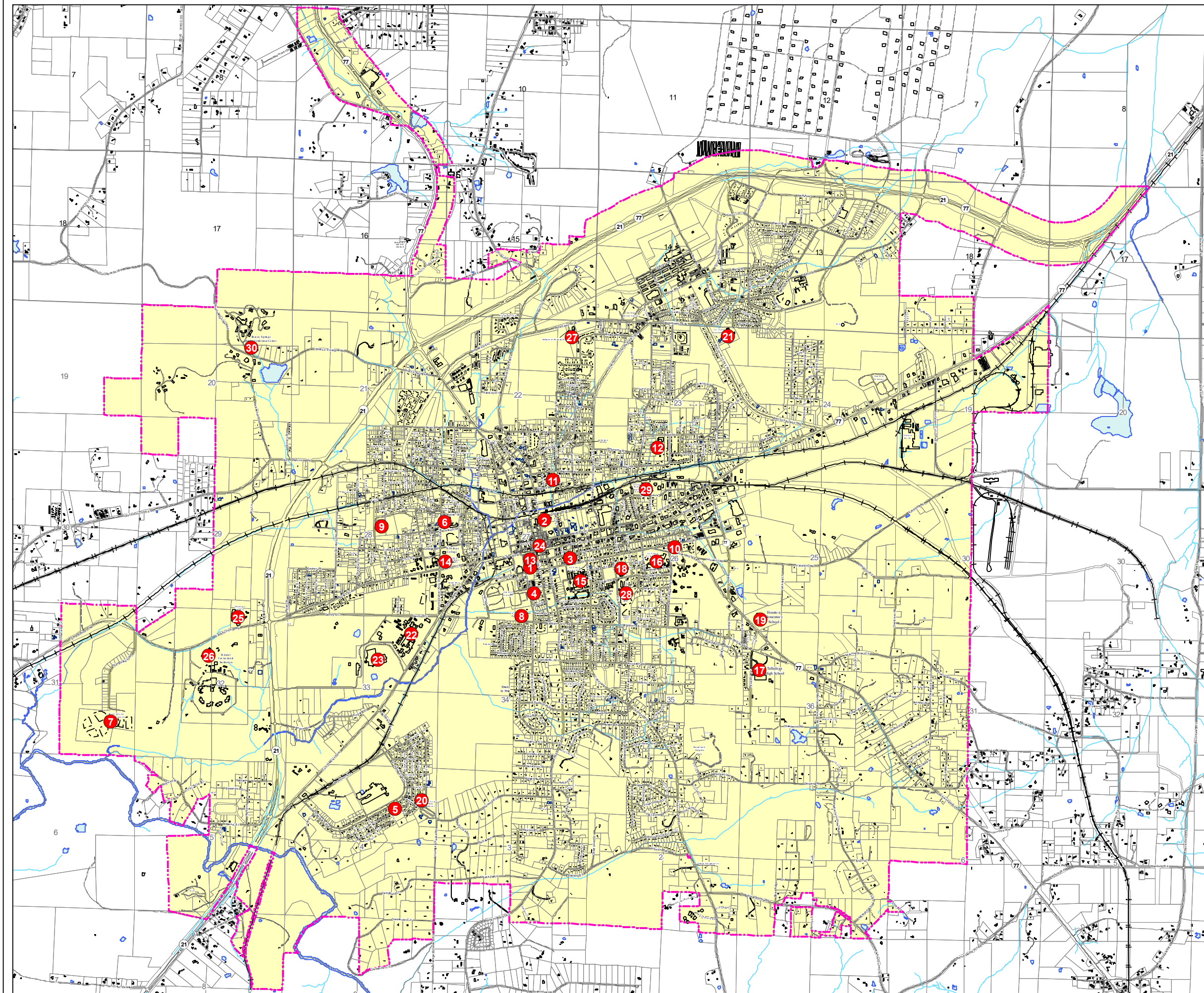
## The City Of Talladega Alabama



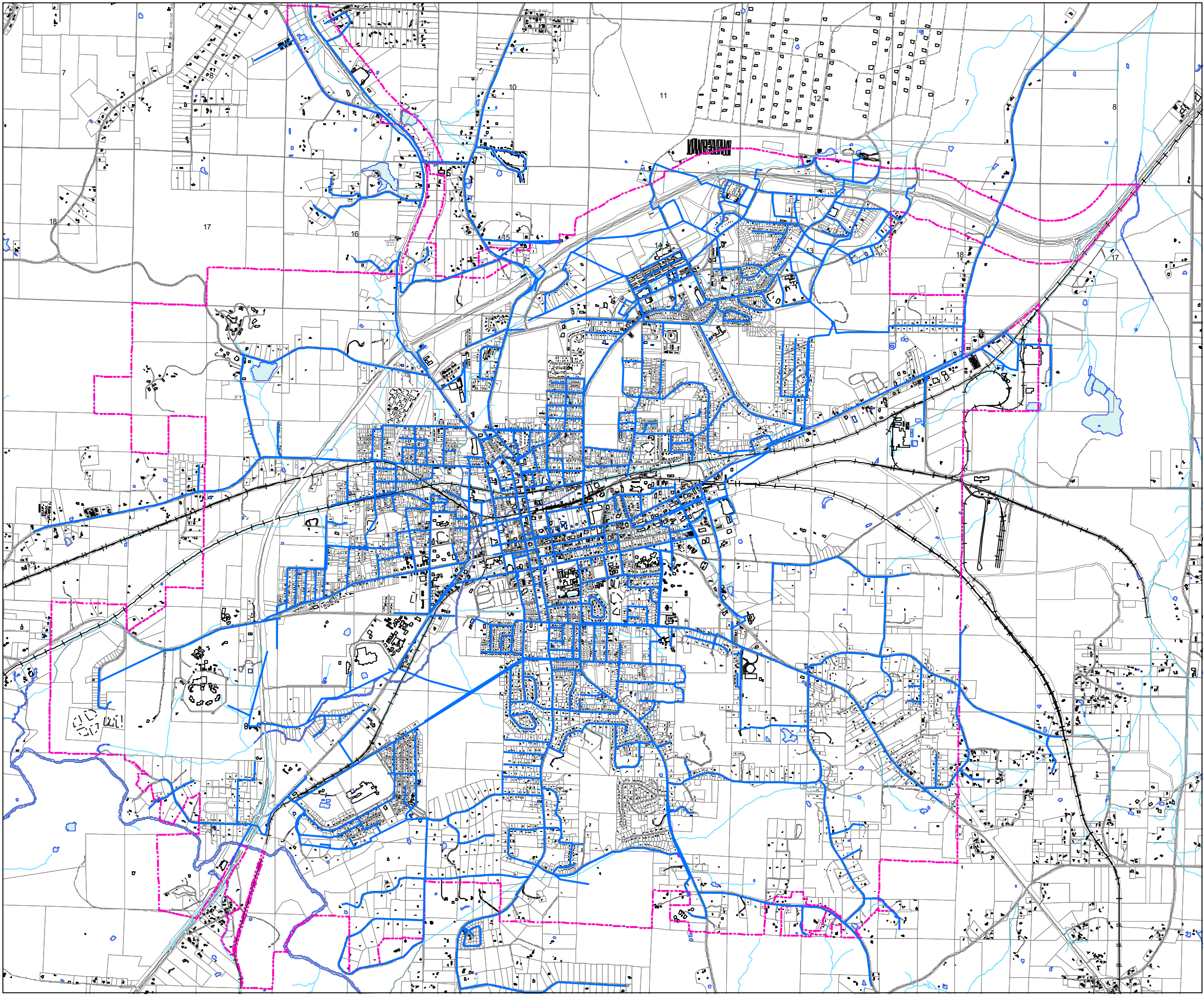
Prepared By The East Alabama Regional Planning And Development Commission, 2024.

### Community Facilities

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 City Hall / Police Dept. / Fire Dept. | 17 Talladega High School                    |
| 2 Post Office                           | 18 Zora Ellis Jr High School                |
| 3 Library                               | 19 Houston Elementary School                |
| 4 Spring Street Recreation Center       | 20 R.L. Young Elementary School             |
| 5 Brecon Recreation Center              | 21 C.L. Salter Elementary School            |
| 6 Mabra Center                          | 22 Helen Keller School                      |
| 7 Ben E. Bruner Sports Complex          | 23 EH Gentry Technical Facility             |
| 8 Veterans Park                         | 24 Talladega County Courthouse              |
| 9 Amanda Bingham Park                   | 25 Talladega County Jail                    |
| 10 Jemison Park                         | 26 Federal Correctional Institution         |
| 11 Harmon Park                          | 27 Boys & Girls Club                        |
| 12 Knoxville Park                       | 28 Talladega High Athletics Fields          |
| 13 Davey Allison Memorial Park          | 29 Citizens Baptist Medical Center          |
| 14 Talladega College                    | 30 Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center |
| 15 Alabama School For The Deaf          |   |
| 16 Alabama School For The Blind         |   |

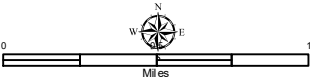







MAP 10  
WATER SYSTEM

The City Of  
**Talladega**  
Alabama

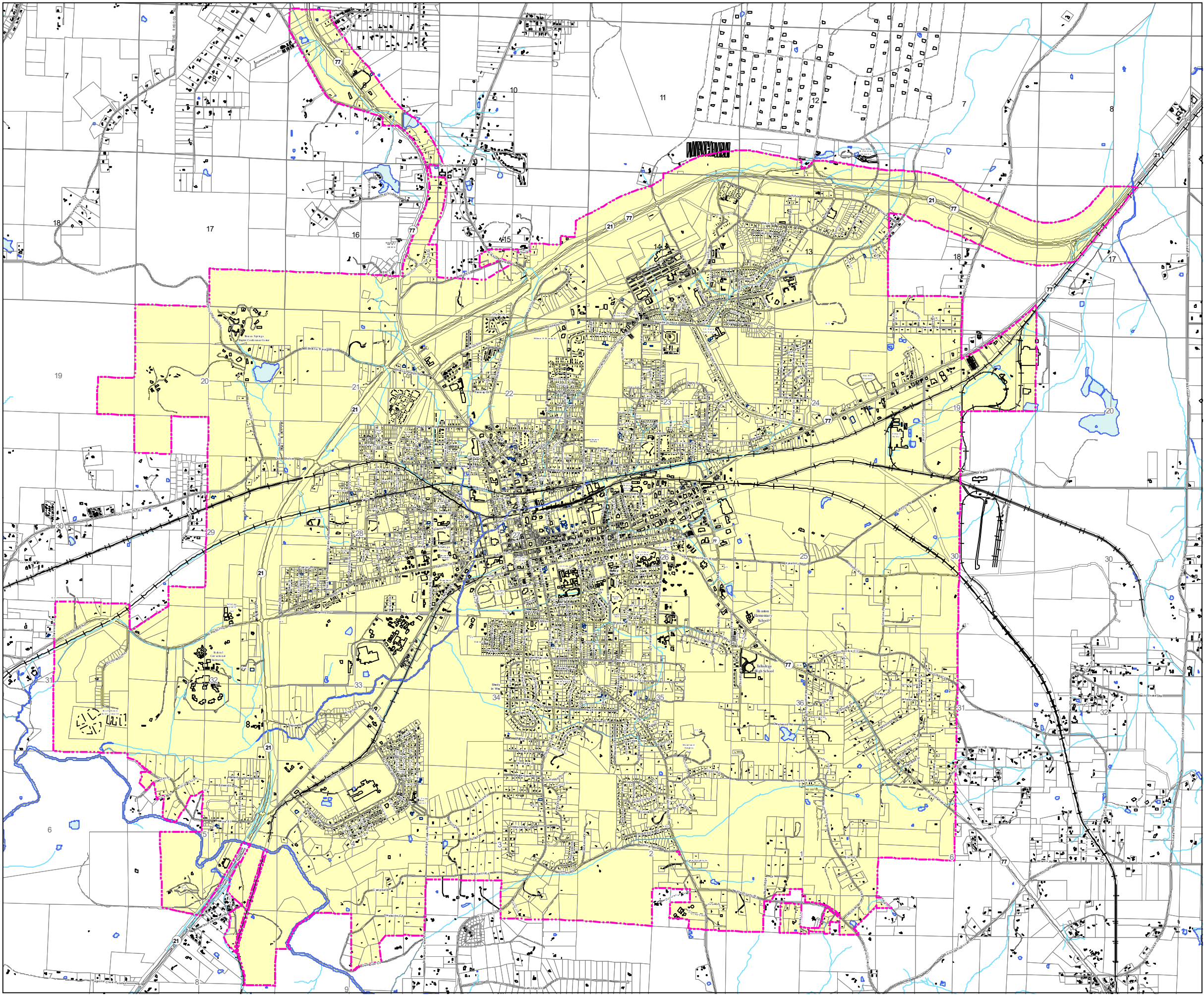


Prepared By The East Alabama Regional Planning And Development Commission, 2024.

**WATER SYSTEM**

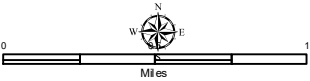
 Talladega City Limits





# MAP 11 SEWER SYSTEM

The City Of  
**Talladega**  
Alabama



Prepared By The East Alabama Regional Planning And Development Commission, 2024.

## SEWER SYSTEM

 Talladega City Limits



## **CHAPTER 7: HOUSING**

Housing is one of the most fundamental issues in relation to community needs. For a community to grow and prosper there must be a diverse and satisfactory amount of quality housing available. A housing examination is useful in determining housing types, existing housing conditions, availability, and affordability to identify and meet housing needs. As a community grows and develops the need for quality, safe, and affordable housing increases, along with the need for a variety of housing type options to meet the demands of residents in different stages of life and with changing preferences.

Some common benefits and impacts of properly planned housing improvements and development include the following:

- ❖ **Economic Impact**—Economic developers and workforce employers seek communities from which to draw their labor force. Employment from new home construction and improved housing creates economic ripples throughout the community. According to the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), in their analysis of the broad impact of new construction, the building of 1,000 average single-family homes generates approximately:
  - 2,970 full-time jobs
  - \$162 million in wages
  - \$118 million in business income, and
  - \$111 million in taxes and revenue for state, local, and federal governments.
- ❖ **Community Health**—Home is where we spend most of our lives. For most Americans, the home represents a place of safety, security, and shelter where families come together to live. According to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Commission to Build a Healthier America, September 2008 article on housing and health, most Americans spend about 90% of their time indoors, and an estimated two-thirds of that time is spent in the home. Potential health risks in association with poor housing conditions needs to be properly assessed and addressed in neighborhoods of concern.
- ❖ **Reductions in Foreclosure**—According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), households who pay more than 30% of their annual income on housing costs are considered cost burdened and might have substantial difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, and medical care. HUD estimates approximately 12 million renter and homeowner households are paying more than 50% of their annual income on housing costs. To alleviate housing burdens, HUD provides grants to states and local



governments to fund building, buying, and rehabilitating housing for rent or ownership and provides direct rental assistance to low-income families who qualify. Reducing foreclosures by providing affordable housing and housing assistance, in a community will, in effect:

- Stabilize neighborhood housing value,
  - Enhance tax collections,
  - Increase utility revenues,
  - Mitigate health and security hazards in association with empty structures,
  - Lessen court and legal expenses in connection with demolition, and
  - Provide for more attractive and enduring housing developments.
- ❖ **Environmental Conservation**—Quality housing with increased energy efficiencies preserves the environment by driving down demand for energy from power plants and other power facilities, thus lessening the amount of waste byproduct generated from power production. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of the total energy production in the U.S., about 40% is used to generate electricity while the U.S. Department of Energy estimated 21% of electrical consumption used in the residential sector, as of 2020.

The City of Talladega recognizes the benefits of quality, safe, and affordable housing, as well as housing needs, and has taken action to address concerns. This chapter examines the city's housing inventory in characteristics such as units by type, tenure and occupancy status, vacancy status, and household size. The chapter also examines housing conditions with housing stock age and physical conditions. An analysis of housing value and affordability along with an analytical summary round out the study.

Housing information was collected and examined utilizing the 2016-2020 American Community Survey (ACS). American Community Survey data was examined for tenure and occupancy, unit type, vacancy status, household size, housing stock age, housing value, rental costs, and owner and renter-occupied affordability. The city's physical housing conditions were obtained from a special EARPDC observational survey conducted in 2023.

## **Housing Inventory**

### **Units by Type**

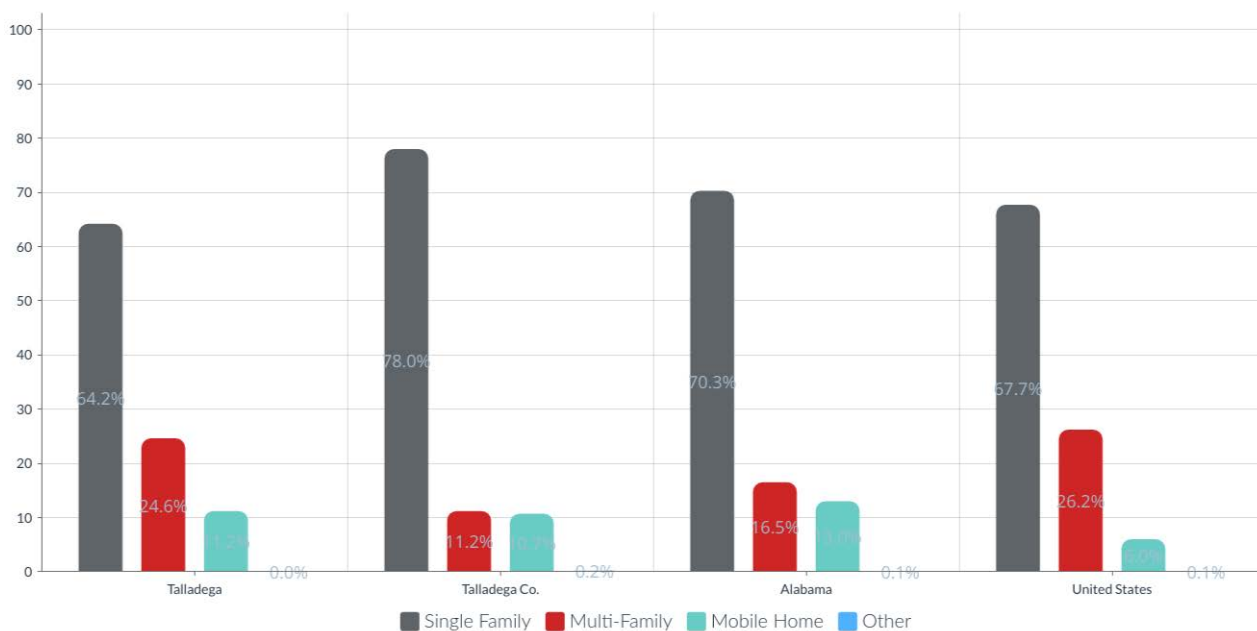
Housing comes in many forms and styles, each aiming to satisfy a wide range of people with changing demands and needs. A community that champions a variety of housing types has an advantage in that it provides many housing options with which to choose from, thus attracting more people. An



examination of unit types reveals the most common and least common housing options available, expressing trends in housing development. Talladega housing consists of the following types: 1) Single-family—one unit attached or detached structures housing one family, primarily a house 2) Multi-family—contains two or more units within one structure with one family per unit; these include apartments, town homes, and duplexes, 3) Mobile Home—a transportable structure which is two hundred fifty-six or more square feet, when installed, to be used as a dwelling with or without a foundation, 4) Other—any living accommodations occupied as a housing unit that does not fit the previous types, such as houseboats, railroad cars, campers, and vans.

Talladega showed slightly different trends in housing unit types compared to Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. Between 2016 and 2020, the city increased by 1.4% in single family homes, slightly more than the county at 1.3%, while the state and nation increased by 2.9% and 3.6%, respectively. During this time Talladega increased significantly in multi-family homes by 14.7%, while Talladega County reported a -7% decline, and Alabama and the U.S. grew slightly in this housing unit type, by 3.9% and 3.5%, respectively. On the other hand, the city decreased in mobile home units by a significant -27.1% while the county increased by 9.7%, the state by 0.2%, and the nation decreased slightly by -0.9%. This information indicates that the city, state, and nation reported trends of increasing multi-family housing, which differed from declining county trends, and quite similarly mobile homes trends depicted a major decrease for the city and slight decrease for the nation, however, the county trends report growth for this category, during this time.

**H-1: Housing Unit Types**  
Talladega, AL (2020)





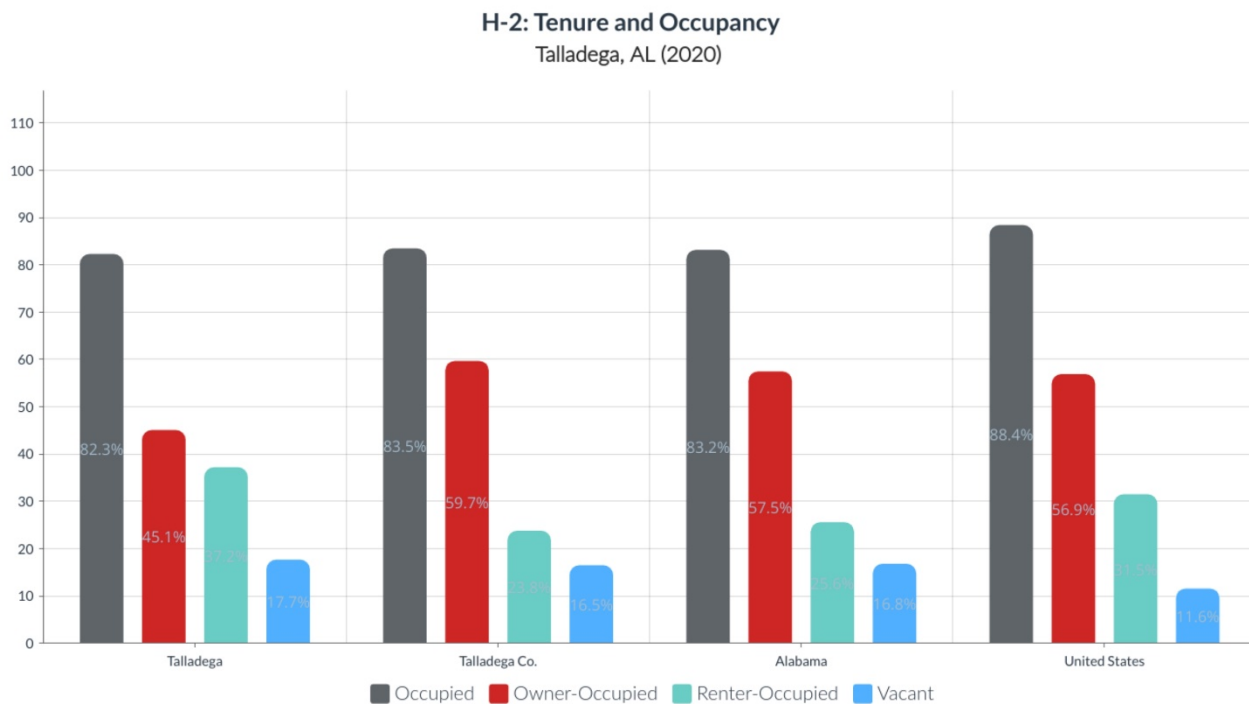
Many housing units in Talladega, in 2020, were single-family, accounting for 66.2% of all units, which was like Talladega County, showing 64.1%, Alabama at 70.3%, and the U.S. at 67.7%. Also, in 2020, the city reported a large portion of multi-family units at 26.9%, which was like the nation at 26.2%, and substantially higher compared to the county at 10.5% and state which showed 16.5%. This information indicates that Talladega held significantly higher than average representation in multi-family housing compared to Talladega County and Alabama. Talladega decreased significantly in mobile home developments in comparison to Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S., but the city also held a much lower portion of mobile homes at 6.9% compared to the county (25.2%) and state (13%). The city reported similar portions of mobile homes in comparison to the nation at 6%. Figure H-1 illustrates housing unit types for Talladega, Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. in 2020 in accordance with 2016-2020 American Community Survey. The figure shows the city with a larger portion of multi-family housing compared to the county and state and smaller representation in mobile homes. For more information consult Tables H-1: *Housing Unit Types* for the 2016-2020 ACS in Appendix A.

### Tenure and Occupancy Status

Housing occupancy and ownership patterns change as a result of the housing market and population growth or decline. A study of housing ownership patterns is useful in analyzing housing needs and guiding policies toward better housing development. The Census Bureau recognizes tenure as referring to the distinction between owner-occupied and renter-occupied housing units, while occupancy is defined as a housing unit classified as occupied if it is the usual place of residence of the person or group of people living in it at the time of enumeration—that is when the Census counts were made. A housing unit is vacant if no one is living in it at the time of enumeration unless its occupants are only temporarily absent. Units temporarily occupied at the time of enumeration entirely by people who have a usual residence elsewhere are also classified as vacant.

Tenure and occupancy for Talladega showed somewhat similar trends compared to Talladega County, although differed slightly from Alabama, and the U.S. Between 2016 and 2020, the city decreased in occupied units by a minor -1.7% while the county increased by 0.9%, the state grew by 2%, and the nation by 3.9% in occupancy. Vacancies for Talladega, during this time, increased by a significant 22%, while Talladega County and Alabama showed growth of 9.5% and 6.6%, and the U.S. slightly decreased by -1.6%. This information indicates more vacancy and slightly less occupancy in the city, compared to the county, state, and nation. Also, at this time the city declined in owner-occupied housing by a moderate -4.2%, and the county slightly by -0.1%, while the state and nation increased by 3.1% and 5.2%, respectively, indicating a city trend away from owner-occupied housing and a small move toward renter-occupied housing.





Talladega showed somewhat similar portions in tenure compared to Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. In 2020, owner-occupied housing comprised approximately 45.1% of the city’s housing stock, while the county reported 59.7%, the state 57.5%, and the nation a slightly smaller portion at 56.9%. Renter-occupied housing in the city at 37.2%, constituted significant representation in comparison to that of the county (23.8%), state at 25.6%, and nation at 31.5%. This information indicates that, in 2020, renter-occupancy was slightly more popular as a tenure option in the city in comparison to the trends of the county, state and nation. Figure H-2 displays tenure and occupancy for Talladega, Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. in 2020. Notice the somewhat larger portion of renter-housing in the city, compared to the county, state and nation. Such representation of renter-occupied housing in the city could be attributed to the moderate portions of multi-family housing as discussed in the previous section, examining units by type. For more information see Table H-2: *Tenure and Occupancy* (2016-2020 American Community Survey).

## Vacancy Status

Vacancy status is useful in determining how vacant housing has been utilized. A housing unit is vacant if no one is living in it at the time of enumeration unless its occupants are only temporarily absent. Units temporarily occupied at the time of enumeration entirely by people who have a usual residence elsewhere are also classified as vacant. Occupants classified as having a “usual residence elsewhere”

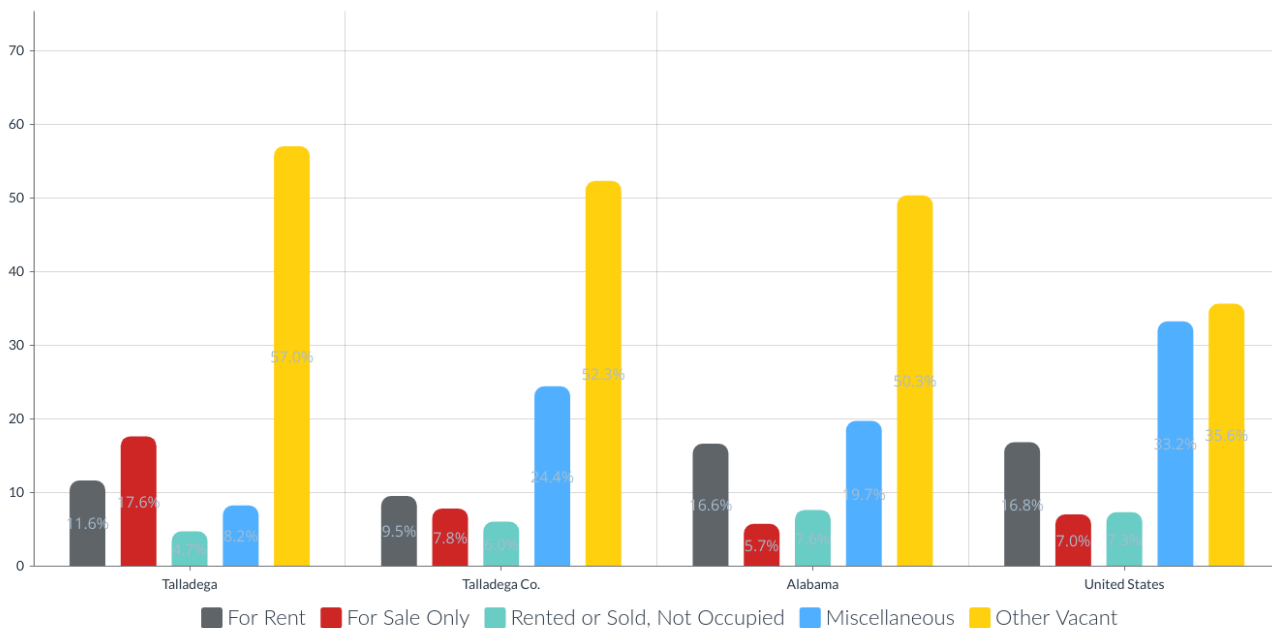


are counted at the address of their usual place of residence. Therefore, vacancies can be occupied houses for rent, sale, or for seasonal or recreational use only.

Five basic categories were selected to identify how vacant housing was being used, these included: 1) for sale only units, 2) for rent only units, 3) rented or sold, but not occupied, 4) miscellaneous—this includes units used for seasonal, recreational, occasional use, or migrant workers, 5) other—which entails other non-specified uses.

In terms of vacancy status, Talladega exhibited somewhat different trends compared to Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. From 2016 to 2020, the city decreased, overall, in vacancies by a substantial -33.8%; in comparison, the county and nation decreased by -18.8% and -5.3%, respectively, while the state increased slightly by 3.2%. Of these vacancies, the city increased in homes for sale by 67.2%, while the county, state and nation all decreased significantly by -39.5%, -30.7% and -19.1%, in that order. The city also saw a dramatic increase in vacant homes for rent by 83.9%, like the county trend of 167.4% growth; however, the state increased less substantially by 8.6% and the nation saw a decline of -6%. Talladega’s largest decrease was in vacant homes used for miscellaneous purposes by -47.6%, as the county, state and nation declined slightly by -2.5%, -6.3% and -1.2%, respectively.

**H-3: Housing Vacancy Status**  
Talladega, Alabama (2020)



Talladega displayed somewhat different patterns in vacancy status compared to Talladega County, Alabama, and the US. In 2020, the city’s most prevalent vacancy status was other vacant at 57.9%, which was comparable to the county at 52.3%, state at 50.3%, and nation at 35.6%. However,



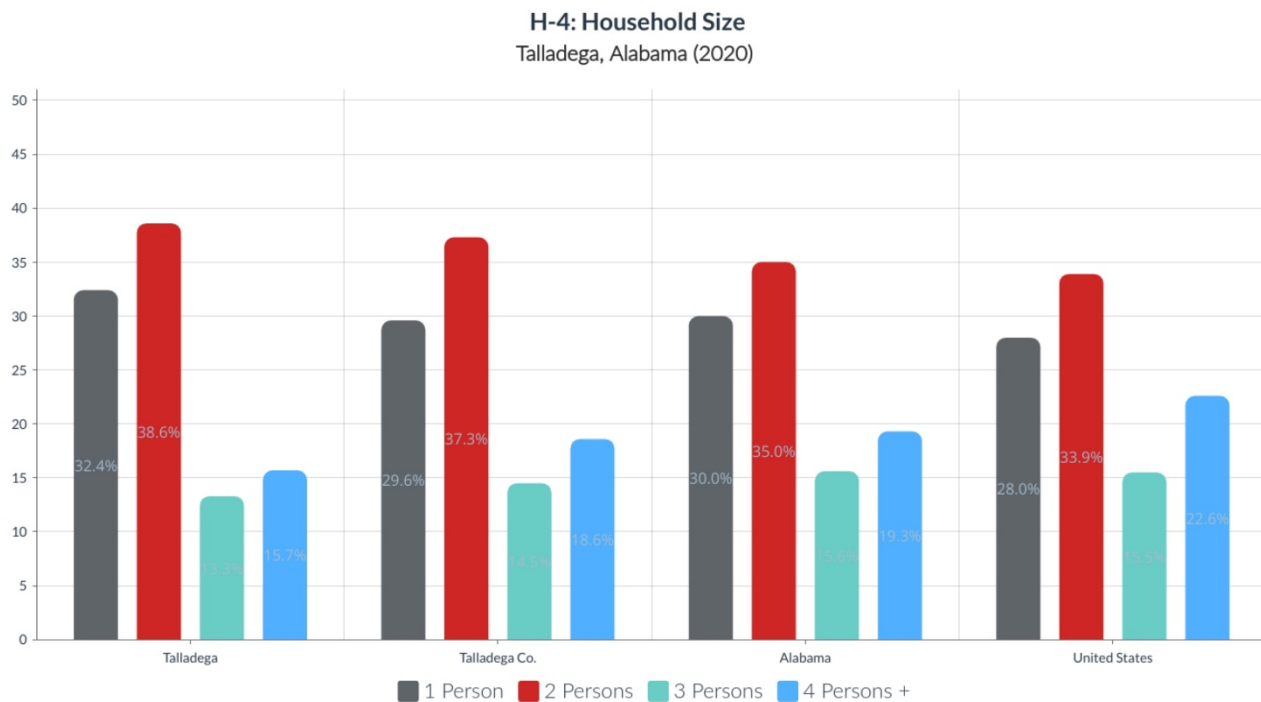
Talladega, during this time, held a larger portion of for sale only vacancies at 17.6% in contrast to Talladega County at 7.8%, the state at 5.7%, and the nation at 7%. The city also recorded substantially smaller representation in miscellaneous vacancies at 8.2%, in comparison to the county (24.4%), state at 19.7% and nation at 33.2%. This information indicates proportionately more city homes as for sale and fewer vacancies used for miscellaneous purposes compared to the county, state, and nation. Figure H-3 displays vacancy status for Talladega, Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. in 2020. The figure illustrates the city's slightly higher portion of vacancies for rent only in comparison to the county and much lower portion of miscellaneous uses in contrast to the county, state, and nation. For more information see Tables H-3: Vacancy Status (American Community Survey 2016-2020).

### **Household Size**

Household size is a useful measure in determining how housing is being utilized and in meeting household needs. Generally, a community with fewer individuals per household could best utilize housing by building smaller or more compact housing than a community with larger households and vice versa. For the purposes of a household size study, four household sizes were examined which include the following: 1 person households, 2 person households, 3 person households, and households occupied by 4 or more persons. For more information, see Table H-7 Household Size.

Talladega reported substantially different trends in household size compared to Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. Between 2016 and 2020, the city decreased in 1-person households by -10%, while the county increased by 2.5% and the state and nation both increased by 5%. The city also declined in 3-person households by a moderate -15.5% as the county and state also declined by -20% and -2.2%, respectively, but the nation increased slightly by 2.8%. In terms of growth in household size, Talladega increased in households with 2 persons by 11% while Talladega County and the U.S. grew by 7.2% and 4.6%, respectively, and Alabama grew less substantially by 1.8%. This information indicates that while Talladega declined or showed little growth in households of 1 person or 3 persons, the city grew in households of 2 persons. Meanwhile the state and nation showed the opposite trend, increasing in households of smaller size and decreasing or showing minor growth in households of larger size.





Although growth city trends in household size differed significantly from the county, state, and nation, representation in household size showed similar results. In 2020, Talladega’s most prevalent household size was 2-person, accounting for 38.6% of all households; however, 1-person households were comparable at 32.4%. This was somewhat like Talladega County and Alabama, with 30% of 2-person households each, and the U.S. at 28%. Talladega and Talladega County reported 29% and 33.1% of households with 3 or more persons, respectively, while Alabama showed slightly more at 34.9% and the U.S. recorded the most at 38.1%. This information indicates that the city, during this time, held a smaller portion of households of larger size compared to county, state and nation. The nation also considerably surpassed the city in households with 4 or more persons, indicating larger households at the national level. Figure H-4 illustrates household size for Talladega, Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. in 2020. Notice from the chart the moderately higher representation of smaller households and lower representation of larger households for the city as compared to the county, state, and nation. For more information from the American Community Survey see Table H-4: *Household Size* (ACS 2016 & 2020).

Average household size for Talladega, in 2020, at 2.28 indicates the city holding smaller households than Talladega County at 2.42, Alabama at 2.53 and moderately smaller households compared to the U.S. at 2.6. For more information see Table H-4: *Household Size* (ACS 2016 & 2020).



## **Housing Conditions**

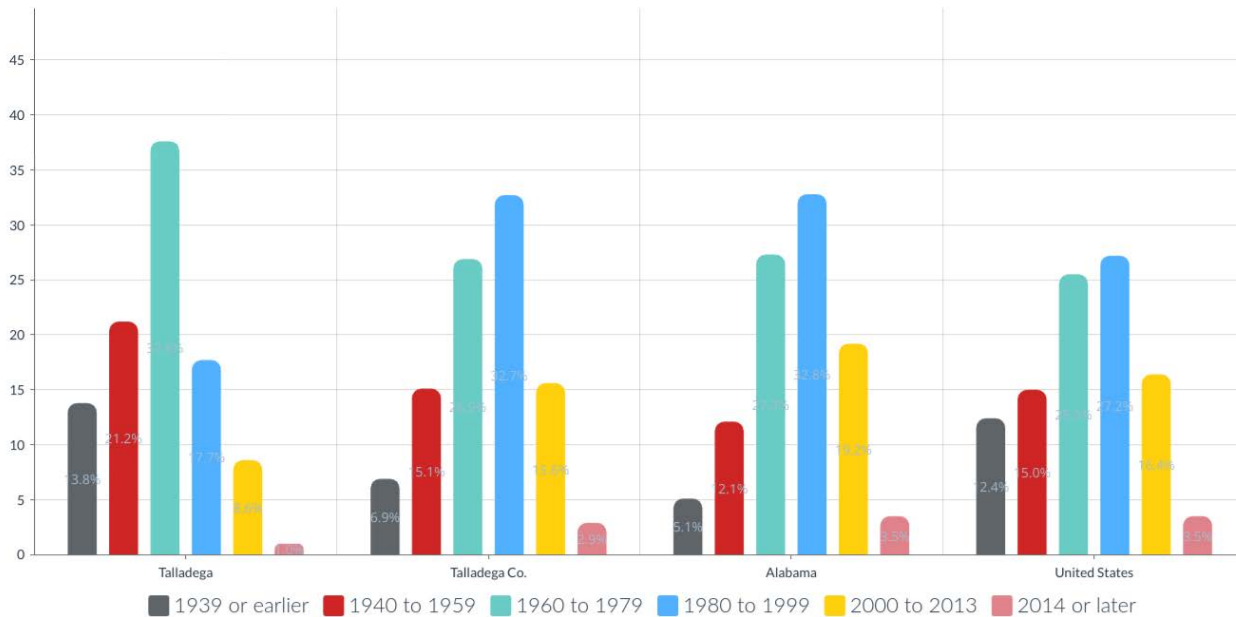
### **Housing Stock Age**

Housing stock age is a good indicator of current housing conditions and needs. A thorough examination of housing age can be used to assess probable housing conditions and needs for improvements within the community. In general, older homes, homes aged 40 years or older, show signs of wear and more improvements and/or more significant improvements might be needed to provide adequate living conditions for occupants. Therefore, homes predating 1980 should require significant attention and homes built prior to 1960 special attention. New homes have been identified as homes built post-1999. Information for housing stock age was obtained from the 2016-2020 American Community Survey.

Talladega is a relatively old and historic city and as such the city holds a somewhat larger portion of older homes compared to other communities in Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. According to the 2016-2020 American Community Survey, Talladega's median year structure built was 1970, while Talladega County showed 1981, Alabama 1984, and the U.S. 1978. In terms of housing stock age, the American Community Survey showed that approximately 72.6% of city homes were built prior to 1980, as the county (48.9%), state (44.5%), and nation (52.9%) recorded considerably less. Furthermore, approximately 35% of city homes were built prior to 1960, while both the county and state recorded substantially less at 22% and 17.2%, respectively, and the nation somewhat less at 27.4%. The city reported approximately 9.6% of homes built post-1999 while the county, state, and nation exhibited a larger portion of newer homes at 18.5%, 22.7%, and 19.9%, respectively. Figure H-5 illustrates housing stock age for Talladega, Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. in 2020.



**H-5: Housing Stock Age**  
Talladega, Alabama (2016-2020)



Notice on the chart the substantially larger portion of city homes built between 1940 to 1959 and 1960 to 1979 compared to the county, state, and nation. Also notice the significantly smaller portion of city homes built post-1980 compared to the county, state, and nation. Since older homes tend to require more work updating and general maintenance, the city could, as a planning consideration, conduct a housing assessment and explore means of housing improvement and preservation. Such planning would seek to provide quality housing in older neighborhoods and other areas throughout the community where housing improvements might be needed. For more information see Table H-5: *Housing Stock Age* in Appendix A.

## Physical Housing Conditions

Quality physical housing conditions play an important role in serving the general population and in attracting new people to the community. This section of the plan examines physical housing conditions based on outside physical aesthetic appearance and apparent structural stability. In 2023, EARPDC cartography staff conducted a windshield survey of the city to inventory housing improvement needs (See Map #13: *Housing Conditions*) categorized on three pre-determined criteria: 1) excellent condition, 2) good condition, 3) substandard condition, and 4) dilapidated condition. These criteria are described as follows:

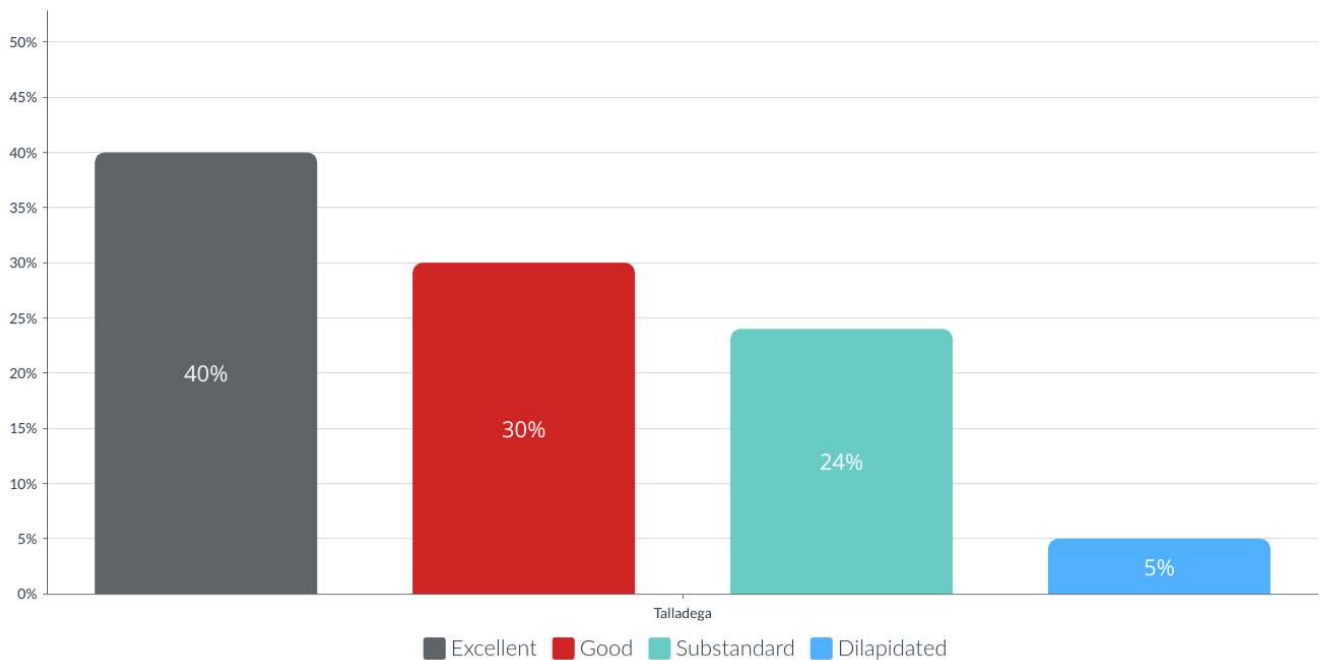


- Excellent conditions—overall quality and workmanship is above average. The units exhibit highly maintained features.
- Good conditions—units need no work, all painted areas are painted, roof is straight with no sags, good shingles or other roof material, gutters attached and in good functional shape, all siding or brick is intact and properly maintained. Windows have screens or storm windows. No rotten doors and windows in place, shingles in good condition. No rotten or missing shutters. All doors are in good shape. Foundations are full and not cracked or sagging.
- Substandard conditions—units may show one or many improvements needed. Roofs are sagging and/or curled with missing shingles, rotten or missing trim or siding, cracks in brick or foundation, piles of trash, unkempt yards, cluttered appearance. These units are wide ranging from almost sound condition to nearly dilapidated.
- Dilapidated conditions—units are neglected and could be vacant, abandoned, or burned and not repaired. These units exhibit many obvious defects and could be deemed “unlivable” and not habitable.

Disclaimer: The results of the housing conditions survey have been based solely on a general windshield “visibility” survey conducted by EARPDC cartography staff for use in this Comprehensive Plan. Therefore, the information and findings of this survey cannot be considered as an actual and completely accurate assessment of city housing conditions. Additional assessment of homes, conducted by a professionally trained and certified building inspector, would be necessary to determine conformance to City Code. Rather, this information is meant to be used as a “foundational” first step in identifying individual homes, neighborhoods, and other areas of the city which may require further and more detailed assessment as to housing condition improvements and needs.



**H-6: Physical Housing Conditions**  
Talladega, Alabama (2023)



According to the EARPDC housing conditions survey conducted in 2023, Talladega had 7,065 home units surveyed, of which 4,402 (62%) were single-family, 423 (6%) were multi-family, and 620 (9%) were manufactured units. The survey showed approximately 40% of the total units in excellent condition, 30% in good condition, 24% in substandard condition, and 5% dilapidated. Manufactured units reported the most need for improvements with 367 (59%) units in substandard condition and 53 (9%) dilapidated. Single family also recorded need with 24% in substandard condition. Figure H-6 displays housing conditions in Talladega based on the 2023 EARPDC windshield survey. As a planning consideration, the city should examine a more detailed assessment of housing conditions and make improvement plans accordingly. For more information see Table H-6: *Physical Housing Conditions* in Appendix A and Map #13 *Housing Conditions* at the end of this chapter.

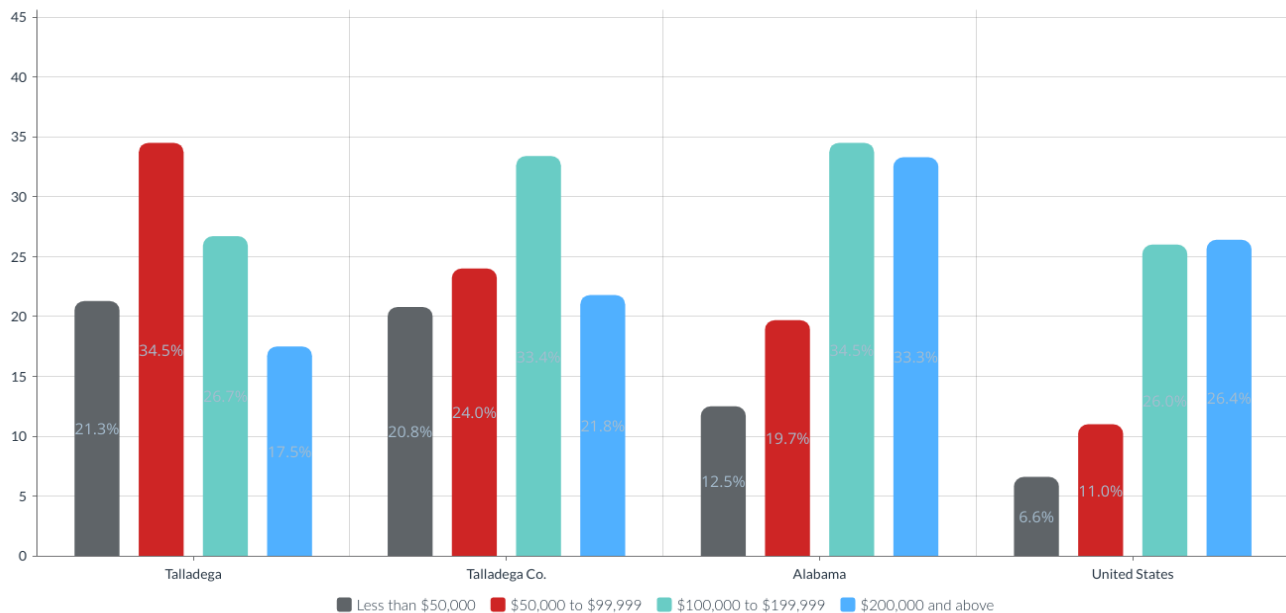


## Housing Value

Housing value is a critical element of a comprehensive housing study. Every community desires housing with high resale value and growing equity. The information provided focuses chiefly on housing value for owner-occupied housing, being the primary form of housing in the community. Talladega recognizes the need to promote and encourage quality housing development and has been active in preparing for such growth.

Talladega showed a similar trend in housing value compared to Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. From 2016 to 2020, the city decreased in homes valued less than \$50 K by a moderate -10.1%, while the county declined by -20.8%, the state by -17.2%, and the nation by -21.2%. Also, during this time, the city increased significantly by 45.9% in homes valued at \$200 K and above, in comparison to the county's increase of 26.5%, the state 27.6%, and the nation by 28.4% in this housing value category. This information indicates that, in terms of housing value, the city decreased in homes with lesser value and increased in homes of higher value which aligns with the trends of the county, state, and nation during this time.

**H-7: Housing Value (Owner-Occupied)**  
Talladega, Alabama (2016)



Despite a decline in homes valued at less than \$50 K, Talladega still showed greater representation in this value category at 21.3%, which was slightly higher than Talladega County, accounting for 20.8% of



its housing stock, and somewhat substantially higher than the state at 12.5% and the U.S. at 6.6%. In 2020, Talladega exhibited higher representation of homes valued \$50K to \$99,999K with approximately 34.5%, which was a substantially higher portion than Talladega County at 24%, Alabama at 19.7%, and the U.S. at 11%. This information indicates significant representation in lower valued homes, with the city also falling short of the county, state, and nation in the portion of high value homes. Figure H-7 exhibits housing value for Talladega, Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. in 2020. See from the chart the city's substantial portion of homes valued at \$50K to \$99,999. For more information see Table H-7: *Housing Value of Owner-occupied units (2016-2020 American Community Survey)*.

Median housing value (MHV) was also examined. Between 2016 and 2020 Talladega's MHV rose from \$83,500 to \$87,600, which was moderately lower than Talladega County with an increase from \$94,200 to \$112,300. Talladega's MHV was considerably lower than Alabama which climbed from \$128,500 to \$149,600 and substantially lower than the U.S. which grew from \$184,700 to \$229,800 during this time.

### Housing Affordability

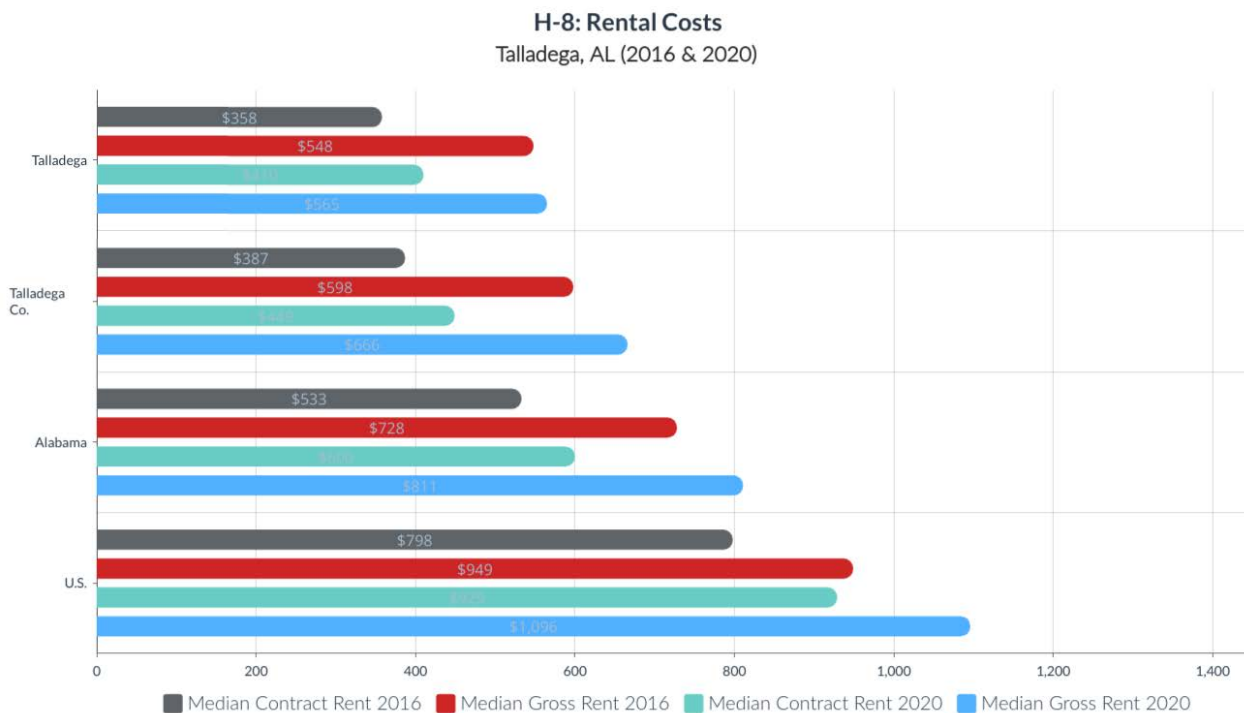
Talladega recognizes the need to establish and maintain housing that is affordable and suitable to its residents. According to the Alabama Housing Finance Authority, the generally accepted affordability standard for housing cost is no more than 30 percent of household income. The city's housing substantially satisfies this requirement. Housing affordability is examined through changes in contract rent, gross rent, and housing value. Contract rent is, as described in the 2020 Census, "The monthly rent agreed to or contracted for, regardless of any furnishings, utilities, fees, meals, or services that may be included". Gross rent is also defined in the 2020 Census as, "The amount of the contract rent plus the estimated average monthly cost of utilities (electricity, gas, and water and sewer) and fuels (oil, coal, kerosene, wood, etc.)".

Housing affordability is also determined through owner-occupied and renter-occupied monthly owner costs as a percentage of household income, which this section on affordability also examines.

### Rental Costs

In determining affordability for renters in a community, an examination of rental costs plays an important role. Rental cost information for this section was collected and analyzed through American Community Survey figures for median contract rent and median gross rent. The information gathered shows that Talladega displayed somewhat lower rental costs to Talladega County, but considerably lower costs compared to Alabama and the U.S.





In terms of contract rent, between 2016 and 2020, the city increased in median contract rent slightly from \$358 to \$410, while the county increased from \$387 to \$449, the state increased grew from \$533 to \$600 and the nation from \$798 to \$929. For gross rent, between 2016 and 2020, the city grew slightly from \$548 to \$565, while the county climbed from \$598 to \$666. The state increased from \$728 to \$811 and the nation from \$949 to \$1,096. This information indicates that city rental costs, overall, were slightly lower than those in the county and considerably lower than those in the state and nation. Figure H-8 illustrates median contract rent and median gross rent for Talladega, Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. in 2016 and 2020. Notice in the chart rental costs for the city and county being comparable, but the state and nation showing substantially higher costs in 2016 and 2020. Such low rental costs for the city and county compared to the state and nation could be attributed to city and county households earning smaller incomes and having a lower cost of living, as opposed to state and nation households earning higher incomes in more densely populated urban areas. For more information see Table H-8 *Rental Costs* in Appendix C.

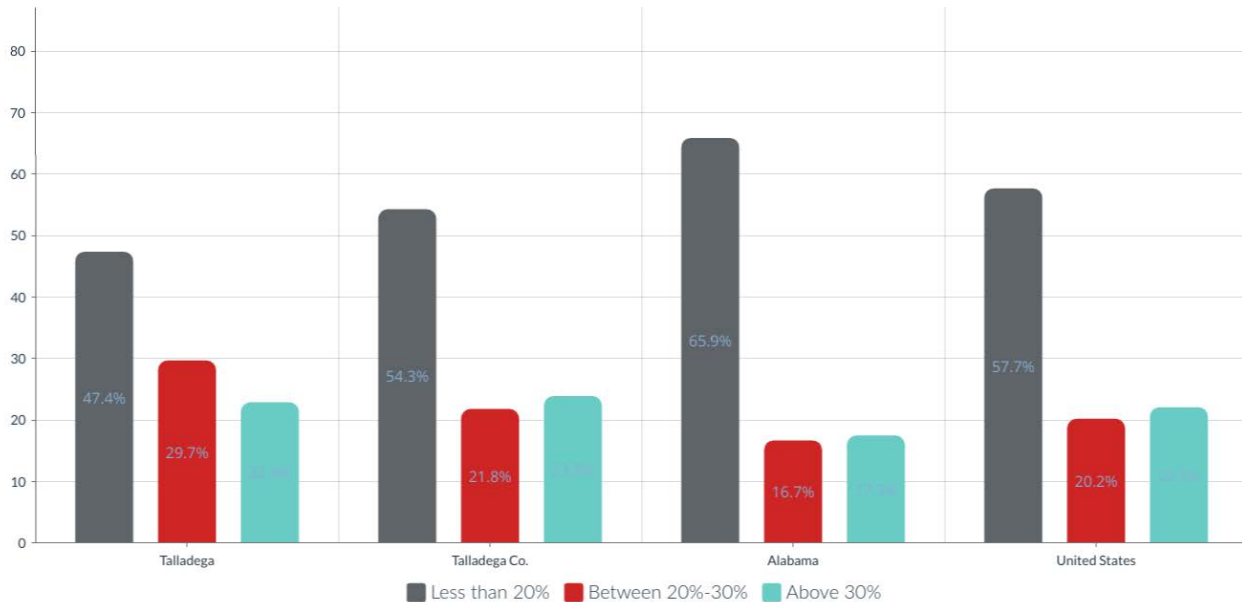
## Affordability of Owner-occupied Housing

Affordability of owner-occupied housing is vitally important in maintaining housing occupancy and population growth within the community. The relative affordability of owner-occupied housing was



determined by examining selected monthly owner costs as a percentage of household income. As a common goal, communities should strive to make housing more affordable to their residents without sacrificing structural quality, working facilities, and aesthetic appeal.

**H-9: Housing Affordability- Monthly Owner Costs as a Percentage of Household Income**  
Talladega, Alabama (2020)

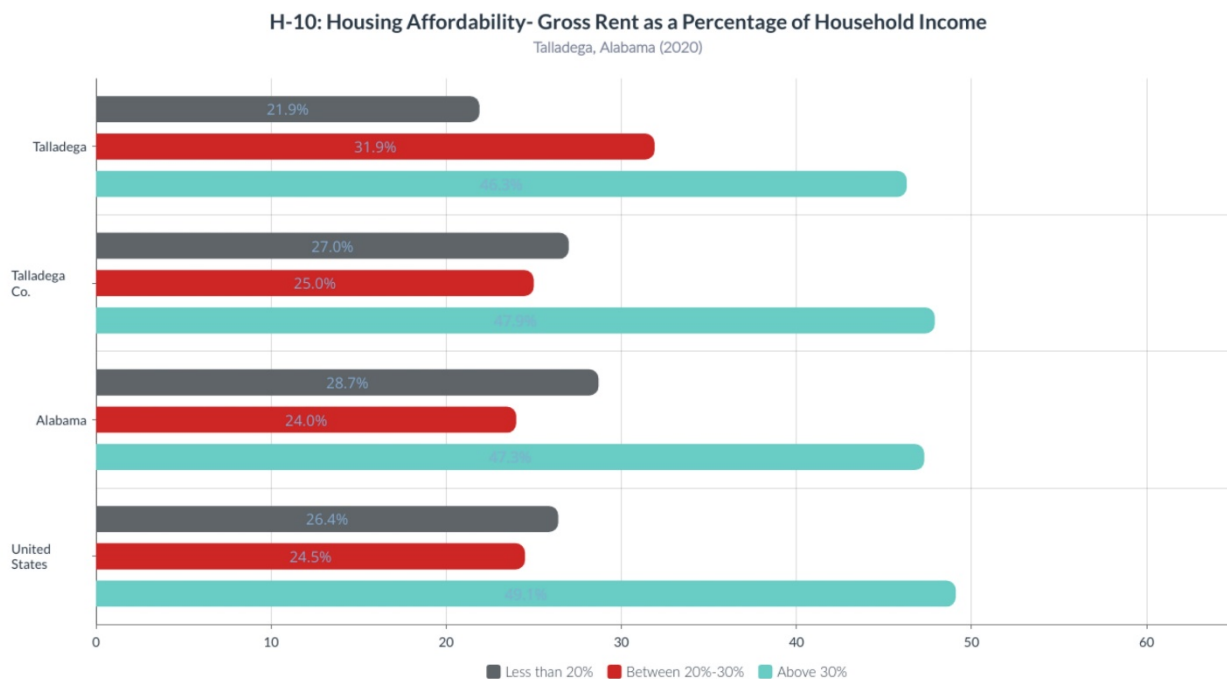


Although housing value ranked relatively low, Talladega housing affordability of owner-occupied homes rated high compared to Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. In 2020, approximately 77% of city households spent less than 30% of their household income on housing costs as the county reported slightly less affordability at 76%. The state reported 83% and the nation 78% in this category. However, the city ranked the lowest in the higher affordability category with approximately 47% of households spending less than 20% of their household income on housing costs while the county reported 54%, the state 66%, and the nation 58%. This information indicates that in 2020 Talladega's owner-occupied housing was somewhat less affordable than owner-occupied housing in the county, state, and nation. Figure H-9 illustrates monthly owner costs as a percentage of household income for Talladega, Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. in 2020. Notice in the chart the city outranking the county, state, and nation in monthly owner costs at less than 20%. For more information see Table H-9: *Selected Monthly Owner Costs as a Percentage of Household Income* in Appendix A.



## Affordability of Renter-occupied Housing

Renting has often been an attractive alternative to owning a home. Home ownership is generally more expensive, and houses often require greater maintenance than apartments, town homes, or condominiums. Although home ownership, nationally, is much more popular and highly regarded, renter-occupied housing is needed to meet the needs of a diverse population, requiring a variety of housing choices.



Like owner-occupied affordability, Talladega showed somewhat lower renter-occupied housing affordability compared to Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. In 2020, the city recorded approximately 54% of renter-occupied households spending less than 30% of their household income on housing costs, while the county reported 52%, the state 53%, and the nation 51%. Furthermore, in 2020, approximately 22% of renter-occupied households in the city spent less than 20% of their household income on housing costs, as the county reported 27%, the state 29%, and the nation 26%. Figure H-10 examines gross rent as a percentage of household income for Talladega, Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. in 2020. Notice from the chart the lower portion of renter-occupied households in the city spending more than 30% of their household income on housing costs compared to the county, state, and nation. For more information see Table H-10: *Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income* in Appendix A.



## **Analytical Summary**

The analytical summary provides a statistical review of the information discussed in each chapter and analyzes the data through a general assessment.

### ***Units by Type***

Between 2016 and 2020, the city increased by 1.4% in single family homes, slightly more than the county at 1.3%, while the state and nation increased by 2.9% and 3.6%. During this time Talladega increased significantly in multi-family homes by 14.7%, while Talladega County reported a -7% decline, Alabama a 3.9% incline, and the U.S. grew by 3.5% in this housing unit type. On the other hand, the city decreased in mobile home units by a significant -27.1% while the county increased by 9.7%, the state by 0.2%, and the nation decreased slightly by -0.9%.

**Assessment:** Talladega exhibited a high portion of multi-family homes and small representation of mobile homes compared to Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S.

### ***Tenure and Occupancy***

Talladega showed somewhat similar portions in tenure compared to Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. In 2020, owner-occupied housing comprised approximately 45.1% of the city's housing stock, while the county reported 59.7%, the state 57.5%, and the nation 56.9%. Renter-occupied housing in the city at 37.2% constituted significant representation in comparison to that of the county at 23.8%, state at 25.6%, and nation at 31.5%. This information indicates that, in 2019, renter-occupancy was slightly more popular as a tenure option in the city in comparison to the trends of the county, state and nation.

**Assessment:** Talladega showed somewhat similar occupancy status with Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. and somewhat substantially higher representation in renter-occupied housing compared to the county, state, and nation.

### ***Vacancy Status***

Talladega displayed somewhat different patterns in vacancy status compared to Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. In 2020, the city's most prevalent vacancy status was other vacant at 57.9%, which was comparable to the county at 52.3%, state at 50.3%, and nation at 35.6%. However, Talladega, during this time, held a larger portion of for sale only vacancies at 17.6% in contrast to Talladega County at 7.8%, Alabama at 5.7%, and the U.S. at 7%. The city also recorded substantially smaller representation in miscellaneous vacancies at 8.2%, in comparison to the county 24.4%, state at



19.7% and nation at 33.2%. This information indicates proportionately more city homes as for sale only and less vacancies used for miscellaneous purposes compared to the county, state, and nation.

**Assessment:** Talladega reported moderately more vacant homes for sale only and less miscellaneous and rented or sold, not occupied compared to Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S.

### ***Household Size***

In 2020, Talladega's most prevalent household size was 2-person, accounting for 38.6% of all households; however, 1-person households were comparable at 32.4%. This was somewhat like Talladega County and Alabama, both with 30% representation of 2-person households, and the U.S. at 28%. Talladega and Talladega County reported 29% and 33.1%, respectively, of households with 3 or more persons, while Alabama showed slightly more at 34.9% and the U.S. recorded moderately more at 38.1%. This information indicates that the city, during this time, held a smaller portion of households of larger size compared to county, state and nation. The nation also considerably surpassed the city in households with 4 or more persons, indicating larger households at the national level.

**Assessment:** Talladega recorded somewhat comparable household size with Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. in 2020.

### ***Housing Stock Age***

In terms of housing stock age, the American Community Survey showed that approximately 72.6% of city homes were built prior to 1980, as the county (48.9%), state (44.5%), and nation (52.9%) recorded considerably less. Furthermore, approximately 35% of city homes were built prior to 1960, while both the county and state recorded substantially less at 22% and 17.2%, respectively, and the nation at 27.4%. The city reported approximately 9.6% of homes built post-1999 while the county, state, and nation exhibited a larger portion of newer homes at 18.5%, 22.7%, and 19.9%, respectively.

**Assessment:** In 2020, Talladega held a considerably larger portion of older homes compared to Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S.

### ***Physical Conditions***

Talladega had 7,065 home units surveyed, of which 4,402 (62%) were single-family, 423 (6%) were multi-family, and 620 (9%) were manufactured units. The survey showed approximately 40% of the total units in excellent condition, 30% in good condition, 24% in substandard condition, and 5% dilapidated. Manufactured units reported the most need for improvements with 367 (59%) units in substandard condition and 53 (9%) dilapidated. Single family also recorded need with 24% in substandard condition.



**Assessment:** Survey results from the EARPDC housing conditions survey shows approximately 29% of Talladega’s housing units in substandard or dilapidated conditions with manufactured homes displaying the greatest need for improvements.

### ***Housing Value***

Talladega showed considerable representation in homes valued less than \$50K at 21.3%, which was slightly higher than Talladega County, accounting for 20.8% of its housing stock, and somewhat substantially higher than the state at 12.5% and the U.S. at 6.6%. In 2020, Talladega exhibited higher representation of homes valued \$50K to \$99,999K with approximately 34.5%, which was a substantially higher portion than Talladega County at 24%, and Alabama at 19.7%, and the U.S. at 11%. This information indicates significant representation in lower valued homes, with the city also falling short of the county, state, and nation in the portion of high value homes.

**Assessment:** Talladega showed moderately lower housing value compared to Talladega County, somewhat significantly lower value than Alabama, and significantly lower value than the U.S.

### ***Rental Costs***

In terms of contract rent, between 2016 and 2020, the city increased in median contract rent slightly from \$358 to \$410, while the county increased from \$387 to \$449, the state increased in median contract rent from \$533 to \$600 and the nation from \$798 to \$929. For gross rent, between 2016 and 2020, the city grew slightly from \$548 to \$565, while the county climbed from \$598 to \$666. The state increased from \$728 to \$811 and the nation from \$949 to \$1,096. This information indicates that city rental costs, overall, were slightly lower than those in the county and considerably lower than those in the state and nation.

**Assessment:** Talladega reported lower cost of contract rent and gross rent compared to Talladega County, and substantially lower rent compared to Alabama and the U.S.

### ***Affordability of Owner-occupied Housing***

In 2020, approximately 77% of city households spent less than 30% of their household income on housing costs as the county reported somewhat less affordability at 76%. The state reported 83% and the nation 78% in this category. Furthermore, the city ranked lowest in the higher affordability category with approximately 47% of households spending less than 20% of their household income on housing costs while the county reported 54%, the state 66%, and the nation 58%. This information indicates that in 2020 Talladega’s owner-occupied housing was somewhat less affordable than owner-occupied housing in the county, state, and nation.



**Assessment:** Talladega showed somewhat lower owner-occupied affordability compared to Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. in 2020.

***Affordability of Renter-occupied Housing***

In 2020, the city recorded approximately 54% of renter-occupied households spending less than 30% of their household income on housing costs, while the county reported 52%, the state 53%, and the nation 51%. Furthermore, in 2020, approximately 22% of renter-occupied households in the city spent less than 20% of their household income on housing costs, as the county reported 27%, the state 29%, and the nation 26%.

**Assessment:** Talladega showed somewhat lower renter-occupied affordability compared to Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. in 2020.



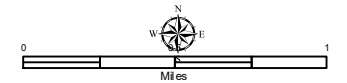
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# MAP 13 HOUSING CONDITIONS MAP

## The City Of Talladega

Alabama



Prepared By The East Alabama Regional Planning And Development Commission, 2024.

### LEGEND

Talladega City Limits

Parcel Boundary

Residential Building

Non-Residential Building

Pond / Lake

Athletic Field

Stream / Creek

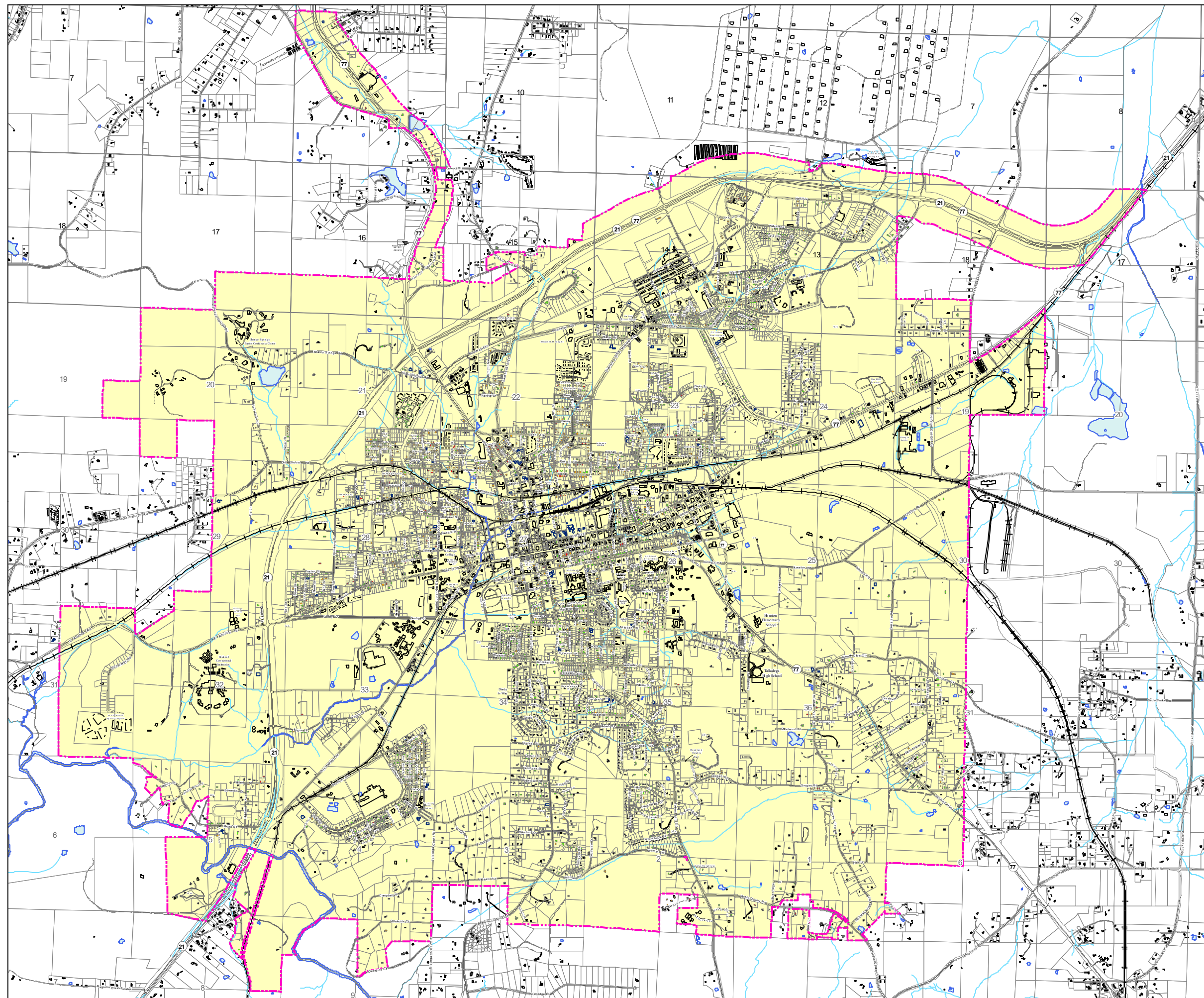
Railroad

A Excellent Condition

B Good Condition

C Substandard Condition

D Dilapidated Condition





## **CHAPTER 8: ECONOMY**

The economy directly affects a community's growth and prosperity. The state of the local economy, i.e., how well it creates and maintains employment opportunities, handles production, and distributes goods and services, greatly influences population, housing, transportation, and land use. Therefore, a clear understanding of the local economy is vital for community growth and development and a sustainable comprehensive planning effort. The City of Talladega desires to grow and prosper in economic development, drawing in new small businesses while maintaining and expanding present business establishments.

This chapter of the comprehensive plan examines the following economy related characteristics: educational attainment, income, commuting patterns, labor force participation and unemployment, occupational status, industrial composition, and poverty. These city characteristics shall be compared to those of the county, state, and nation to establish a foundation for comparison. Economic information for this chapter has been obtained entirely from the 2016-2020 American Community Survey, which has been used to provide economic trend information and analysis. The previous chapter on population introduces and discusses the American Community Survey—that is how and when data is collected and its uses for the plan. An analytical summary of economic information is included at the end of this chapter.

### **Education**

Education is a vital factor for initiating community growth and economic development. A high-quality education system prepares and empowers individuals within the community to be productive, successful leaders in their respective fields of training and expertise. This, in turn, qualifies individuals for greater earning potential, allowing more money to be reinvested into the community, and building the local economy.

#### **Educational Attainment**

Talladega showed differing trends in educational attainment compared to Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S in most categories. Between 2016 and 2020 the city increased in recipients of associate degrees by a notable 38.1%, compared to that of the county (5.3%), state (13.0%), and nation (10.2%). The increase in bachelor's degree attainment is also significant at 25.6% while the county reported 9.5%, the state 11.0%, and the nation 12.1%. This growth could be partially attributed to the influence of Talladega College. However, the city declined in the number of recipients of Graduate or Professional degrees by -15.3% while the county reported an increase of 28.7%, the state 13.6%, and the nation 15.2%.



While Talladega showed marked growth in recipients of higher attainment degrees, the city reported a significant decrease in residents with lower attainment such as less than 9<sup>th</sup> grade, which dropped by -32.7%. Decline was reported across the board, as the county decreased by -28.5%, the state -17.5%, and the nation -8.3%. Recipients of high school diplomas also showed loss in the city and county, by -14.5%, and -6.0%, respectively, while the state (0.5%) and nation (1.0%) grew slightly in these categories.

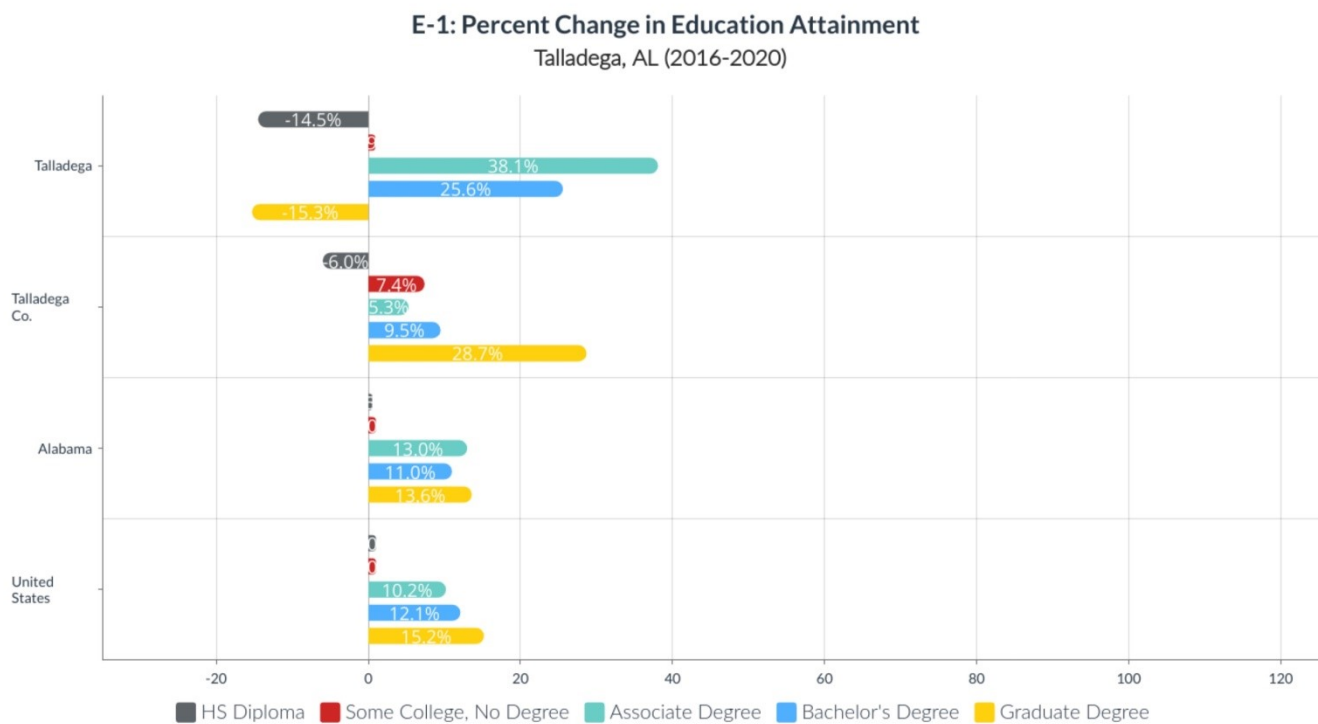


Figure E-1 illustrates educational attainment for Talladega, Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. in 2020. Notice in the chart that the city showed significantly higher attainment in associate and bachelor's degrees than the county, state, and nation. For more information see Table E-1: *Educational Attainment* in Appendix A.

Trends from this information indicate a major decrease in persons having received lower educational attainment, such as recipients of a high school diploma only or less than a 9<sup>th</sup> grade education, and an increase in recipients of higher attainment such as an associate degree and bachelor's degree. As a planning consideration, local businesses should work with schools and regional colleges to assure that when students graduate, they have employment opportunities in the community and can be placed in jobs immediately after graduation.



## **Income**

Monetary income is a primary factor in determining a community's wealth and prosperity. Higher incomes promote a higher standard of living and more return investment into the community, while lower incomes suggest lower standards and less investment. Therefore, a comprehensive economic study requires a thorough understanding of community income.

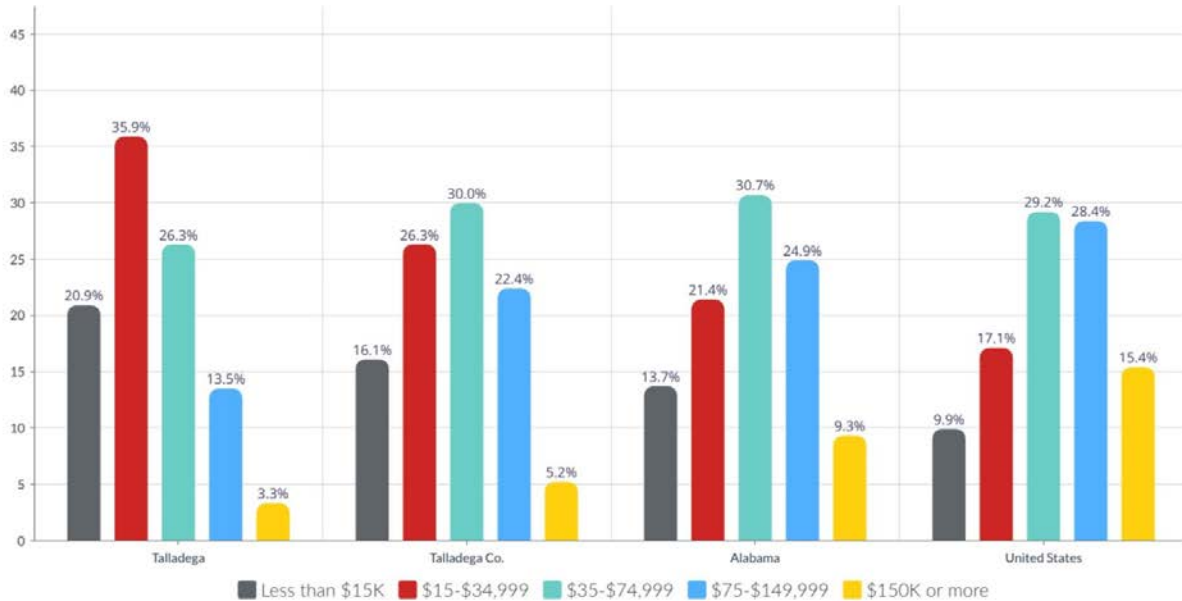
### **Household Income**

Household income (HHI) is the most basic and generalized variable in measuring income. A household is considered a dwelling unit in which one or more individuals live. Therefore, the household income is the accumulation of all income generated within a specified household. Median household income (MHI), which is characterized as the exact middle (median) point of household incomes collected, has been examined as the primary focal point.

Talladega, regarding household income, ranked deficiently compared to Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. Between 2016 and 2020, the city declined in households earning less than 15K by a moderate -14.5%, while the county also dropped in this category by -14%, and the state and nation both by -15%. However, Talladega increased slightly in households earning \$15,000-34,999 by 3.3%, as Talladega County (-6.1%), Alabama (-8.0%), and the U.S. (-12.0%) all declined in this group. Households earning between \$75,000–149,999 showed a considerable increase of 27.6% in Talladega, while Talladega County had a similar increase of 28.6%, and Alabama (17%) and the U.S. (14.8%) showed slightly lower growth. While the city also had a moderate increase in households earning more the \$150,000 at 25.5%, this was lower compared to the increase of the county at 63.2%, the state at 46%, and the nation at 43.8%. This information indicates that Talladega showed some decline in lower income categories compared to the county, state, and nation, while showing moderate growth in higher income categories.



E-2: Household Income  
Talladega, AL (2020)



In 2020, the city showed more than half of households at 56.8% earning less than \$35 K per year, while the county reported 42.4%. Meanwhile, the state showed 35.1% earning less than \$35 K in 2020, as the nation reported 27%. Talladega in 2020 is also reporting fewer households in higher earning brackets, such as (\$75,000 or more) at 16.8% compared to Talladega County (27.6%) and Alabama (34.2%), and the U.S. (43.8%). Figure E-2 displays household income for Talladega, Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. in 2020. Notice from the chart that the city held a higher portion of lower income households compared to the county, state, and nation.

Furthermore, median household income reflects Talladega households with moderately lower income compared to Talladega County, but drastically lower than Alabama and the U.S. Between 2016 and 2020 Talladega median household income increased 3.5% from \$29,074 to \$30,088 which was lower than Talladega County, which grew 15.9% from \$37,23 to \$43,969. Meanwhile, Alabama increased in median household income 13% from \$44,758 to \$50,536 and the U.S. reported a 17.5% climb from \$53,322 to \$64,994. For more detail see Table E-2: *Household Income Distribution* in Appendix B.

As a planning consideration and as a means of increasing income, Talladega should strive to attract businesses by marketing its room for growth to such companies and institutions, which would, in turn bring in high-paying jobs and grow the local economy. Additionally, the city holds significant potential for new firms with its location with convenient access to major roadways and railroads and reasonable proximity to major cities and metro areas such as Birmingham, Anniston, Oxford, and Atlanta.



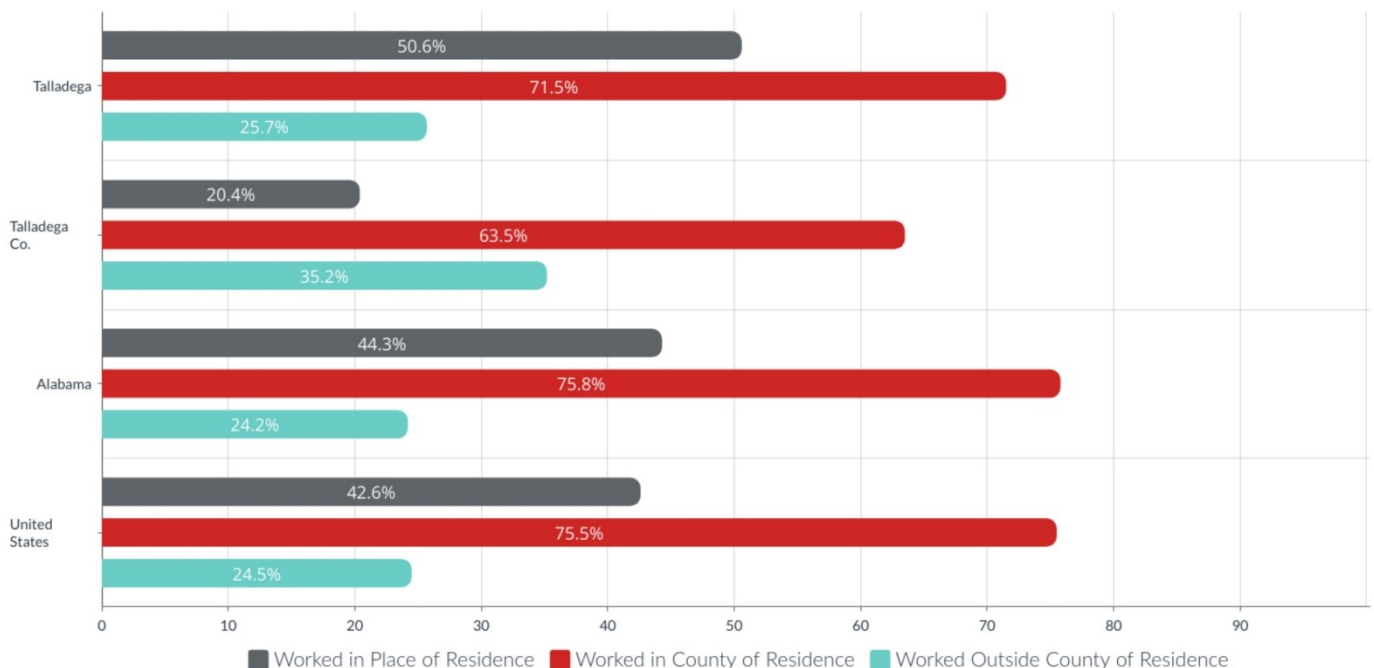
## Commuting Patterns

Commuting patterns can be used to gauge how far away people in a community live from their place of work and how much time was spent in transition to and from home and the workplace. These patterns are useful in recognizing places for job development and retention and alleviating long commuting time and travel distances in the city and its surrounding municipalities, thus advancing the local economy. This section of the economy chapter will examine such commuting information as place of work, commuting travel time, and means of transportation to give a complete picture of commuting within the City of Talladega and providing suggestions for improving travel to and from work.

### Place of Work

Place of work was the major component in understanding commuting patterns with the two variables examined being those residents (workers 16 and older) who live in their place of residence (city) and work in their respective city along with those who live in the city, but commute outside to work, whether their work is in the same county or outside the county.

**E-3: Commuting Patterns**  
Talladega, AL (2020)





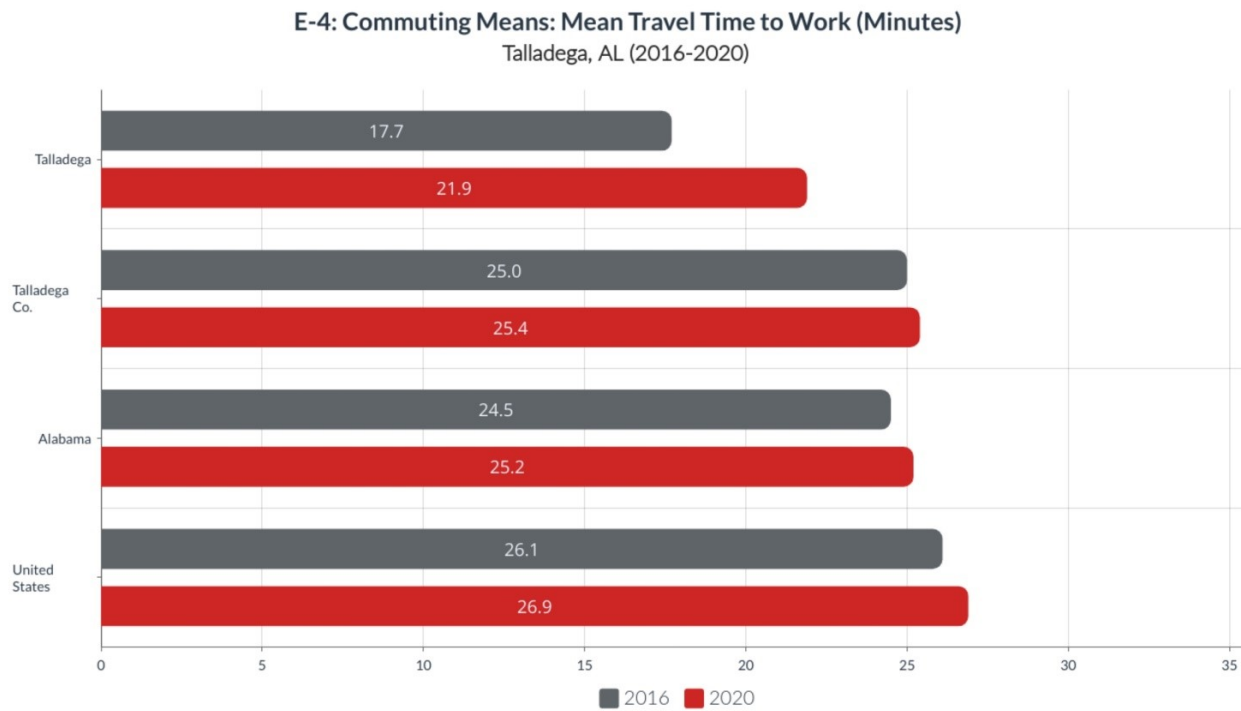
In terms of commuting patterns, Talladega rated considerably better in comparison to Talladega County, and slightly better than Alabama and the U.S. Between 2016 and 2020 Talladega showed a decline in commuters living and working in the city, going from 59.3% to 50.6%; however, in 2020, the city showed a markedly higher portion of commuters working in their place of residence compared to the county at 20.4% and a slightly higher portion compared to the state (44.3%) and nation at 42.6%. Talladega showed slightly more (71.5%) commuters who live and work in the city or in Talladega County in contrast to those who live in somewhere else in the county and work and live in their respective community or somewhere else in the same county at 63.5%. Both Alabama and the U.S. at 76% reported somewhat higher county commuting trends in comparison to Talladega in 2020. This information indicates that proportionately fewer commuters in Talladega seek employment opportunities out-of-county at 25.7% compared to those in Talladega County 35.2%; Alabama at 24.2%, and the U.S. at 24.5% show similar proportions, meaning that the city has been adequately providing jobs for resident workers. Figure E-3 displays commuting patterns in the form of work in place of residence for Talladega, Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. in 2020. Notice from the chart the city holding a slightly higher portion of commuters working inside their place of residence, while the county, state, and nation at showed fewer commuters working inside their respective places of residence. For more information see Table E-5 *Commuting Patterns* in Appendix B.

### Travel Time to Work

Travel time to work is an important factor in determining commuting patterns. The amount of time a typical driver spends on the road gives some indication of access to employment opportunities from any given community. In alignment with place of work information Talladega commuters reported moderately lower commute times in 2016 and 2020 compared to Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S.

Mean travel time to work information for Talladega, between 2016 and 2020, records average travel time increasing slightly from 17.7 minutes to 21.9 minutes while Talladega County increased from 25.0 minutes to 25.4 minutes, and Alabama climbed slightly from 24.5 to 25.2. The U.S. reported a minor increase from 26.1 minutes to 26.9 for comparison. This information further indicates slightly shorter distances traveled for city commuters than for the average commuter in the county, state, and nation. Figure E-4 displays commuting means in the form of mean travel time to work in minutes for Talladega, Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. in 2016 and 2020. Notice from the chart the lower commute times for Talladega in comparison to the county, state, and nation. As a planning consideration, Talladega should continue to promote and encourage new small businesses to locate in the community, and expand existing, to spur economic development and to maintain opportunities to live and work in the city, thus strengthening the local economy.





## Labor Force Participation and Unemployment

Labor force participation is based on how many individuals ages 16 and over are a part of the labor force, and if they are employed or unemployed as civilian or armed forces. Businesses desiring to relocate or expand search for communities with a strong labor force in which to draw qualified employment. To do this they must estimate approximately how many candidates are available to fill positions required to perform necessary company operations. Therefore, a proper understanding of a community's labor force is critical to a comprehensive planning effort.

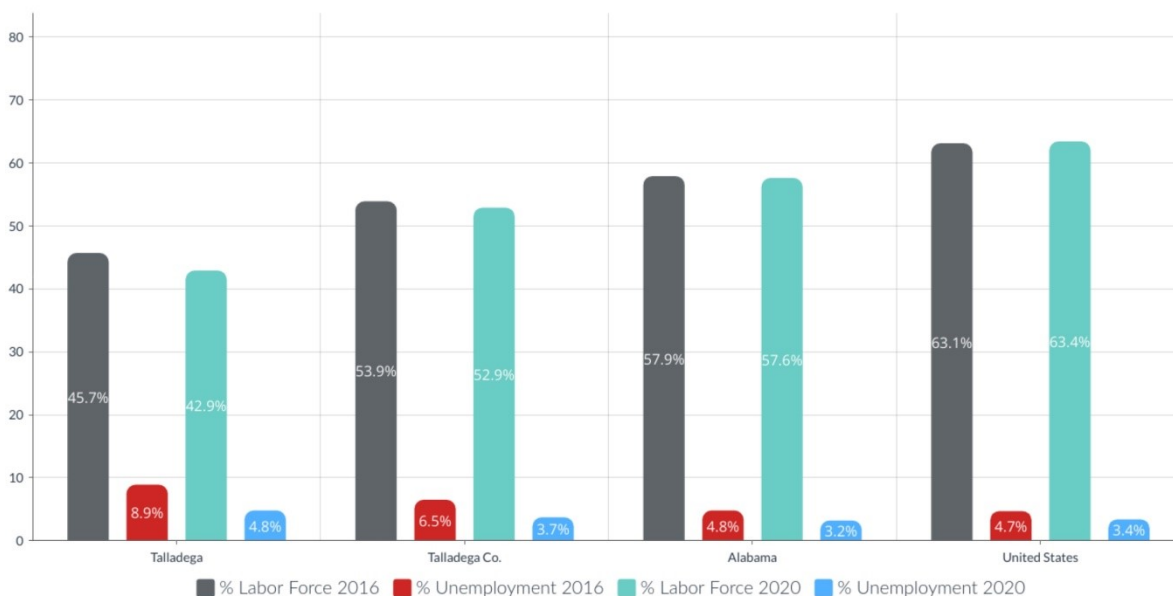
While labor force participation examines the total number of people aged 16 and older who are available in the workforce, unemployment focuses on those individuals who are eligible, yet are currently not employed in the civilian workforce. For the purposes of this study, unemployment trends are not based on the unemployment rate, since armed forces is not accounted for, but rather the portion of persons ready for civilian labor force work. This information is useful in understanding the city's employment patterns in relation to county, state, and national trends and in establishing priorities for employment in the community.



## Labor Force Participation

Concerning Talladega's labor force, the city ranked somewhat deficiently compared to Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. Between 2016 and in 2020, the city's labor force decreased by -5.4%, while the county decreased by 1.5%, the state grew by 1.0%, and the nation grew by 3.2%. Also, between 2016 and 2020 the portion of the city's population, age 16 and older, in the labor force fell from 45.7% to 42.9% while the county dropped slightly from 53.9% to 52.9%, the state declined from 57.9% to 57.6%, as the nation grew from 63.1% to 63.4%. This information indicates that the city fell short with labor force participation in comparison to the county, state, and nation. Figure E-5 illustrates labor force participation and unemployment for Talladega, Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. in 2016 and 2020. Notice in the chart that the city decreased the most substantially in labor force participation.

E-5: Labor Force Participation and Unemployment  
Talladega, AL (2016-2020)



## Unemployment

Talladega ranked deficiently in unemployment in comparison to Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. From 2016 to 2020 the city decreased in unemployment by -46.1%, while the county dropped slightly less by -43.1%, the state by -33.3%, and the nation by -27.7%. During this time Talladega decreased in the portion of unemployed people in the civilian labor force from 8.9% to 4.8%, as Talladega County fell from 6.5% to 3.7%, and Alabama and the U.S. from 5% to 3%. This information



indicates that the city, at this time, held a slightly higher portion of unemployed persons in the labor force compared to the county, state, and nation. For more information see Table E-6 *Labor Force Participation* in Appendix B.

## **Occupational Status**

Every economically viable community has a variety of occupations through which services are performed and money is circulated. A study of occupational status shows what kind of labor is being utilized in a community. This information is useful for determining where job opportunities exist and where job growth is most or least likely to occur. Occupation describes the kind of work a person does on the job. For people working two or more occupations during the reference week data was collected the occupation in which the employee worked the greatest number of hours was accounted as the person's occupation.

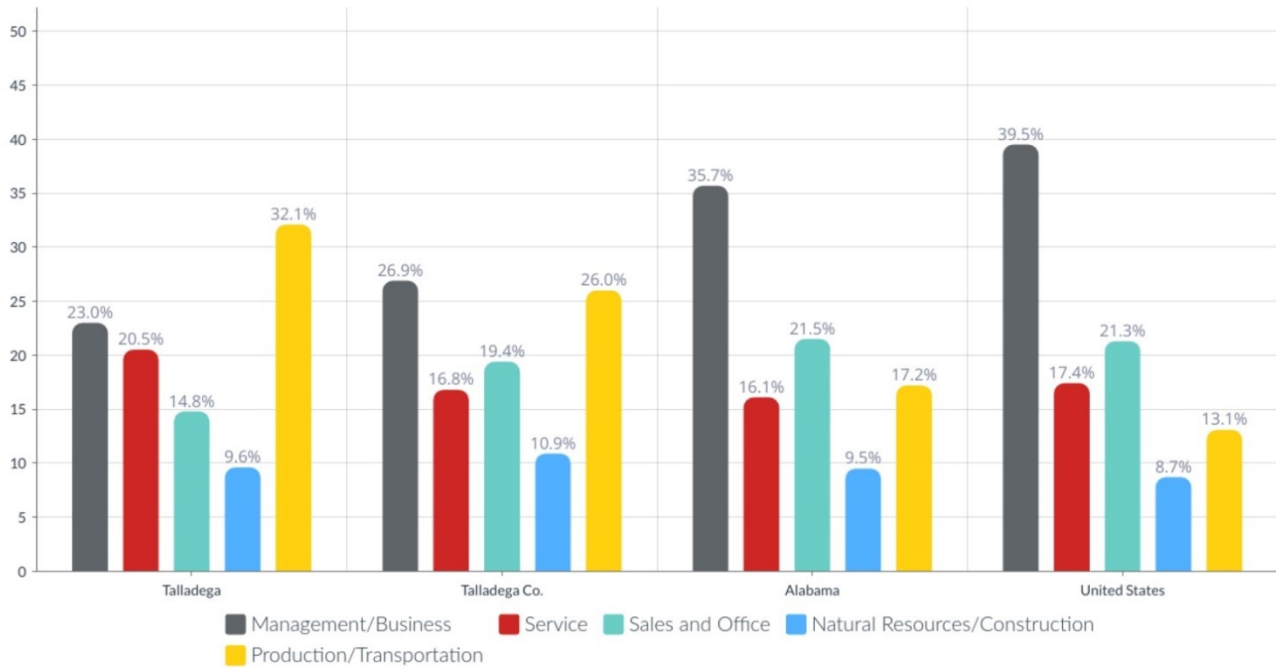
In order to categorize occupations, occupational status has been divided into 5 categories, which include: 1) Management / Business Related—which constitutes business and financial operators and specialists, architects, engineers, legal occupations, computer specialists, social services, and technical healthcare occupations, 2) Services—consisting of healthcare support, firefighting and law enforcement, ground and building maintenance, hotel and food accommodation, arts, entertainment, education, recreation, and personal care services, 3) Sales / Office—sales and related, and administrative, 4) Natural Resources / Construction—which includes fishing, farming, and forestry operations, construction trade workers, extraction workers, and supervisors, 5) Production / Transportation—production occupations, transportation and moving occupations, aircraft and traffic control operations, motor vehicle operators, rail, water, and other transportation related occupations.

Talladega showed differing trends in occupational status compared to Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. Between 2016 and 2020, the city's largest increase in occupations was in Service occupations, which grew by 36.0% while the county saw a change of 15.3%. The state increased in this occupation less considerably by 0.6% and the nation 1.2%. The city, at this time, reported decline in Sales and Office and Management/Business-related professions, both falling by -13.7% as the county reported -9.4% and -0.5%, the state -6.7% and 10.3%, and the nation -5.8% and 12.4%, respectively. This information indicates a slight transition into services and decline from office and business-related jobs.

In 2020, Talladega also reported somewhat differing occupation status from Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. In a reflection of its trend, the city exceeded the county, state, and nation in the portion of Service-related jobs with 20.5% compared to the Talladega County (16.8%), Alabama (16.1%), and the U.S. (17.4%). Talladega also ranked highest in Production/Transportation occupations at 32.1%, compared to the county (26.0%), state (17.2%), and nation (13.1%).



**E-6: Occupational Status**  
Talladega, AL (2020)



This information indicates a proportionately larger portion of blue-collar jobs at the city and county level than in the state and nation, which, subsequently hold a larger portion of white collar. Figure E-6 displays occupational status for Talladega, Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. in 2020. Notice from the chart the city and county's larger portion of Production/Transportation professions and the larger representation of Management and Business in the state and nation. For more information see Table E-7 *Occupational Status* in Appendix B.

## Industrial Composition

Any economically prosperous community will have a diverse and changing economic base, offering a variety of job opportunities and services to its population. As markets change and demand for specified goods and services increase or decrease, industrial sectors will vary in size and in their influence on the overall industrial composition and economic welfare of the community; therefore, a proper examination of industrial composition and trends is necessary to plan for economic development and opportunities. This section of the economy chapter focuses on industrial composition and changes by industry employment.

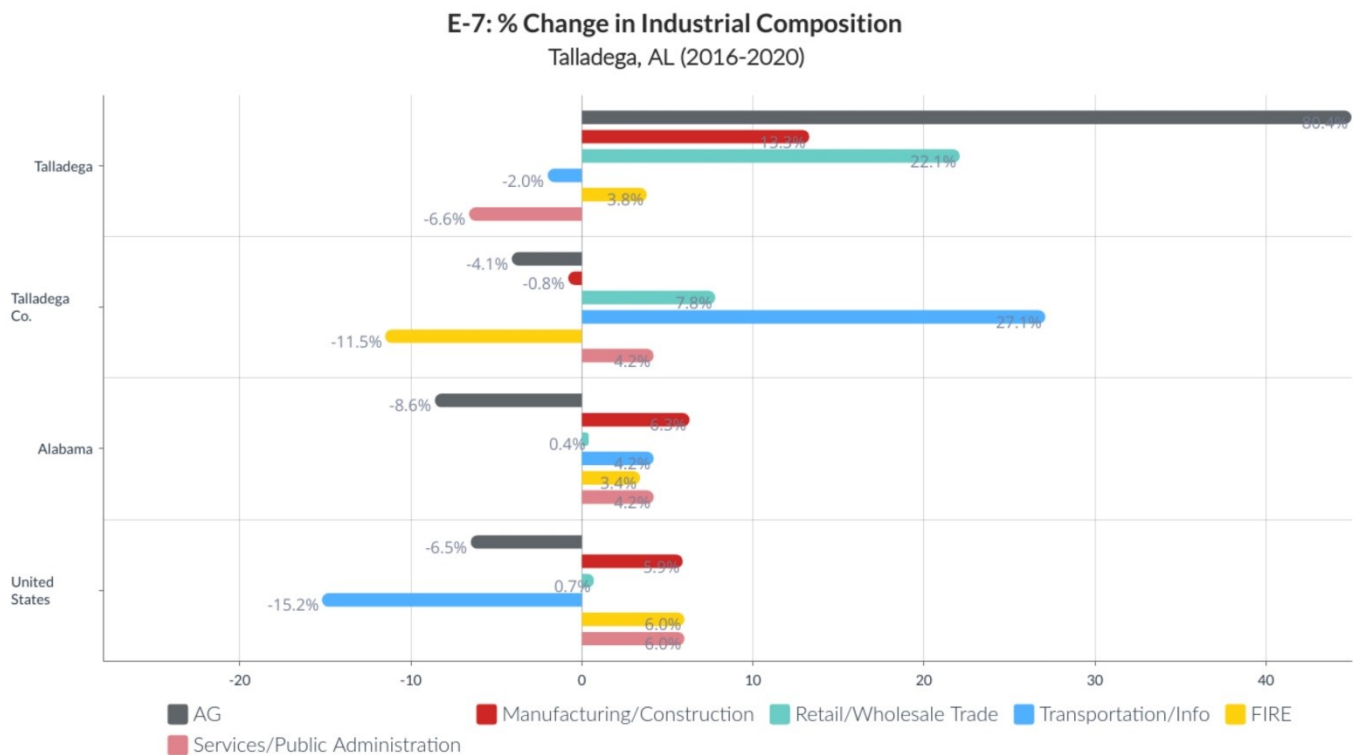
For categorization purposes, industries have been separated into 6 industrial sectors, which include: 1) Agriculture—consisting of such industries as agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining, 2)



Manufacturing/Construction, 3) Retail and Wholesale Trade, 4) Transportation/Information—including warehousing, utilities, and communications 5) FIRE (Finance, Insurance, Real-Estate), 6) Services/Public Administration—which entails professional, scientific, administrative, waste management, arts, education, healthcare and social assistance, food accommodation, and other services.

## Change in Industry

Talladega, according to the American Community Survey, recorded moderate changes in industry. From 2016 to 2020, the city grew in most industries, with the largest growth in Agriculture at 80%. Comparatively, the county (-4.1%), state (-8.6%), and nation (-6.5%) all reported decline in this category. Talladega experienced slight decline in Transportation/Information at -2.0% and Services/Public Administration at -6.6%. Talladega County (27.1% and 4.2%) and Alabama (4.2% and 4.2%) both sustained growth in these industrial sectors. The U.S. reported a loss of -15.2% in Transportation/Information, but growth of 6.0% in Services/Public Administration.



Retail/Wholesale Trade showed more moderate growth in the city and county, increasing employment by 22.1% and county 7.8%, while the state and nation grew less considerably in this category by 0.4%, and 0.7%, respectively. Manufacturing/Construction in Talladega also reported modest growth at a 13% increase, which was significantly more than the county, which declined by -0.8%; the state (6.3%)

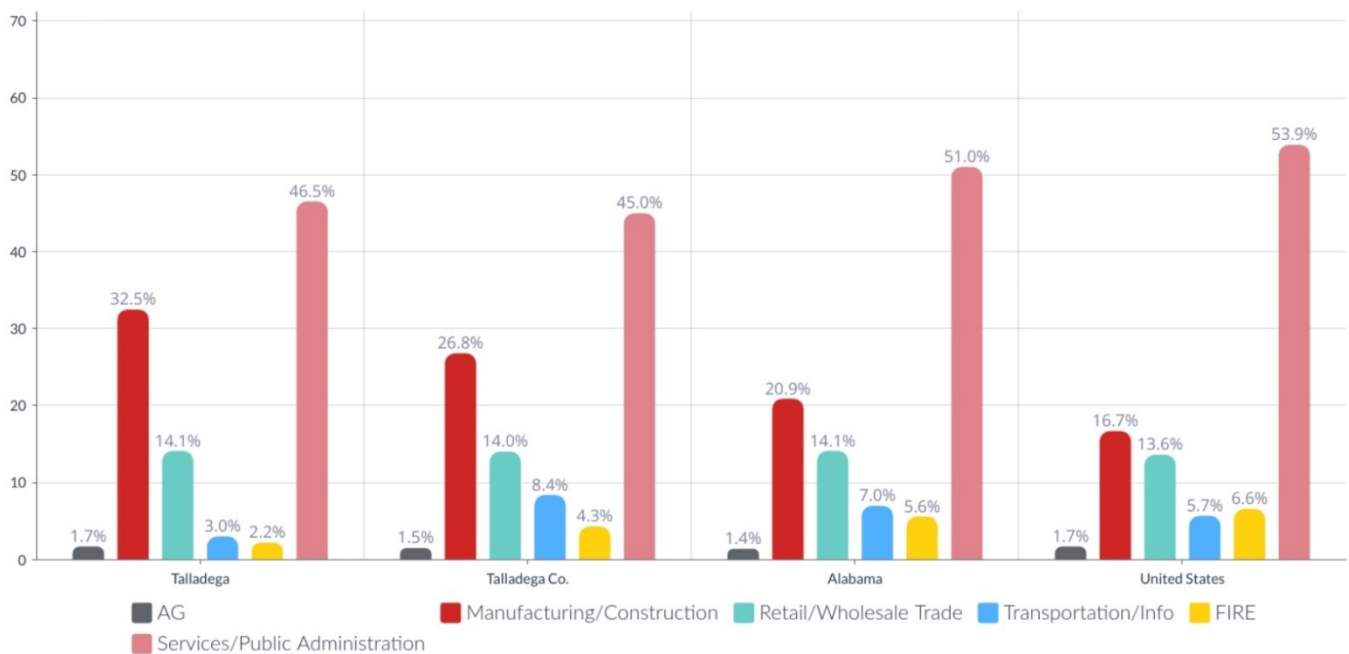


and nation (5.9%) reported slight growth. Overall, during this time, Talladega accounted for a 4.0% increase in industry, as did Talladega County and Alabama, while the U.S. showed slightly more at 5.3%. Figure E-7 displays percent change in industry for Talladega, Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. between 2016 and 2020. Notice in the chart that the city gained more employment than it lost, with its most significant gain in Agriculture.

## Industrial Composition

In terms of industrial composition, Talladega showed somewhat similar trends in comparison to Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. In 2020, the city's single largest industrial sector was in Services/Public Administration accounting for nearly half (46.5%) of the city's economy while the county had similar reports of 45.0%. The state and nation have slightly higher representation in the sector of Services/Public Administration at 51.0% and 53.9%. The second largest industrial sector in the city is Manufacturing/Construction which makes up another large portion (32.5%) of the city's economy, while in comparison the county (26.8%), state (20.9%), and nation (16.7%) report lower representation in this sector. Transportation/Information recorded a smaller portion in the city (3.0%) than in the county at 8.4%, the state at 7.0%, and the nation at 5.7%. Agriculture recorded a smaller portion in the city (1.7%) than in the county at 1.5%, the state at 1.4%, and the nation at 1.7%.

E-8: Industrial Composition  
Talladega, AL (2020)





As previously discussed, this information indicates the city and county holding less white collar and more blue-collar jobs than the state and nation. Figure E-8 illustrates industrial composition for Talladega, Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. in 2020. Notice from the chart the moderately larger portion of Manufacturing/Construction related industries compared to the state and nation. For more information see Table E-8 *Industrial Composition* in Appendix B.

### Poverty Status

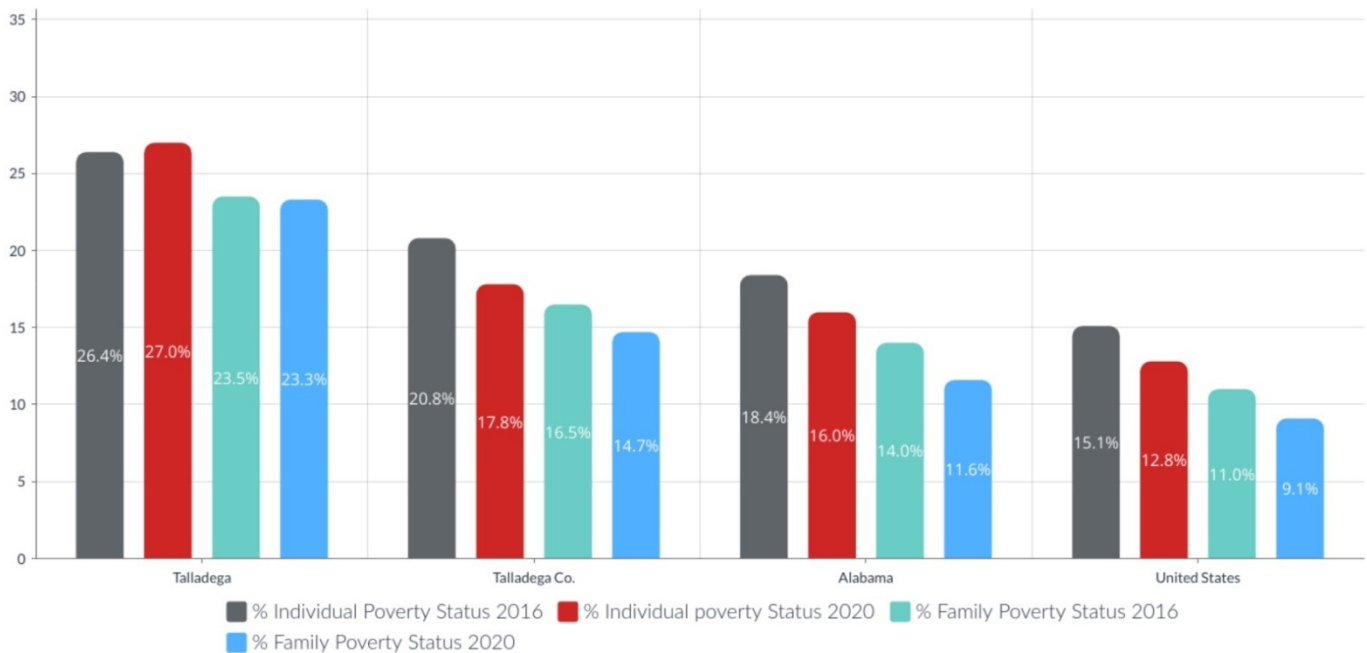
Poverty status shows the economic welfare of a community and can be used to assess a community's need for public assistance. According to the U.S. Census glossary, poverty is measured in accordance with monetary income, excluding capital gains or losses, taxes, non-cash benefits, and whether a person lives in a family or non-family household, compared to the selected poverty threshold, which varies based on family size and composition. People who cannot be included in poverty studies include unrelated individuals under 15, and people in institutional group quarters, college dormitories, military barracks, and living conditions without conventional housing and who are not in shelters. According to the Census Bureau, the 2024 poverty threshold for a single person was annual earnings of \$15,060, for two persons—\$20,440, three persons—\$25,820, and 4 persons—\$31,200.

In terms of poverty, Talladega rated deficiently compared to Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. Between 2016 and 2020, the city increased in individual poverty from 26.4% of the total population to 27.0%, while the county dropped from 20.8% to 17.8%, the state dropped from 18.4% to 16.0%, and the nation from 15.1% to 12.8%.

The city decreased slightly in family poverty, during this time, dropping from 23.5% to 23.3%, as the county fell from 16.5% to 14.7%, the state from 14% to 11.6%, and the nation from 11.0% to 9.1%. Another significant trend in the city, in 2020, was the poverty status of related children under 18 years reporting 44.4%, while the county recorded 24.9%, the state 18.9%, and nation 14.3%. This information indicates that the city held overall higher poverty rates than the county, state, and nation for both individuals and families. Figure E-9 displays poverty status for individuals and families for Talladega, Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. in 2016 and 2020. Notice from the chart the city's higher portion of individuals and families in poverty compared to the county, state, and nation. For more information see Table E-9. *Poverty Status* in Appendix B.



**E-9: Poverty Status**  
Talladega, AL (2016-2020)



## Analytical Summary

The analytical summary provides a general review of the topics discussed in each chapter and gives a broad assessment of the information provided.

### Education—Educational Attainment

Between 2016 and 2020 the city increased in recipients of associate degrees by a notable 38.1%, compared to that of the county 5.3%, state 13.0%, and nation 10.2%. The increase of bachelor's degrees is also significant at 25.6% while the county reported 9.5%, the state 11.0%, and the nation 12.1%. These increases could be partially attributed to the influence of Talladega College. However, the city declined in the number of recipients of Graduate or Professional degrees by -15.3% while the county reported an increase of 28.7%, the state 13.6%, and the nation at 15.2%.

**Assessment:** Talladega reported competitive educational attainment between 2016 and 2020 compared with Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S.



### **Income—Household Income**

Between 2016 and 2020, the city declined in households earning less than 15K by a moderate -14.5%, while the county also dropped in this category by -14%, and the state and nation both by -15%. However, Talladega increased slightly in households earning \$15,000-34,999 by 3.3%, as Talladega County (-6.1%), Alabama (-8.0%), and the U.S. (-12.0%) all declined in this group. Households earning between \$75,000–149,999 showed a considerable increase of 27.6% in Talladega, while Talladega County had a similar increase of 28.6%, and Alabama (17%) and the U.S. (14.8%) showed slightly lower growth. While the city also had a moderate increase in households earning more the \$150,000 at 25.5%, this was lower compared to the increase of the county 63.2%, the state 46%, and the nation 43.8%.

#### **Median Household Income:**

Between 2016 and 2020 Talladega median household income increased 3.5% from \$29,074 to \$30,088 which was lower than Talladega County, which grew 15.9% from \$37,23 to \$43,969. Meanwhile, Alabama increased in median household income 13% from \$44,758 to \$50,536 and the U.S. reported a 17.5% climb from \$53,322 to \$64,994.

**Assessment:** Household income, for Talladega, rated much lower than Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S.

### **Commuting Patterns**

**Place of Work:** Between 2016 and 2020 Talladega showed a decline in commuters living and working in the city, going from 59.3% to 50.6%; however, in 2020, the city showed a markedly higher portion of commuters working in their place of residence compared to the county at 20.4% and a slightly higher portion compared to the state (44.3%) and nation at 42.6%. Talladega showed slightly more (71.5%) commuters who live and work in the city or in Talladega County in contrast to those who live in somewhere else in the county and work and live in their respective community or somewhere else in the same county at 63.5%. Both Alabama and the U.S. at 76% reported somewhat higher county commuting trends in comparison to Talladega in 2020. This information indicates that proportionately fewer commuters in Talladega seek employment opportunities out-of-county at 25.7% compared to those in Talladega County 35.2%; Alabama at 24.2%, and the U.S. at 24.5% show similar proportions, meaning that the city has been adequately providing jobs for resident workers.

**Travel Time to Work:** Mean travel time to work information for Talladega, between 2016 and 2020, records average travel time increasing slightly from 17.7 minutes to 21.9 minutes while Talladega County increased from 25.0 minutes to 25.4 minutes, and Alabama climbed slightly from 24.5 to 25.2. The U.S. reported a minor increase from 26.1 minutes to 26.9 for comparison.



**Assessment:** Talladega has more commuters working in their place of residence and a lower mean travel time to work compared to Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S.

### Labor Force Participation and Unemployment

**Labor Force Participation:** Between 2016 and in 2020, the city's labor force decreased by -5.4%, while the county decreased by 1.5%, the state grew by 1.0%, and the nation grew by 3.2%. Also, between 2016 and 2020 the portion of the city's population, age 16 and older, in the labor force fell from 45.7% to 42.9% while the county dropped slightly from 53.9% to 52.9%, the state declined from 57.9% to 57.6%, as the nation grew from 63.1% to 63.4%.

**Unemployment:** From 2016 to 2020 the city decreased in unemployment by -46.1%, while the county dropped slightly less by -43.1%, the state by -33.3%, and the nation by -27.7%. During this time Talladega decreased in the portion of unemployed people in the civilian labor force from 8.9% to 4.8%, as Talladega County fell from 6.5% to 3.7%, and Alabama and the U.S. from 5% to 3%.

**Assessment:** Talladega's labor force participation and unemployment rated deficiently compared with Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S.

### Occupational Status

Between 2016 and 2020, the city's largest increase in occupations was in Service occupations, which grew by 36.0% while the county saw a change of 15.3% The state increased in this occupation by 0.6% and the nation 1.2%. The city, at this time, also reported decline in Sales and Office and Management/Business-related professions, both declining by -13.7% as the county reported at -9.4% and -0.5%, the state -6.7% and 10.3%, and the nation -5.8% and 12.4%, respectively.

**Assessment:** Talladega reported significantly higher portions of Production/Transportation occupations compared to Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S. indicating more blue-collar occupations than white collar.

### Industrial Composition

**Change in Industry (2016-2020):** From 2016 to 2020, the city grew in most industries, with the largest growth in Agriculture at 80%. Comparatively, the county (-4.1%), state (-8.6%), and nation (-6.5%) all reported decline in this category. Talladega experienced slight decline in Transportation/Information at -2.0% and Services/Public Administration at -6.6%. Talladega County (27.1% and 4.2%) and Alabama (4.2% and 4.2%) both sustained growth in these industrial sectors. The U.S. reported a loss of -15.2% in Transportation/Information, but growth of 6.0% in Services/Public Administration.



**Industrial Composition 2020:** In 2020, the city's single largest industrial sector was in Services/Public Administration accounting for nearly half (46.5%) of the city's economy while the county had similar reports of 45.0%. The state and nation have slightly higher representation in the sector of Services/Public Administration at 51.0% and 53.9%. The second largest industrial sector in the city is Manufacturing/Construction which makes up another large portion (32.5%) of the city's economy, while in comparison the county (26.8%), state (20.9%), and nation (16.7%) report lower representation in this sector. Transportation/Information recorded a smaller portion in the city (3.0%) than in the county at 8.4%, the state at 7.0%, and the nation at 5.7%.

**Assessment:** Talladega showed higher portions of manufacturing industries and less in Agriculture and FIRE.

### **Poverty Status**

**Individual Poverty:** Between 2016 and 2020, the city increased in individual poverty from 26.4% of the total population to 27.0%, while the county dropped from 20.8% to 17.8%, the state dropped from 18.4% to 16.0%, and the nation from 15.1% to 12.8%.

**Family Poverty:** The city decreased slightly in family poverty, during this time, dropping from 23.5% to 23.3%, as the county fell from 16.5% to 14.7%, the state from 14% to 11.6%, and the nation from 11.0% to 9.1%.

**Assessment:** Talladega reported higher poverty levels, in individuals and families, than in Talladega County, Alabama, and the U.S.



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## **CHAPTER 9: STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Strategic Planning has many broad definitions and applications and may be used at discretion in a wide variety of organizational fields and practices to formulate the goals, objectives, strategies, and projects needed in achieving a desired result or state. The term “strategic” according to Webster’s Dictionary is, “skill in managing or planning” and the related term “stratify” means “to form in layers or strata”. Together these definitions emphasize a skilled planning and management process conducted through a series of steps, or layers, which build upon each other.

### **Origin and History of Strategic Planning**

The term “strategic” is derived from the Greek word “Strategos” which literally means “General of the army” or the art of the general. In traditional Greek society, on an annual basis, each of the ten ancient Greek tribes elected a Strategos to serve as its leader in war council and in combat. The Strategos would give “strategic” advice to the political ruler about managing battles to win wars rather than “tactical” advice about managing troops. Most of the leaders the Greeks elected eventually rose to positions of substantial power such as politicians or generals of the tribes. In time, the Strategos' job would also include civil magisterial duties largely due to their status as elected officials.

For strategic planning the focus should remain on outcomes and secondly a method or strategy to achieve the envisioned outcomes. In more recent endeavors, strategic planning has been associated much more with businesses at competition with each other rather than with countries at war and the resulting effects being business gain or loss rather than saving or losing human lives. In the early 1920s, Harvard Business School developed the Harvard Policy Model which defined “strategy” as a pattern of purposes and policies defining the company and its business. From this model and definition, a business firm weaves purposes and policies in a pattern that unites company resources, management, market information, and social obligations.

However, by the late 1950s this focus shifted away from organizational policy and structure toward risk management, industry growth, and market share, which was called the “portfolio model”. In the late 1950s and early 1960s strategic planning commenced in the public sector when the U.S. Department of Defense began seeking better and more useful means to plan for long-term needs and at the same time achieve cost savings. The result was the advent of the Planning-Programming-Budgeting-System (PPBS) which used strategic planning to improve federal government operations by establishing long-range planning goals and objectives regarding projected budgets and appropriations. Many states (as well as local governments) followed suit with this new strategic planning approach to create a long-term plan to guide city improvements and growth and development in a manner consistent with a clearly defined mission and accompanying goals, objectives, and strategies.



Since the late 1950s various states have been involved in state-wide strategic planning. In 1997 the Council of State Governments examined models of state-wide strategic planning efforts in Utah, Oregon, Minnesota, Florida, Texas, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and Michigan and found that each state's strategic planning process contained unique characteristics. For example, Oregon created a model called "Oregon Benchmarks" in 1989 through a process involving hundreds of citizens and policy makers to develop a multi-year strategic plan along with an Oregon Progress Board to maintain, revise, and oversee implementation of the plan well into the future. As another example, Minnesota produced a significant 30-year state-wide strategic plan in 1991 titled "Minnesota Milestones" involving input from thousands of citizens and monitored, in this instance, by the Minnesota Planning Division. The plan contains a vision for the state along with goals and milestones to measure progress. The plan is based on realistic ideas such as: 1) What gets measured tends to get done, 2) If you don't measure results, you can't tell success from failure, 3) If you can't recognize success, you can't reward it, and 4) If you can't recognize failure you can't learn from it.

Today strategic planning is conducted for many organizations, agencies, companies, and levels of government. However, for a plan to truly be "strategic" the original meaning and focus must not be missed, that is the sight must remain on the "big picture" to attain an outcome (win the war) and not on "tactics" (managing troops), those pieces involved in getting there.

Strategic Planning—"an organization's process of defining its strategy, or direction, and making decisions on allocating its resources to pursue this strategy." *Wikipedia*.

Strategic Planning—"a systematic process of envisioning a desired future, and translating this vision into broadly defined goals or objectives and a sequence of steps to achieve them." *BusinessDictionary.com*

Strategic Planning—"is an organizational management activity that is used to set priorities, focus energy and resources, strengthen operations, ensure that employees and other stakeholders are working toward common goals, establish agreement around intended outcomes/results, and assess and adjust the organization's direction in response to a changing environment." *Balanced Scorecard Institute*.

One common thread in the definitions is that strategic planning is a process, sequence of steps, or activity used to meet a common goal or vision. The strategic planning strategy may be useful to an organization or agency to "connect the dots" for achieving a result where the lines themselves are unclear, as Henry Mintzberg, an internationally renowned academic and author on business and management states about strategy formation. Mintzberg explains that strategic planning, "dot connecting" is an inherently creative activity, which cannot be



systematized. In other words, strategic planning can assist in coordinating planning efforts and measure progress on strategic goals, but it must occur “around” the strategy formation process rather than within it, as systemization dictates. Systemization is a rigid and unyielding framework which must be based entirely in the system operated in. The strategic planning process must provide a framework in which to work, but it also must be flexible enough to adequately respond to and accommodate changes of ideas or functionality which may often occur. This “around” type of strategic planning shall be further described and exemplified later in this chapter.

### **Strategic Planning Process**

The purpose of this chapter is to provide guidance and direction through the strategic planning process. The Comprehensive Plan then uses this strategic planning to formulate the goals, objectives, strategies, and projects needed to achieve a community vision of the city’s desired future, which are described and discussed in the subsequent chapters. The strategic planning process is organized into a series of five steps which constitute the following:

- Inventory and Analysis—gathering Census data and building a City Profile on population, economic, and housing information, conducting community surveys, mapping, and receiving public views and opinions on assets and issues affecting community growth and development.
- Visioning Process—Establishment of a community approved “Mission Statement”. The mission statement is conceptually an ideal future state for a community.
- Goals and Objectives—Establishment of goals, objectives, strategies, and projects which agree with, support, and advance the community vision and mission. Goals and objectives should be prioritized at this stage as well.
- Implementation—Establishment of implementation tables which lists specific projects and strategies along Stages with their respective timeframes for completion. The implementation portion also identifies implementing agencies, potential partners, and funding sources, and discusses past efforts in working toward project and strategy completion. Project prioritization should also be conducted at this stage.
- Evaluation—Establishment of action plan/evaluation tables listing projects and strategies along with their respective completion status. Evaluation should be conducted during the planning process and updated periodically after the plan is complete.

Along with the stages involved, the strategic planning process acknowledges the need to inquire of necessary information to determine what is being searched for and to focus efforts. Therefore, specific questions have been posed at each stage, tailored to gather the information and ideas needed at every point and in the subsequent stages of the process, thus keeping with “skilled planning” and building upon or “stratifying” upon previous work.



The following lists the stages of the strategic planning process and questions posed at each stage.

1. Inventory and Analysis—Where Are We Now?
2. Visioning Process—Where Do We Want to Be?
3. Goals and Objectives—How Will We Get There?
4. Implementation—How Will We Get There? (Same as Goals and Objectives)
5. Evaluation—How Will We Measure Progress?

Figure SPP-1 displays the strategic planning process stages along with inquiries at each stage and the tasks involved at each stage. Notice how these stages build upon each other in a “stratifying” fashion. This chapter on strategic planning shall provide a review of the information already collected and analyzed in the Inventory and Analysis (Chapters on Population, Economy, Housing, Community Facilities, Transportation, and Land Use) section of the plan, with a discussion of the most significant findings in the community, and then proceed with establishing a Mission Statement for the community. This shall answer the questions: Where Are We Now? And Where Do We Want to Be? The remaining questions and stages shall be discussed in the following Chapters (Goals and Objectives, Implementation, and Evaluation).



Strategic planning may function reasonably well in the previously described method; however, Mintzberg explains that strategic planning cannot be systematized and that it must occur “around” the strategy formation process rather than within it. Thus, planning may occur at various stages at once to provide more flexibility for ideas and functionality throughout. For example, a community may have established community projects and strategies for implementation before its goals and objectives and mission statement are created. This may be allowed; however, the goals, objectives, strategies, and projects must agree with and serve to advance the mission statement established. Ideally, the strategic planning process should be conducted sequentially along the stages given, however, the final product of the strategic plan is what counts, not necessarily the process itself.



## **Inventory and Analysis**

The purpose of the inventory and analysis stage is to collect and analyze data and community input to establish a foundation upon which the plan shall make informed decisions for goals, objectives, strategies, and projects, and form benchmarks upon which community progress is measured. Products produced in this beginning phase include the following:

- SWOT Analysis
- Significant Findings from the U.S. Census and ACS
- Talladega 2023 Community Facilities Survey
- Talladega Land Use Visioning Session
- City of Talladega Community Survey and Visioning
- Summary of Community Survey and Visioning Results (Available in Appendices)

### **SWOT Analysis**

The Talladega SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) Analysis was conducted in Planning Commission meetings and at a public hearing in Summer 2022. Talladega City Council, the Planning Commission, and residents were in attendance to offer their views and opinions of the city's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Figure SP-2 shows the results of the SWOT analysis from these meetings.

A significant strength identified is Talladega's Historic District; the city is rich in history that is ripe to be celebrated and promoted. The city's educational environment was also highlighted as a considerable strength, with the historic college and AIDB being a huge academic and cultural asset to the city. Building demolition was specified as an area of opportunity for the city. Participants in the SWOT analysis overall expressed a major strength being the community offerings, such as events and facilities. In addition, youth programming was cited as an important opportunity moving forward; investing in the youth can spark opportunities and increase the quality of life for all residents, while also increasing the retention of families to the city.

Weaknesses and threats to Talladega were also discussed. Participants in the SWOT felt a considerable weakness and threat was crime. Dilapidated buildings were noted as a concerning weakness. Another threat cited was the city's loss of revenue to neighboring cities. Other weaknesses to the community were perceived as the junior/high school and a lack of youth activities.



# S

## STRENGTHS

- Commerce City
- Good connectivity
- Histroic Districts
- College Campus
- Central AL community college
- AIDB
- Racetrack
- Block parties
- Christmas on the Sqaure
- Good parks and recreation
- Good local grass root organizations

# W

## WEAKNESSES

- School (Junior/high)
- Old dilpaidated buildings
- Crime
- Lack of youth activities

# O

## OPPORTUNITIES

- Demolish old buildings
- Create more awareness (parenting guidance)
- Youth development programs
- Boys & Girls Scout club programming
- Local arts and thatre

# T

## THREATS

- Crime- youth
- Losing all revenue to neighboring cities



## **CHAPTER 10: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **Mission Statement**

For any community to thrive and prosper, there needs to be a vision for the future. The mission statement describes what the city is doing to attain its established vision and why it is doing that. Talladega's mission statement reads as follows:

"Enlisting with our diverse community to achieve an inclusive, vibrant, and sustainable future offering an outstanding quality of life, education, and public safety for all generations."

Personal citizen mission statements were also collected as a part of the visioning process:

- "To strive for a crime-free environment, and for growth as a city and financially."
- "The time is ripe to propel Talladega into the next generation."
- "Future forward city.... future forward community for all generations."
- "More attractive, safe community with more job opportunities for the community."
- "Diverse, inclusive, outstanding, quality of life...Atlanta/Mayberry feeling."
- "We strive to be a welcoming and diverse community that provides a variety of opportunities for our residents to be successful, enjoy life, enjoy the outdoors, and understand the importance of education, the environment, and community teamwork."
- "Embrace our history and move forward to a healthy and prosperous future."

To achieve its mission, Talladega needs to establish appropriate goals and objectives, a means of attaining those goals and objectives, and a methodology to evaluate progress. This chapter identifies goals, objectives, strategies, and projects for planning and guiding city improvements, growth, and expansion. Since the city possesses limited resources for improvements, not every goal, objective, strategy, and project in this chapter of the Comprehensive Plan may be accomplished, rather the overall purpose of this chapter is to list and describe practical and achievable planning guidance and principals for properly maintaining city resources and preparing the community for future growth and development. The following implementation chapter lists and describes specific projects and strategies which the city plans to pursue and accomplish within given timeframes for completion along with a discussion of implementing agencies and potential partners and funding sources for further assistance.



## **Goal-Setting Process**

In March of 2022, the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission (EARPDC) and the Talladega Planning Commission began work on the Talladega Comprehensive Plan with a kickoff meeting including the City Council and Planning Commission. The first public hearing was conducted in August 2022 in which the planning process was introduced, and the public SWOT was performed. From this analysis, the EARPDC and the planning commission formed a basis in which to identify community needs and in determining goals and objectives. EARPDC and the planning commission then met on a monthly to bi-monthly basis as needed to establish and prioritize goals and objectives, determine projects for implementation, and to subsequently generate a future land use plan and map to guide land use and development.

## **Definitions**

### **Goals**

Goals in this chapter have been identified with the purpose of promoting community vision, through considerably broad-based perspectives. The definition of a “goal” in accordance with [businessdictionary.com](https://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/goal.html) is, “an observable and measurable end result having one or more objectives to be achieved with a more or less fixed timeframe.”

### **Objectives**

Objectives define, in more specified terms, how goals are to be accomplished. The definition of objectives as described by [businessdictionary.com](https://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/objective.html) is, “A specific result that a person or system aims to achieve within a time frame and with available resources.” As a general understanding, objectives are basic tools that underlie all planning and strategic activities and serve as a basis for creating policy and evaluating performance. While goals are often broad-based in nature, objectives are more specific and easier to measure. Goals usually have long-term and possibly continuous timeframes, while objectives function as a series of smaller, shorter-term steps needed along the way toward goal completion and continuation. For example, a common goal in planning might be to enhance economic development throughout the community, while an objective for this goal may be to redevelop the downtown. Although downtown redevelopment by itself will not enhance economic development throughout the community, it does serve in making progress toward the goal of enhancing economic development on a community-wide scale. Goals express broad actions directed at the community level, while objectives express more specific actions, addressing how to attain the goal and directed at specific places, organizations, or other entities within the city. In other words, goals answer the question of what is going to be done, while objectives answer who is



going to do it and how. Objectives may also address where the goal shall be accomplished, if applicable, and when the goal shall begin and be completed as to a particular timeframe.

## **Projects/Strategies**

These actions are specifically defined, applicable, practical, and measurable steps to be performed or activated throughout the implementation process. Such projects/strategies are to be understood as viable actions working for goal attainment and thus are substantially more specified than goals and objectives. Projects are defined as actual and tangible “on-the-ground” activities, such as conducting a road repaving project, planting trees in the downtown, installing new water lines, or building/expanding city hall while strategies are specific and measurable tasks, such as hiring a new position on city staff, conducting a survey, purchasing equipment, or creating a downtown revitalization plan. Projects and strategies have been listed in this chapter to identify the goals and objectives they support and serve as candidates for consideration but prioritized as actual planned actions for completion and evaluated accordingly in the Chapter 11: Implementation and Evaluation.

## **Rationale**

The rationale or importance for any given goals, objectives, strategies, and projects is explained under the subheading entitled as such. Rationale can be justified through significant findings in statistical analysis, community survey, or as an established community priority.

## **Additional Recommendations**

Additional recommendations are advocated as useful and complementary implementation tools which may enhance projects and strategies.

## **Notation**

Additional notes which describe and/or explain current work and progress in relation to a specific strategy or project.

The goals and objectives listed below, in no order of priority, as well as their respective strategies and projects have been established by the City of Talladega. However, due to limited human and financial resources, the city acknowledges that not all the goals, objectives, projects, and strategies listed in this section may be realized and implemented but could if circumstance permits. Therefore, the next chapter on implementation will draw, from this chapter, the projects, and strategies that the city submits to plan for and implement accordingly.



**Land Use**

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To promote planning, Talladega must utilize the appropriate city departments and local groups to identify existing residential, commercial, and industrial areas with substantial maintenance needs and make plans to provide the appropriate maintenance. The City must also utilize the appropriate departments and groups to determine growth policies, recognize associated opportunities, and direct new development on a course beneficial to the city.

**Goal 1:** Promote and Enhance Planning and Zoning by Developing the Underutilized Land within the City that is Served by Existing Infrastructure

**Objective 1:** Promote high-quality infill development

**Projects/Strategies:** Designate land for residential development on the Future Land Use Map in the Comprehensive Plan and plan city growth accordingly

**Goal 2:** Promote Mixed Use Development and Connect to the Existing Developed Areas

**Objective 1:** Promote pedestrian activity

**Projects/Strategies:** -Activate Talladega Square and Battle Street

-Designate special districts like activity centers and promote multiple uses in proximity to each other

**Goal 3:** Promote Cluster Development around the Talladega College Campus Area to Enhance Walkability

**Objective 1:** Encourage physical links to the Square and Battle Street

**Projects/Strategies:** Encourage campus development in a traditional neighborhood design with buildings in the core and edges for parking and other facilities

**Goal 4:** Guide Development with the Smart Growth Development Policies

**Objective 1:** Create a livable city and preserve the open space and natural areas

**Projects/Strategies:** Use the ten principles to guide future development and make Talladega more livable, diverse, and economically viable

**Goal 5:** Create a Sense of Place and Vibrant City

**Objective 1:** Encourage street-oriented design

**Projects/Strategies:** Encourage all new redevelopment in downtown to be oriented to the street using form-based code and parking behind



Objective 2: Support and promote downtown/square nightlife

Projects/Strategies: Appropriate standards should be enforced, and thriving nightlife can retain and attract youth

Objective 3: Enhance gateways

Projects/Strategies: -Gateways should mark the entrance to the city from all directions and brand the downtown

-Promote wayfinding signages that are ADA-compliant to provide accurate and easy directions

Objective 4: Preserve the historic areas of the city

Projects/Strategies: Promote Talladega's unique heritage and restore it to foster the history of the community

Objective 5: Encourage adaptive reuse

Projects/Strategies: Appropriate design guidelines should be enforced and encourage mixed use

Objective 6: Adopt new zoning standards and districts

Projects/Strategies: -Create new mixed-use districts consistent with the future and use map

- Promote and rezone parcels with form-based code for the downtown areas to enhance the traditional neighborhood design

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## **Transportation**

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To promote and enhance transportation, Talladega needs to provide basic maintenance of existing streets and highways. The City should plan for and prioritize road maintenance projects throughout the community in accordance to needs and available funding.

**Goal 1:** Promote and Enhance Alternative Forms of Transportation, such as Walking or Biking

Objective 1: Retrofit streets and sidewalks to encourage walkability, adding pedestrian amenities such as lighting, streetscape, crosswalks, and on-street parking

Objective 2: Implement bike lanes and bike racks to facilitate bicycle transportation

Objective 3: Add and upgrade existing sidewalks to have sufficient width, buffering, continuity, connectivity, and ADA compliance and accessibility

**Goal 2:** Promote and Enhance Transportation throughout the City by Properly Maintaining and Beautifying Existing Roadways and Walkways

Objective 1: Promote a Clean Streets initiative and engage citizens in cleanup efforts

Objective 2: Improve Street and roadway conditions through paving or repaving projects and implementing an infrastructure maintenance schedule

Objective 3: Identify safety concerns and issues for improvement

**Goal 3:** Develop a Plan to Implement a Public Transportation System in the City

Objective 1: Examine financing options (ex. public finance, public subsidy, raised revenue, private investment, grants)

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**Community Facilities | Parks and Recreation**

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The City of Talladega strives to provide quality community facilities and services for residents and visitors to the city. In order to promote and enhance important community facilities and services, the City should determine and meet priority maintenance for existing facilities and service needs and identify future priority facilities and services needed for growth and expansion.

**Goal 1:** Enhance the Quality of Life

Objective 1: Enhance the assets that make the City of Talladega a unique and desirable place to live while solidifying the identity of the city

Objective 2: Target crime prevention across the city

**Goal 2:** Enhance and Promote Recreation and Entertainment

Objective 1: Provide social and recreational programs for all age groups of the city's population

Projects/Strategies: -Promote existing recreational offerings

-Develop activities and programs for the city's youth year-round

Objective 2: Connect walkways to parks and recreations facilities to provide linkage throughout the city

Projects/Strategies: Beautify and maintain existing walkways

**Goal 3:** Promote and Enhance Community Facilities and Services in a Manner which Maintains Existing Facilities and Services and Prepares the City for Future Growth and Expansion

Objective 1: Improve and enhance city administration and public safety

Objective 2: Improve and enhance parks and recreation

Objective 3: Improve and enhance Senior Citizen facilities and programs

Objective 4: Improve and enhance healthcare services while increasing availability

Objective 5: Identify underutilized buildings and facilities within the city that could be used for recreational and social programming



Housing is a vitally important element in every community in meeting residents' needs. A well-planned community will have a variety and substantial mix of housing choices available such as single-family, multi-family, and manufactured homes, maintained in good condition, as well as quality affordable housing. The City shall also make plans and policies to preserve housing values and increase its housing stock in appropriate residential areas.

**Goal 1:** Maintain and Strengthen the City's Existing Housing Stock

Objective 1: Preserve and improve the quality and quantity of the existing housing stock through the renovation, rehabilitation, and/or expansion of existing units as a means of enhancing neighborhood stability

Projects/Strategies: -Create tax relief programs to accommodate the housing needs of low-income households, seniors, and those with disabilities;

-Home improvement program that provides tax exemptions as an incentive for residents to renovate or expand the size of their residences

-Utilize housing demolition, including demolition programs, to address dilapidated housing stock

**Goal 2:** Promote and Encourage New Housing Development in Strategic Areas Well Suited for Residential Growth

Objective 1: Promote housing options to accommodate both renters and owners at all price points, including workforce housing and housing for the homeless

Projects/Strategies: -Incorporate affordable units throughout the city, addressing missing middle housing

-Encourage creation of new, onsite, affordable housing as a part of rezoning

-Address and enhance infrastructure to enable additional housing

**Goal 3:** Use Sustainability Principles

Objective 1: Offer a wide range of choices that are integrated and balanced across the City to meet multiple goals including:

Projects/Strategies: increased sustainability, walkability, bikeability, use of public transit, and sustained local commerce

Objective 2: Encourage adaptive reuse of properties for housing



Objective 3: Encourage the incorporation of Green sustainable principles (e.g. LEED) in all housing development to the maximum extent feasible both as a way to be more sustainable and to lower housing costs

## **Economic Development**

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The City of Talladega desires economic growth and prosperity, strengthening existing businesses while attracting new business to the community. The City strives to grow economically and promote and enhance economic development in the downtown area as well as along major roadways throughout the city.

**Goal 1:** Maintain and Strengthen Existing Business throughout the Community

Objective 1: City to Maintain and Strengthen Existing Business by Providing and Maintaining an Attractive, Healthy, and Thriving Business Environment While Remaining Responsive and Adaptive

**Goal 2:** Promote and Encourage Expansion of Existing Business in the Community and Provide a Means for Proper and Efficient Business Growth and Development

Objective 1: Support businesses by improving infrastructure and land use policies

Objective 2: Implement a program to identify and dispose of vacant and abandoned buildings to provide open space for new and expanding business

**Goal 3:** Attract and Recruit New Business to the Community and Provide Proper and Efficient Methods to Accommodate and Expand New Enterprises.

Objective 1: Develop plans and policies to make new business location and start-ups convenient and affordable

Projects/Strategies: Provide incentives (i.e. tax reductions and reduced start up fees)

Objective 2: Market Talladega as a premiere location for new business and educational opportunities

**Goal 4:** Enhance Tourism in and around the city

Objective 1: Enhance display and communication regarding city activities, accomplishments, and offerings

Objective 2: Highlight area attractions and the history of Talladega

Projects/Strategies: -Utilize and revitalize the Silk-Stocking District



-Maintain and enhance accessibility and offerings for disabled visitors (AIDB)



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## **CHAPTER 11: IMPLEMENTATION & EVALUATION**

The previous chapter, goals, objectives, strategies, and projects have been presented and described for planning guidance and consideration in forming public policy and plans for the next 10 years. Goals, objectives, strategies, and projects originate from good planning principles and practices, however, attributable to the community's limited resources and time constraints, not every single goal and objective, along with their respective projects and strategies will be implemented and realized. Therefore, implementation, as this chapter presents, strives to identify and select projects and strategies from the goals and objectives which are important to the city and which the city plans to effectively implement. The tables in this chapter list the projects and strategies that the city plans to implement along with timeframes within which the city plans to conduct and complete each project/strategy. These timeframes are as follows: Immediate, Short-term, Mid-term, Long-term, and Future Consideration. The tables also show the years each timeframe encompasses. Some projects/strategies may incorporate multiple timeframes through which they will be conducted and finalized.

The purpose of this chapter is to identify some of the optional strategies and resources at the disposal of local governments to implement the general recommendations of this plan. The proposed implementation schedules are intended to serve as a general organizational strategy for plan implementation. Although specific timeframes are identified for each recommended action, actual implementation may occur under different time frames and under varying methodologies, as may be dictated by financial constraints or competing needs and priorities. This chapter also provides action plans/evaluation tables to assist city administration in tracking project progress toward completion on a yearly basis.

Successful implementation spans the work of many people and often requires the cooperative action of multiple entities, some of which may have varying degrees of commitment to and responsibility for the success of the planning effort. Other common obstacles to successful plan implementation include funding constraints, insufficient access to needed technical support and resources, and conflicting interpretations of problems and needs. All these impediments, to some degree, are relevant to comprehensive planning implementation.

This comprehensive plan acknowledges that the City of Talladega has limited resources and competing planning priorities. However, city administration has sufficient technical expertise and capacity to react quickly to the complex issues affecting the city. This plan also recognizes that the city must depend upon the cooperation of other independent boards and agencies to implement those aspects of the plan that the city cannot directly control. Talladega must respond to a wide range of changing needs, all of which must be considered when



determining priorities for local action. It is difficult to foresee the critical issues that will arise tomorrow, but the comprehensive plan is useful in guiding and directing policy toward a more sustainable community. The city must retain the ability to establish its own priorities in any given year to satisfy its own needs. As a result, full implementation of this plan will not happen quickly and may take longer to achieve than initially expected.

## **City Administration**

The City of Talladega has a part-time Mayor, full-time City Manager, and full-time support staff to handle the city's daily administrative needs. The administrative staff can utilize the comprehensive plan as a general guide for coordinating expansion of the city's public facilities and services to address future growth needs. However, it must be recognized that due to the city's size and complexity, the administrative staff's capacity to fully monitor and implement the plan is somewhat constrained. Support and assistance from every level of city government will be needed to ensure that the policies and programs recommended by the plan are implemented. The city can also seek assistance from support agencies-such as the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission, and USDA Rural Development for technical assistance in implementing the goals and objectives of the plan.

## **Codes and Ordinances**

Basic local development codes include zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, and building codes. These codes and regulations help local governments manage growth and development and are important local tools to support plan implementation efforts. Local governments can and do adopt other special ordinances to address specific community needs, but such ordinances may require special legislation to implement. This section discusses in detail those development codes that municipalities are authorized to adopt and implement under existing state law.

### **Zoning**

Zoning ordinances are adopted by local governments to control the location, intensity, and character of land uses in the community. They also help communities prevent conflicts between neighboring property owners resulting from land development activities, and they help protect the public from any excessive environmental impacts that may result from private development activities. Local governments derive their zoning powers from the state through the Code of Alabama (Title 11, Chapter 52, Article 4). The primary purpose of local zoning ordinances is to promote public health, safety, and general welfare by fostering coordinated land development in accordance with the comprehensive plan. Adopting a



zoning ordinance is an effective means of implementing land use and development recommendations contained in the comprehensive plan. Zoning ordinances adopted by local governments must be prepared in accordance with a comprehensive plan, as required under Title 11, Chapter 52, Section 72 of the Code of Alabama, 1975.

### **Subdivision Regulations**

While zoning ordinances control the nature and intensity of land uses, subdivision regulations govern how land is divided in preparation for development. Subdivision regulations contain standards for subdivision design, lot layout, and the placement and construction of public facilities within subdivisions. Although most subdivisions in small communities are residential in nature, the regulations should be developed to also address commercial or industrial subdivisions.

Municipal governments in Alabama are authorized to adopt and enforce subdivision regulations under Title 11, Chapter 52, Section 31 of the Code of Alabama, 1975. The Code further authorizes cities to enforce their local subdivision regulations within a planning jurisdiction in the surrounding unincorporated areas, up to five miles beyond the city limits. In the East Alabama region, many municipalities exercising their extraterritorial subdivision powers do so only within their police jurisdiction boundaries, which may be either 1.5 or 3 miles from the city limits.

### **Building Codes**

Local building codes establish basic minimum construction standards for buildings, including homes and commercial and industrial buildings. The purpose of a building code is to ensure quality development and protect public safety. By adopting building codes, local governments can require developers and contractors to secure building permits before undertaking construction activities. Applicants for building permits also can be required to provide evidence that they have received County Health Department approval for on-site septic systems, thereby providing an effective mechanism to ensure compliance with local health regulations. Cities and counties in Alabama are authorized, under Title 41, Chapter 9, Section 166 of the Code of Alabama, 1975, to adopt minimum building standards that have been adopted by the Alabama Building Commission.

### **Partnerships, Financing, and other Resources**

Financial constraints and planning assistance can be some of the greatest obstacles to plan implementation in communities. Many communities must wait for funding to become available in its entirety before a plan or project can be implemented and have no expertise or guidance in planning. Talladega must actively continue its efforts to secure outside financial



support and assistance for plan implementation to meet its goals and objectives to prepare for growth and development and to promote its community vision for the future. Several financial assistance and partnership sources exist to help communities in terms of planning and development. The most significant sources are listed as follows:

- 1. Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA):** The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs was created in 1983 by the Alabama Legislature as an arm of the Governor’s Office, created to streamline and professionalize the management of a few federally funded programs administered by the state. Consolidating numerous agencies into a single department considerably reduced administrative costs and ensured more effective and efficient implementation and enforcement of federal requirements for monitoring, reporting, and auditing. ADECA is composed of seven divisions and various support sections constituting—1) Communications and Information, 2) Community and Economic Development, 3) Energy, 4) Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety, 5) Office of Water Resources, 6) Surplus Property, and 7) Support Sections. One of the most widely used ADECA divisions, by communities, is Community and Economic Development. The Community and Economic Development Division provides the following program areas:

  - Community Development Programs—probably the most well-known program is the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) which provides funding to improve communities in various areas through the following funds:
  - Competitive Fund—which provides funding for projects such as water and sewer line rehabilitation and extension, housing rehabilitation, neighborhood and downtown revitalization, street, and drainage improvements.
  - Community Enhancement Fund—which provides funding assistance for fire protection, senior citizen centers, community centers, Boys & Girls clubs, and recreational facilities.
  - Planning Fund—provides funding to eligible communities to conduct planning activities to promote orderly growth, regional development, and revitalization efforts.
  - Economic Development Fund—provides funding to all eligible communities for projects that support the creation and retention of jobs.
  - Note: Communities seeking funding assistance through the CDBG Program should demonstrate 51% low to moderate income (LMI) in the community for planning grants and 51% LMI for project areas pertaining to proposed projects.



- Community Service Block Grants—assists low-income Alabama residents in gaining employment, education, and many other skills.
  - Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)—seeks to fund projects and programs to create new jobs, spur economic development, build roads and infrastructure, advance education, and promote wellness in central and north Alabama
  - Community Stabilization Program—established to provide funding assistance with the purpose of stabilizing communities that have suffered from foreclosures and abandonment.
  - Disaster Recovery—funds which may be allocated after federally declared disasters and used for activities such as replacement or repair of infrastructure and housing damage resulting from the declared disaster.
  - Alabama Enterprise Zones—provides tax incentives to corporations, partnerships, and proprietorships that locate or expand within designated Enterprise Zones.
  - Recreational Trails Program (RTP)—provides funding assistance to federal agencies, states, local governments and nonprofit organizations for the development and improvement of recreational trails.
  - Alabama Advantage—provides information for people looking to relocate or retire in Alabama.
  - Emergency Shelter Grant Program—grant funding is used to upgrade existing homeless facilities and domestic abuse shelters.
  - Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)—administers grants funding walking and exercise trails, playgrounds, tennis and basketball courts, soccer fields, baseball and softball diamonds, and other outdoor areas that improve communities.
- 2. Connecting ALABAMA:** Connecting ALABAMA is a multi-year initiative promoting the availability and adoption of broadband Internet access throughout the state. The initiative seeks to identify and leverage all available funding sources for both demand and supply side programs. Demand-side initiatives are designed to advance healthcare, education, agriculture, and other economic development opportunities and may require non-traditional funding, while supply-side initiatives for infrastructure development and service delivery in rural areas may require non-commercial sources of funding such as government and foundation grants. The Connecting ALABAMA website at: [www. connectingalabama.gov](http://www.connectingalabama.gov) contains a link to the Federal Funding Manual which serves as a guide to federal programs useful to communities seeking



federal funds to deploy, use, or benefit from telecommunications networks and technologies. Other grant opportunities for the advancement and financing of telecommunication infrastructure and technology include:

- USDA's Rural Utilities Service—which provides programs to finance rural America's telecommunications infrastructure.
- The Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program (DLT)—which utilizes loans and grants and loan/grant combinations to meet educational and health care needs in rural areas throughout the country.
- The Community Connect Grant Program—offers financial assistance to eligible applicants to install and expand broadband in unserved areas with the goals of enhancing public safety services and fostering economic growth.

**3. Alabama Power Company Economic and Community Development:** Alabama Power provides reliable electricity supply, at competitive prices, to approximately 1.4 million homes, businesses, and industries in the southern two-thirds of Alabama. The Alabama Power Company, through their department of Economic and Community Development provides services for economic development in the following areas 1) Building and Site Evaluation, 2) Labor Force Analysis, 3) Electrical Services, 4) Transportation/Logistics Analysis, and 5) Alabama Tax and Incentive Analysis. The department also offers services in community development through the following programs: 1) Advantage Site Program, 2) Industrial Site Development Program (ISDP), 3) Speculative Building Program, and 4) ACE (Alabama Communities of Excellence) Program, which uses strategic community planning in forming goals and plans for the community's future.

**4. The Economic Development Administration (EDA):** EDA, established under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, was formed to help communities generate jobs, retain existing jobs, and stimulate industrial and commercial growth in economically distressed areas of the United States. In continuing its mission, EDA operates on the principal that distressed communities must be empowered to develop and implement their own economic development strategies. The communities in the East Alabama Region are recognized by EDA as part of an Economic Development District, which enables them to receive EDA grant funding for infrastructure improvements, which support projects used to create new local jobs. Investment programs provided by EDA include the following: Public Works and Economic Development Program, Economic Adjustment Assistance Program, Research and National Technical Assistance, Local Technical Assistance, Planning Program,



University Center Economic Development Program, Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms Program.

- 5. The East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission (EARPDC):**  
EARPDC offers revolving loan funds to provide gap financing for local businesses. The Commission provides matching funds to member governments that use the commission's services for planning projects, such as the preparation of comprehensive plans, strategic plans, land use plans, housing studies, zoning ordinances, and subdivision regulations as well as mapping services. The Commission also offers grant writing and administration services to member governments to secure funding for a wide variety of community projects and for community planning.
- 6. The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT):** which constructs new highways, offers special Transportation Enhancement Grants through the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, and runs a Safety Management Program.
- 7. The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC):** which provides special grants to restore local historic buildings and structures and assists in surveying historic properties and preparing applications for inclusion in the National Historic Register.
- 8. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM):** which helps finance public water extensions through a special low-interest loan fund and finances special water and sewer demonstration projects.
- 9. The Small Business Administration (SBA):** which provides technical assistance to entrepreneurs in rural areas through the local Small Business Development Centers.
- 10. U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA):** which offers a range of grant and loan programs to help finance housing improvement projects, economic development initiatives, infrastructure improvement projects, and city jail expansions and construction.
- 11. The local Community Action Agencies,** which conduct a wide range of programs to assist low- and moderate-income households throughout the rural areas, in such areas as heating assistance, Head Start, and weatherization programs.
- 12. The local Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) and Industrial Development Authorities (IDA),** which sponsor and finance economic development efforts and initiatives within their jurisdictions.



- 13. Alabama Power, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA):** and the Rural Electric Cooperatives (REC), which finance and provide technical assistance for a wide range of local economic development initiatives.
- 14. Rural Alabama Initiative (RAI):** is a grant program, funded by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and administered through the Economic and Community Development Institute (ECDI). ECDI has the mission to improve the quality of life of Alabama citizens by promoting continuing economic and community development policy and practice through communication, education, research, and community assistance. Through RAI the Institute provides a mechanism for rural communities to attain monetary assistance for community development goals. The main goal of RAI is to assist communities that seek economic prosperity and a better quality of life.
- 15. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):** offers grant and technical assistance to small communities through a variety of environmental preservation, protection, and education programs, fellowships, and research associateships. Grant programs administered under EPA include: The Brownfields Grant Program, Environmental Education Grants Program, Environmental Information Exchange Network Grant Program, Environmental Justice Grants Program, Environmental Justice through Pollution Prevention Program, National Center for Environmental Research, Pollution Prevention Incentives for States, Water Grants, and Watershed Funding.
- 16. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):** provides grants and technical assistance to small communities through a variety of emergency management, prevention, and education programs. Grant programs administered under FEMA include: The Buffer Zone Protection Program, Emergency Management Performance Grant, Homeland Security Grant Program, Intercity Bus Security Grant Program, Operation Stonegarden, Port Security Grant Program, Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program, Transit Security Grant Program, Trucking Security Grant Program, Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Non-profit Security Grant Program.
- 17. Alabama Clean Water Partnership (ACWP):** Alabama has more rivers, lakes, and groundwater than any other place in the country and is the richest state in the U.S. in terms of water. Approximately 10% of all water in the U.S. flows within the state's borders. The Alabama Clean Water Partnership is a statewide 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization comprised of a diverse and inclusive coalition of public-private interest groups and individuals working together to improve, protect, and preserve water resources and aquatic ecosystems in the state. The main purpose of the ACWP is to "make connections" in linking individuals, companies, organizations, and governing



bodies to educate the public about the importance of clean water and to assist in projects to protect and preserve Alabama’s water resources and aquatic ecosystems. This purpose is accomplished through efforts to improve communication and information sharing as well as appropriate coordination and collaboration. The ACWP, on their website, inquires “Do you know of a stream that needs help?” this link brings up an ACWP Stream Nomination Form through which an applicant may submit a stream for consideration. Each nomination is added to a priority list that will assist in directing attention and resources to Alabama watersheds. The ACWP also provides the services of one statewide coordinator and facilitators for each of the ten river basins in the state. Each facilitator coordinates basin meetings and projects in their respective basins while the coordinator supports the facilitators and transfers information between the basins.

**18. The U.S. Census Bureau:** The Census provides substantial statistical information to communities, counties, states, and the nation at large. The most significant and widely used data tools provided by the Census Bureau is the Decennial Census—which provides 100% count information and is updated every 10 years—and the American Community Survey which provides estimate information and is updated every year for all municipalities with a one year survey period for each municipality with population over 65 K in population, a 3 year period for municipalities with between 20 K and 65 K and a 5 year period for all cities in the nation. Another significant tool offered by the Census is the Census Business Builder: Small Business Edition. The Builder is an interactive tool which allows small business owners a way to easily navigate and use key demographic and economic data to help guide research into opening a new business or expand their existing. Key features of the Census Business Builder include:

- Easy to use menus to select the owner’s type of business and potential business location
- An interactive map that allows selection of the area to explore for business opportunities, including comparisons to neighboring areas.
- Dynamically generated business county and city-level reports (including trend charts) that can be easily incorporated into a business plan and used for further research.

**19. Alabama League of Municipalities (ALM):** assists municipalities in Alabama in funding local projects and purchases. This organization has established the AM Fund, administered by the Alabama Municipal Funding Corporation, to provide low-cost, tax-exempt financing to Alabama communities. Municipalities borrow from the AM Fund at a low tax-exempt interest rate to fund almost any municipal project and equipment



purchase. Goals determined thorough the administration of AM Fund incorporate the following:

- Share issuance costs that reduce individual borrower’s costs
- Participate in bond issues of sufficient size to enable the borrowers to achieve attractive interest rates
- Minimize staff time by using straightforward loan documentation

Talladega should continue to explore project-financing opportunities with all these entities when undertaking projects to implement this comprehensive plan. The city should also consider developing public-private partnerships. Of course, outside financing usually will not cover all the costs associated with a project. The city must be prepared to provide local matching funds, where needed to leverage outside grants, to cost share with private partnerships, and to undertake projects that cannot be funded by outside sources.

### **Implementation Schedule**

As previously mentioned, due to limited resources and time constraints, not all the goals, objectives, strategies, and projects outlined in this plan shall be realized. Therefore, the city must effectively identify and prioritize the most important, impactful, and feasible projects and strategies in Chapter 10: Goals and Objectives and then incorporate such projects and strategies into an implementation plan. One way to form an implementation plan is to create an implementation schedule. The implementation schedule lists strategies and projects to be undertaken as Immediate (1-2 years), Short-term (3-5 years), Mid-term (6-9 years), Long-term (10 to 20 years), and Future Consideration (over 20 years). The schedule formulates a specified timeframe within which each project and strategy should be undertaken, establish which local entity is responsible for carrying out the activity, and identify potential partners and funding resources (PP & FS) in implementing respective strategies and projects. Although these projects are primarily assigned to Talladega, the city should consult and work with outside entities to secure funding and guidance with planning and implementation efforts. Implementation schedules have been created for land use, transportation, housing, economic development, and community facility related projects and strategies listed as follows:

#	Action	Page #	Priority	Time Frame	Potential Partners
Land Use					
Goal 1: Promote and enhance planning and zoning by developing the underutilized land within the city that is served by existing infrastructure.					



#	Action	Page #	Priority	Time Frame	Potential Partners
1	Promote high-quality infill development	173	Medium	Short-term	Planning Commission, City Council, Economic Development Authority, Chamber of Commerce
1a	Designate land use for residential development on the Future Land Use Map and plan city growth accordingly	173	Medium	Short-term	Planning Commission
Goal 2: Promote mixed-use development and connect to the existing developed areas					
1	Promote pedestrian activity	173	High	Immediate	Planning Commission, City Council, Police Department, Public Works, ALDOT
1a	Activate Talladega Square and Battle Street	173	High	Immediate	Planning Commission, City Council, Public Works, Main Street
1b	Designate special districts like activity centers and promote multiple uses in proximity to each other	173	High	Short-term	Planning Commission, City Council
Goal 3: Promote cluster development around the Talladega College campus area to enhance walkability					
1	Encourage physical links to the Square and Battle Street	173	High	Short-term	Planning Commission, City Council, ALDOT, County Commission
1a	Encourage campus development in a traditional neighborhood design with buildings in the core and edges for parking and other facilities	173	Medium	Short-term	Talladega College, Planning Commission, City Council



#	Action	Page #	Priority	Time Frame	Potential Partners
Goal 4: Guide development with the Smart growth development policies					
1	Create a livable city and preserve the open space and natural areas	173	Medium	Short-term	Planning Commission, City Council, Community Appearance
1a	Use the ten principles to guide future development and make Talladega more livable, diverse, and economically vital.	173	High	Immediate	Planning Commission, City Council
Goal 5: Create a sense of place and vibrant city					
1	Encourage street-oriented design	173	Medium	Short-term	Planning Commission, City Council
1a	Encourage all new redevelopment in downtown to be oriented to the street using form-based code and parking behind	174	Medium	Short-term	Planning Commission, City Council
2	Support and promote downtown/square nightlife	174	Medium	Short-term	Planning Commission, City Council, Main Street
2a	Appropriate standards should be enforced, and thriving nightlife can retain and attract youth.	174	High	Immediate	Planning Commission, City Council, Police Department, Fire Department
3	Enhance gateways	174	Medium	Short-term	Planning Commission, City Council, Public Works, Community Appearance
3a	Gateways should mark the entrance to the city from all directions and brand the downtown.	174	Medium	Short-term	Planning Commission, City Council, Main Street
3b	Promote wayfinding signages that are ADA-compliant to provide accurate and easy directions	174	High	Immediate	Planning Commission, City Council, AIDB
4	Preserve the historic areas of the city	174	High	Short-term	Planning Commission, City Council, AHC
4a	Promote Talladega's unique heritage and restore it to	174	High	Short-term	City Council, Planning Commission, AHC



#	Action	Page #	Priority	Time Frame	Potential Partners
	foster the history of the community				
5	Encourage adaptive reuse	174	Medium	Short-term	City Council, Planning Commission
5a	Appropriate design guidelines should be enforced and encourage mixed use	174	Medium	Short-term	City Council, Planning Commission
6	Adopt new zoning standards and districts	174	Medium	Short-term	City Council, Planning Commission
6a	Create new mixed-use districts consistent with the future land use map	174	Medium	Short-term	City Council, Planning Commission
6b	Promote and rezone parcels with form-based code for the downtown areas to enhance the traditional neighborhood design.	174	Medium	Short-term	City Council, Planning Commission
<b>Transportation</b>					
Goal 1: Promote and Enhance alternative forms of transportation, such as walking or biking.					
1	Retrofit streets and sidewalks to encourage walkability, adding pedestrian amenities such as lighting, streetscape, crosswalks, and on-street parking.	175	High	Immediate	Planning Commission, City Council, ALDOT, County Commission, Public Works
2	Implement bike lanes and bike racks to facilitate bicycle transportation	175	High	Immediate	Planning Commission, City Council, ALDOT
3	Add and upgrade existing sidewalks to have sufficient width, buffering, continuity, connectivity, and ADA compliance & accessibility	175	High	Immediate	Planning Commission, City Council, ALDOT



#	Action	Page #	Priority	Time Frame	Potential Partners
Goal 2: Promote and Enhance Transportation throughout the City by Properly Maintaining and beautifying Existing roadways and walkways.					
1	Promote a Clean Streets initiative and engage citizens in cleanup efforts	175	High	Immediate	Planning Commission, City Council, Public Works, Community Appearance
2	Improve Street and roadway conditions through paving or repaving projects and implementing an infrastructure maintenance schedule	175	High	Short-term	Planning Commission, City Council, Public Works, County Commission, ALDOT, ADECA
3	Identify safety concerns and issues for improvement	175	High	Immediate	Planning Commission, City Council, Fire Department, Police Department
Goal 3: Develop a plan to implement a public transportation system in the city					
1	Examine financing options (ex. public finance, public subsidy, raised revenue, private investment, grants)	175	High	Short-term	City Council, Public Works
<b>Community Facilities   Parks and Recreation</b>					
Goal 1: Enhance the quality of life.					
1	Enhance the assets that make the City of Talladega a unique and desirable place to live while solidifying the identity of the city	176	High	Immediate	Planning Commission, City Council, Main Street
2	Target crime prevention across the city	176	High	Immediate	City Council, Police Department
Goal 2: Enhance and promote recreation and entertainment					
1	Provide social and recreational programs for all age groups of the city's population.	176	Medium	Short-term	City Council, Parks, and Recreation



#	Action	Page #	Priority	Time Frame	Potential Partners
1a	Promote existing recreational offerings	176	Medium	Short-term	City Council, Parks, and Recreation
1b	Develop activities and programs for the city's youth year-round	176	High	Immediate	City Council, Parks, and Recreation
2	Connect walkways to parks and recreation facilities to provide linkage throughout the city	176	Medium	Mid-term	City Council, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, ADECA, LWCF
2a	Beautify and maintain existing walkways	176	High	Short-term	City Council, Public Works, Community Appearance
Goal 3: Promote and Enhance Community Facilities and Services in a Manner which Maintains Existing Facilities and Services and Prepares the City for Future Growth and Expansion					
1	Improve and Enhance city administration and public safety	176	Medium	Short-term	Planning Commission, City Council, Police Department, Fire Department
2	Improve and Enhance Parks and Recreation.	176	High	Immediate	City Council, Parks & Recreation
3	Improve and Enhance Senior Citizen Facilities and Programs.	176	High	Immediate	City Council, Parks, and Recreation
4	Improve and Enhance Healthcare Services while increasing availability	176	High	Mid-term	City Council, County Commission



#	Action	Page #	Priority	Time Frame	Potential Partners
5	Identify underutilized buildings and facilities within the city that could be used for recreational and social programming	176	Medium	Short-term	City Council, Parks and Recreation, Public Works
<b>Housing</b>					
Goal 1: Maintain and Strengthen the City's Existing Housing Stock					
1	Preserve and improve the quality and quantity of the existing housing stock through the renovation, rehabilitation, and/or expansion of existing units as a means of enhancing neighborhood stability	177	Medium	Short-term	Planning Commission, City Council, ADECA
1a	Create tax relief programs to accommodate the housing needs of low-income households, seniors, and those with disabilities	177	Medium	Immediate	City Council, ALM
1b	Home improvement program that provides tax exemptions as an incentive for residents to renovate or expand the size of their residences	177	Medium	Short-term	City Council, ALM
1c	Utilize housing demolition, including demolition programs, to address dilapidated housing stock	177	High	Immediate	ADECA, City Council
Goal 2: Promote and Encourage New Housing Development in Strategic Areas Well Suited for Residential Growth.					



#	Action	Page #	Priority	Time Frame	Potential Partners
1	Promote housing options to accommodate both renters and owners at all price points, including workforce housing and housing for the homeless	177	Medium	Immediate	Planning Commission, City Council, County Commission
1a	Incorporate affordable units throughout the city, addressing missing middle housing	177	Medium	Short-term	City Council, ADECA, USDA
1b	Encourage creation of new, onsite, affordable housing as a part of rezoning	177	Medium	Short-term	Planning Commission, City Council, ADECA, USDA
1c	Address and enhance infrastructure to enable additional housing	177	Medium	Short-term	City Council, ADECA, USDA, Public Works
Goal 4: Use sustainability principles					
1	Offering a wide range of choices that are integrated and balanced across the City to meet multiple goals including:	177	Medium	Short-term	City Council
1a	Increased sustainability, walkability, bikeability, and the use of public transit, sustained local commerce	177	High	Short-term	City Council, Public Works
2	Encourage adaptive reuse of properties for housing	177	Medium	Short-term	City Council
3	Encourage the incorporation of green sustainable principles (e.g., LEED) in all housing development to the	178	Medium	Short-term	City Council



#	Action	Page #	Priority	Time Frame	Potential Partners
	maximum extent feasible both to be more sustainable and to lower housing costs				
<b>Economic Development</b>					
Goal 1: Maintain and Strengthen Existing Business throughout the Community.					
1	City to Maintain and Strengthen Existing Business by Providing and Maintaining an Attractive, Healthy, and Thriving Business Environment While Remaining Responsive and Adaptive	178	High	Short-term	Planning Commission, City Council, Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Authority
Goal 2: Promote and Encourage Expansion of Existing Business in the Community and Provide a Means for Proper and Efficient Business Growth and Development.					
1	Support businesses by improving infrastructure and land use policies	178	Medium	Short-term	Planning Commission, City Council
2	Implement a program to identify and dispose of vacant and abandoned buildings to provide open space for new and expanding business	178	High	Immediate	City Council, Planning Commission
Goal 3: Attract and Recruit New Business to the Community and Provide Proper and Efficient Methods to Accommodate and Expand New Enterprises.					
1	Develop Plans and Policies to Make New Business Location and Start-ups Convenient, Affordable.	178	High	Immediate	Chamber of Commerce, Planning Commission, City Council, Economic Development Authority
1a	Provide incentives (i.e. tax reductions and reduced start up fees)	178	High	Immediate	City Council
2	Market Talladega as a premier location for new business and educational opportunities	178	High	Immediate	Planning Commission, City Council, Chamber of Commerce, Economic



#	Action	Page #	Priority	Time Frame	Potential Partners
					Development Authority, Main Street
Goal 4: Enhance the tourism in and around the city.					
1	Enhance display and communication regarding city activities, accomplishments, and offerings	178	High	Immediate	Planning Commission, City Council, Main Street, Chamber of Commerce
2	Highlight area attractions and the history of Talladega	178	High	Immediate	Planning Commission, City Council, Main Street
2a	Utilize and revitalize the Silk-Stocking District	178	Medium	Mid-term	Planning Commission, City Council, AHC
2b	Maintain and enhance accessibility and offering for disabled visitors (AIDB)	179	High	Immediate	City Council, AIDB



## **Plan Adoption and Amendment**

According to Title 11, Chapter 52, Section 8 of the Code of Alabama, 1975, the municipal planning commission is authorized to prepare and adopt a local comprehensive plan. The comprehensive plan can be adopted by resolution in whole or in successive chapters or elements, as provided in Title 11, Chapter 52, section 10 of the Code of Alabama, 1975. However, prior to adoption or disapproval of the plan by the planning commission, the planning commission or the city council must publish notice of and conduct a public hearing to solicit comments on the proposed plan from concerned citizens. State law does not specify the format to be used for notification or conduct of the required public hearing. However, common sense dictates that the hearing should be notified and conducted in accordance with the standard procedures used by the planning commission or city council, as may be applicable.

Once the plan has been adopted in accordance with state law, the planning commission is empowered to assume additional administrative authorities. These authorities are specified in Title 11, Chapter 52, Section 11 of the Code of Alabama, 1975. According to this statute, no street, square, public building or structure, park or other public way, ground or open space, or public utility can be constructed or authorized in the community without approval by the planning commission. The planning commission must review the proposed community facility improvement for consistency with the adopted comprehensive plan. If the planning commission determines that the proposed improvement is not consistent with the plan, it may disapprove the improvement. Such a vote can be overturned by a two-thirds majority vote of all city council members.

As this provision of Alabama law illustrates, the comprehensive plan is an important document. It serves as a legal support for local zoning authority, and it governs the expansion of public facilities and infrastructure in the community. Therefore, it is important to remember that the adoption of a comprehensive plan document is not the end of the planning process. It is merely the beginning of an ongoing dedicated planning effort. The local government must be committed to a plan monitoring, review, and implementation effort if the plan is to achieve its stated objectives. In addition, the plan should be reviewed and revised periodically in response to growth and changing conditions in the community. While Alabama law does not prescribe a revision schedule for local government comprehensive plans, communities should update the plan at least once every ten years to incorporate more recent data from the latest U.S. Census. New census data is needed to determine growth and population trends used by the plan. More frequent updates should be conducted if the community experiences rapid growth or change, or if the community proposes to undertake a significant public investment to stimulate future growth or change.







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## **Appendices**

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## Talladega Population

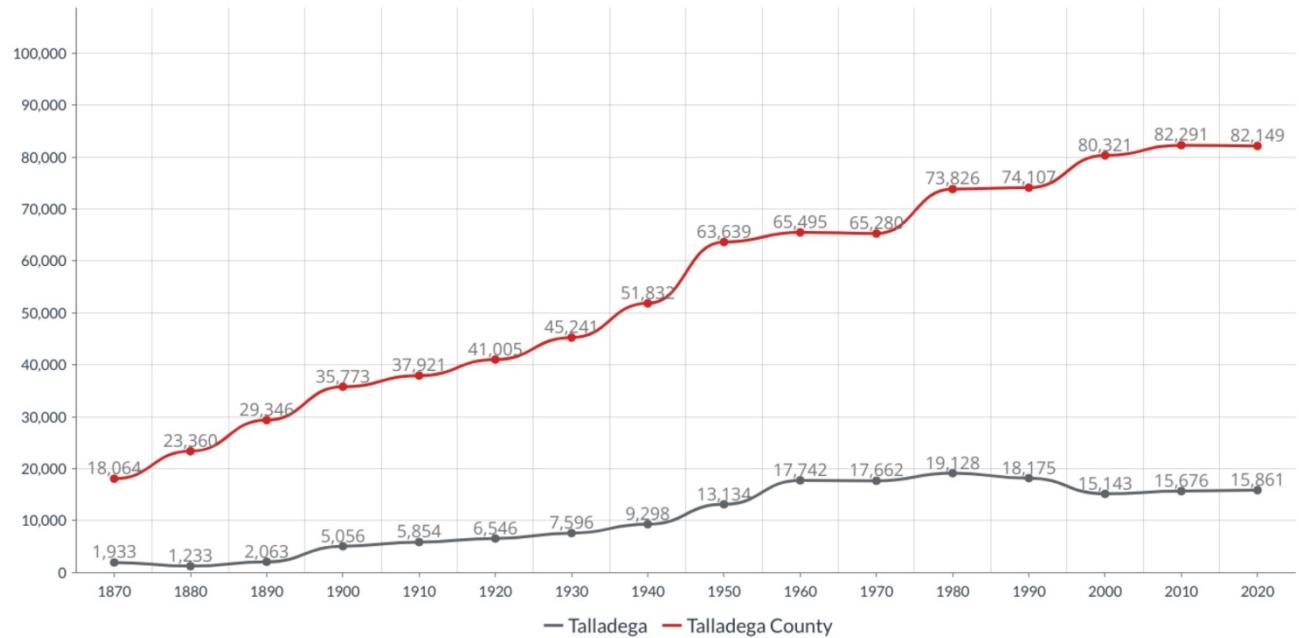
### Historic Population Trends

Table P-1. Historic Population Trends: Talladega, AL 1910-2020								
Year	Talladega	% Change	Talladega Co.	% Change	Alabama	% Change	U.S.	% Change
1870	1,933	N/A	18,064	N/A	996,992	N/A	38,558,371	N/A
1880	1,233	-36.21%	23,360	29.32%	1,262,505	26.63%	50,189,209	30.16%
1890	2,063	67.32%	29,346	25.63%	1,513,401	19.87%	62,979,766	25.48%
1900	5,056	145.08%	35,773	21.90%	1,828,697	20.83%	76,212,168	21.01%
1910	5,854	15.78%	37,921	6.00%	2,138,093	16.92%	92,228,531	21.02%
1920	6,546	11.8%	41,005	8.1%	2,348,174	9.8%	106,021,568	15.0%
1930	7,596	16.0%	45,241	10.3%	2,646,248	12.7%	123,202,660	16.2%
1940	9,298	22.4%	51,832	14.6%	2,832,961	7.1%	132,165,129	7.3%
1950	13,134	41.3%	63,639	22.8%	3,061,743	8.1%	151,325,798	14.5%
1960	17,742	35.1%	65,495	2.9%	3,266,740	6.7%	179,323,175	18.5%
1970	17,662	-0.5%	65,280	-0.3%	3,444,165	5.4%	203,211,926	13.3%
1980	19,128	8.3%	73,826	13.1%	3,893,888	13.1%	226,545,805	11.5%
1990	18,175	-5.0%	74,107	0.4%	4,040,587	3.8%	248,709,873	9.8%
2000	15,143	-16.7%	80,321	8.4%	4,447,100	10.1%	281,421,906	13.2%
2010	15,676	3.5%	82,291	2.5%	4,779,745	7.5%	308,745,538	9.7%
2020	15,861	1.2%	82,149	-0.2%	5,039,877	5.4%	331,449,281	7.4%

Source: U.S. Census of Population



P-1: Historic Population, Talladega, AL  
Talladega County



## Place of Birth

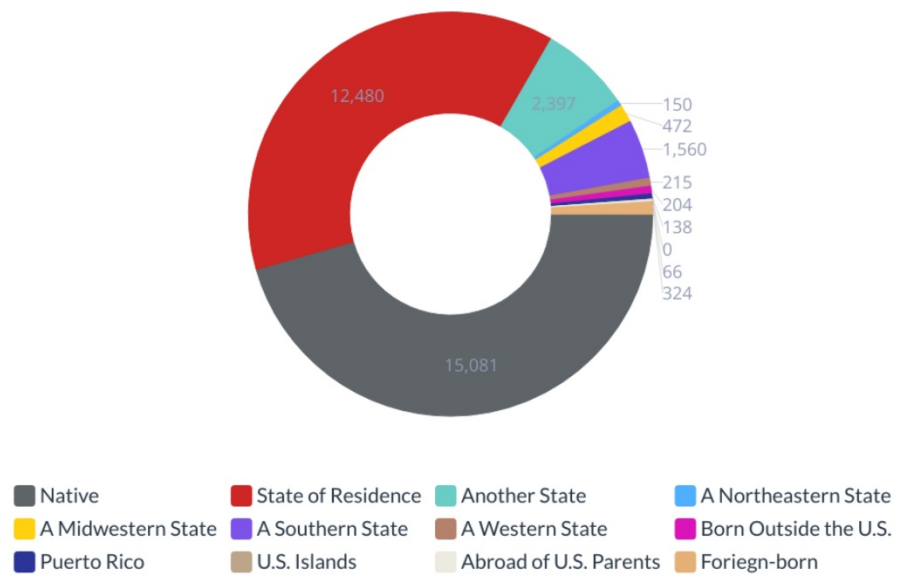
Table P-2. Place of Birth: City of Talladega, 2020 ACS

Born in	2020	% of Total
Native	15,081	97.9%
State of Residence	12,480	81.0%
Another State	2,397	15.9%
A Northeastern State	150	6.3%
A Midwestern State	472	19.7%
A Southern State	1,560	65.1%
A Western State	215	9.0%
Born outside U.S.	204	1.3%
Puerto Rico	138	0%
U.S. Islands	0	0%
Abroad of U.S. Parents	66	0.4%
Foreign-born	324	2.1%
Total	15,405	100.0%

Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey



**P-2: Place of Birth**  
Talladega, AL (2020)





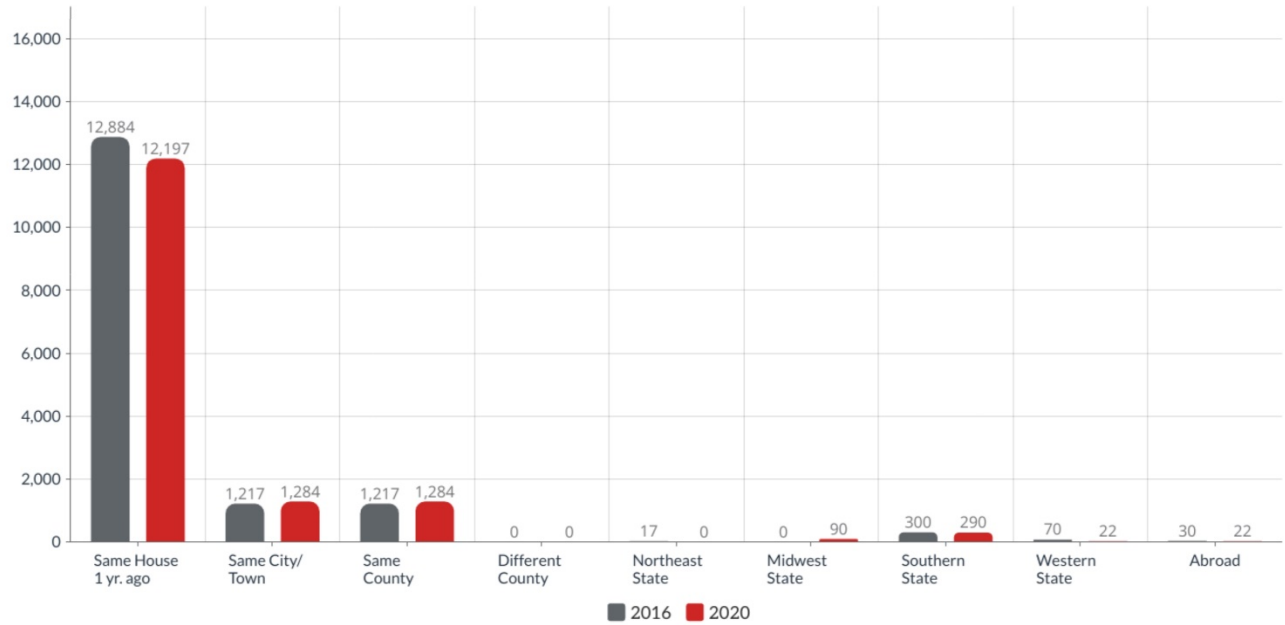
**Place of Residence**

<b>Table P-3. Place of Residence: City of Talladega, AL</b>						
<b>Resided in</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>% of Total</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>% of Total</b>	<b>#Change</b>	<b>%Change</b>
Same house 1 year ago	12,884	82.4%	12,197	79.8%	-687	-5.3%
Different house in U.S. 1 year ago	2,727	17.4%	3,062	20.0%	335	12.3%
Same city or town:	1,217	44.6%	1,284	41.9%	67	5.5%
Same county	1,217	100.0%	1,284	100.0%	67	5.5%
Different county (same state)	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Elsewhere:	1,510	55.4%	1,778	58.1%	268	17.7%
Same county	418	27.7%	507	28.5%	89	21.3%
Different county:	1,092	72.3%	1,271	71.5%	179	16.4%
Same state	705	64.6%	869	68.4%	164	23.3%
Different state:	387	35.4%	402	31.6%	15	3.9%
Northeast	17	4.4%	0	0.0%	-17	0.0%
Midwest	0	0.0%	90	0.0%	90	0.0%
South	300	77.5%	290	72.1%	-10	0.0%
West	70	18.1%	22	5.5%	-48	100.0%
Abroad 1 year ago	30	0.2%	22	0.1%	-8	0.0%
Puerto Rico	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
U.S. Island Areas	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Foreign country	30	0.0%	22	0.0%	-8	0.0%
Total	15,641	100.0%	15,281	100.0%	-360	-2.3%

Source: 2012-2016 and 2016-2020 American Community Survey



P-3: Place of Residence  
Talladega, AL





## Age Distribution

**Table P-4. Age Distribution: Talladega, Talladega County, Alabama, U.S.**

Age Group	Talladega			Talladega County			Alabama			U.S.		
	2016	2020	% Change	2016	2020	% Change	2016	2020	% Change	2016	2020	% Change
Less than 5	900	646	-28.2%	4,458	4,289	-3.8%	290,470	293,932	1.2%	19,750,606	19,650,192	-0.5%
% of Total	5.7%	4.2%		5.5%	5.3%		6.0%	6.0%		6.2%	6.0%	
5 to 19	2,606	2,652	1.8%	15,400	14,614	-5.1%	944,027	931,288	-1.3%	62,437,400	62,261,904	-0.3%
% of Total	16.5%	17.2%		19.0%	18.2%		19.5%	19.0%		19.6%	19.1%	
20 to 24	1,280	1,529	19.5%	5,268	5,220	-0.9%	343,723	323,960	-5.7%	22,617,630	21,820,378	-3.5%
% of Total	8.1%	9.9%		6.5%	6.5%		7.1%	6.6%		7.1%	6.7%	
25 to 44	4,027	3,919	-2.7%	20,264	19,794	-2.3%	1,229,656	1,237,123	0.6%	83,780,797	86,831,842	3.6%
% of Total	25.5%	25.4%		25.0%	24.7%		25.4%	25.3%		26.3%	26.6%	
45 to 64	4,406	3,862	-12.3%	22,534	22,022	-2.3%	1,287,750	1,279,449	-0.6%	83,462,238	83,642,175	0.2%
% of Total	27.9%	25.1%		27.8%	27.4%		26.6%	26.1%		26.2%	25.6%	
65+	2,574	2,797	8.7%	13,131	14,305	8.9%	740,698	827,434	11.7%	46,190,933	52,362,817	13.4%
% of Total	16.3%	18.2%		16.2%	17.8%		15.3%	16.9%		14.5%	16.0%	
Total	15,793	15,405	-2.5%	81,057	80,244	-1.0%	4,841,164	4,893,186	1.1%	318,558,162	326,569,308	2.5%
Median Age	40.5	39.5	-2.5%	40.8	41.4	1.5%	38.6	39.2	1.6%	37.7	38.2	1.3%

Source: 2012-2016 and 2016-2020 American Community Survey

**Table P-5 Age Distribution: Talladega, AL (2016-2020 ACS)**

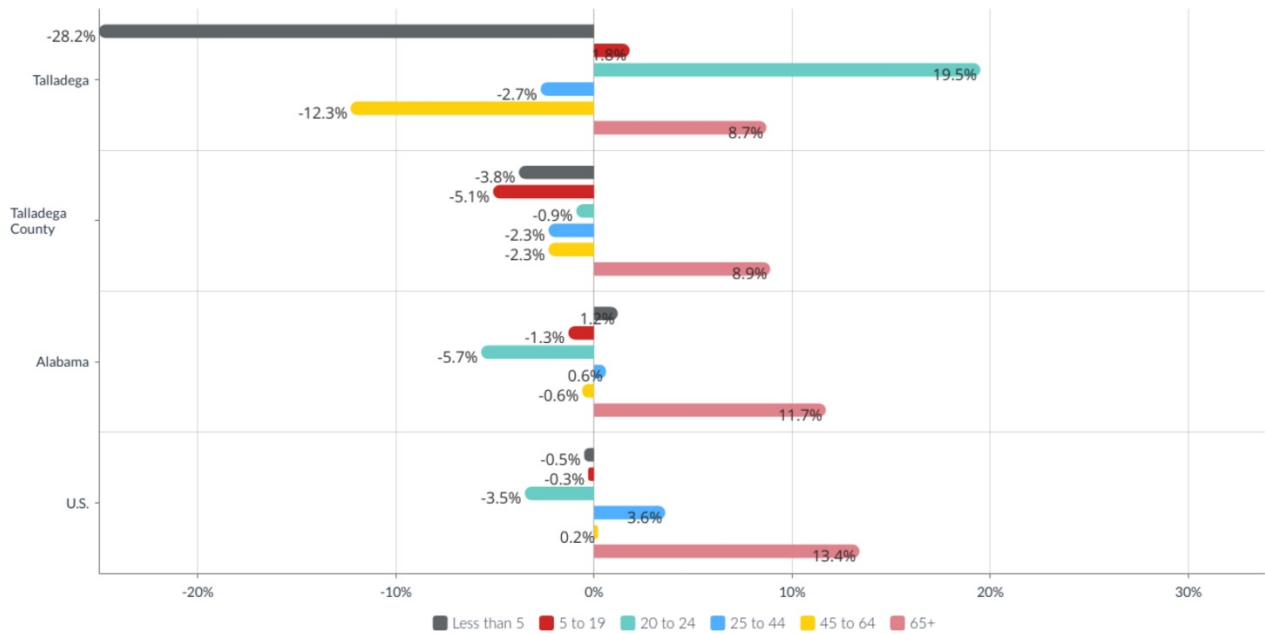
Age Status	Talladega	Talladega Co.	Alabama	US
Under 5	4.2%	5.3%	6.0%	6.0%
5 to 19	17.2%	18.2%	19.0%	19.1%
20 to 24	9.9%	6.5%	6.6%	6.7%
25 to 44	25.4%	24.7%	25.3%	26.6%
45 to 64	25.1%	27.4%	26.1%	25.6%
65 +	18.2%	17.8%	16.9%	16.0%

Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey



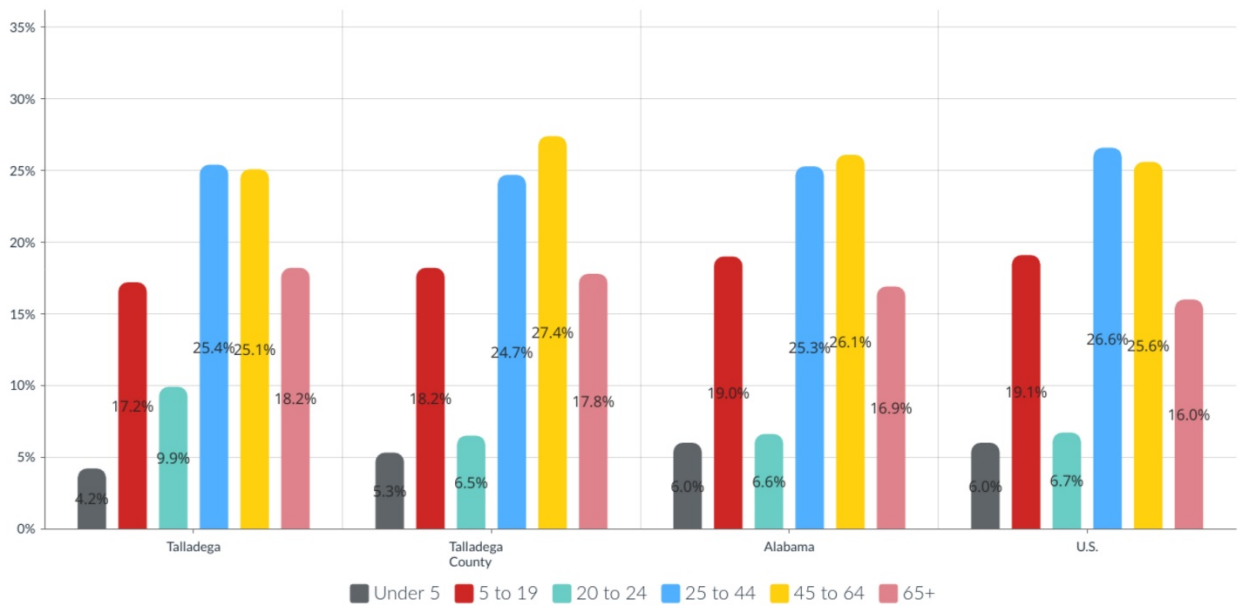
### P-4: Percent Change of Age Distribution

Talladega, AL (2016-2020)



### P-5: Age Distribution

Talladega, AL (2016-2020)





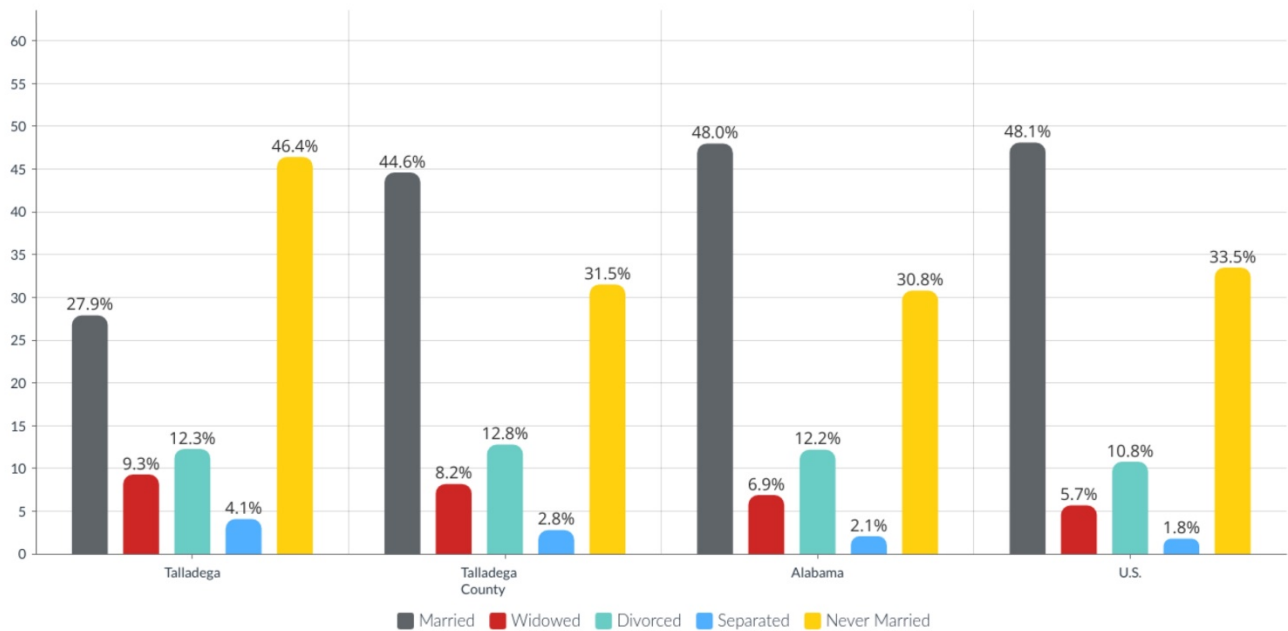
## Marital Status

**Table P-6. Marital Status (pop. 15 and over): Talladega, AL**

Marital Status	Talladega		Talladega County		Alabama		U.S.	
	2016	2020	2016	2020	2016	2020	2016	2020
Married (except separated)	32.2%	27.9%	47.4%	44.6%	47.9%	48.0%	48.1%	48.1%
Widowed	9.8%	9.3%	7.6%	8.2%	7.1%	6.9%	5.9%	5.7%
Divorced	14.8%	12.3%	12.7%	12.8%	12.5%	12.2%	11.0%	10.8%
Separated	4.0%	4.1%	3.4%	2.8%	2.4%	2.1%	2.1%	1.8%
Never Married	39.1%	46.4%	28.9%	31.5%	30.1%	30.8%	33.0%	33.5%
Total Population (15 & over)	13,240	13,344	66,271	66,365	3,928,706	3,989,274	257,518,302	265,832,167

Source: 2012-2016 and 2016-2020 American Community Survey

**P-6: Marital Status**  
Talladega, AL (2020)





**Race Distribution**

**Table P-7. Race Distribution: Talladega, AL 2020 ACS**

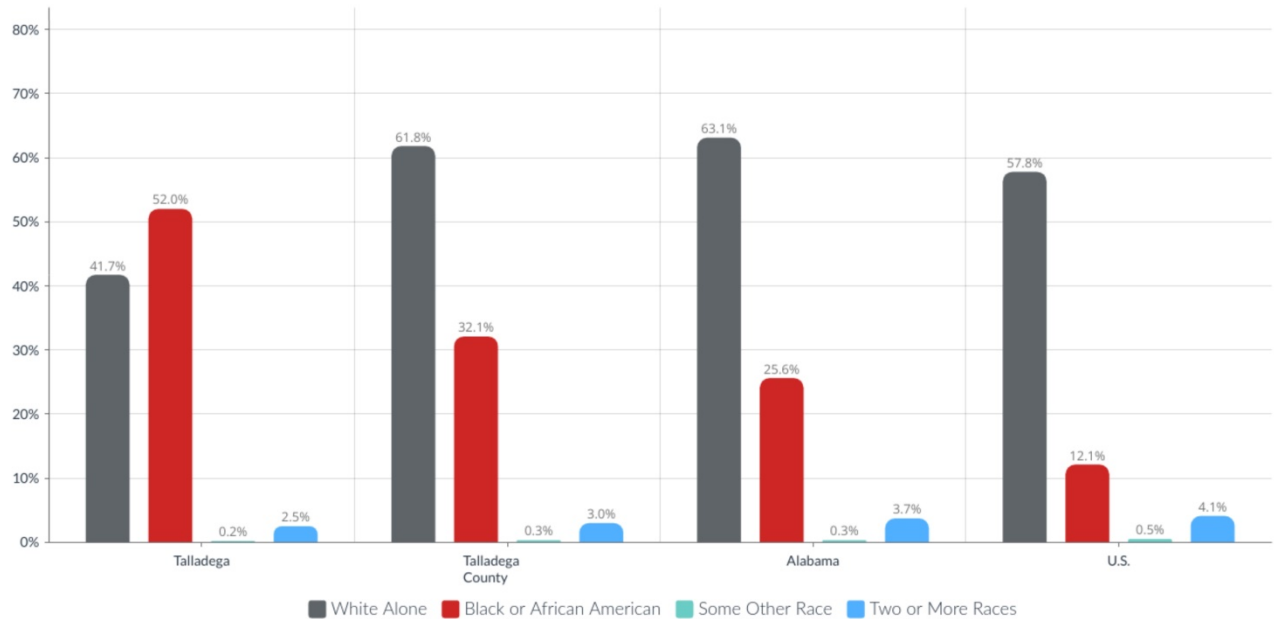
Race	Talladega	Talladega Co.	Alabama	U.S.
White Alone	6,620	50,732	3,171,351	191,697,647
% of Total	41.7%	61.8%	63.1%	57.8%
Black or African American	8,247	26,340	1,288,159	39,940,338
% of Total	52.0%	32.1%	25.6%	12.1%
Some other race	30	206	14,455	1,689,833
% of Total	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.5%
Two or more races	397	2,486	184,618	13,548,983
% of Total	2.5%	3.0%	3.7%	4.1%
Totals	15,861	82,149	5,024,279	331,449,281

*Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey*



P-7: Race Distribution

Talladega, AL (2020)



## Gender Distribution

Table P-8. Gender Distribution: Talladega, AL

Gender	Talladega			Talladega County			Alabama			U.S.
	2016	2020	%Change	2016	2020	%Change	2016	2020	%Change	2020
Male	7,781	7,421	-4.6%	39,342	38,705	-1.6%	2,346,193	2,365,734	0.8%	160,818,530
% of Total	49.3%	48.2%		48.5%	48.2%		48.5%	48.3%		49.2%
Female	8,012	7,984	-0.3%	41,715	41,539	-0.4%	2,494,971	2,527,452	1.3%	165,750,778
% of Total	50.7%	51.8%		51.5%	51.8%		51.5%	51.7%		50.8%
Total	15,793	15,405	-2.5%	81,057	80,244	-1.0%	4,841,164	4,893,186	1.1%	326,569,308

Source: 2012-2016 and 2016-2020 American Community Survey



# Talladega Economy

## Educational Attainment

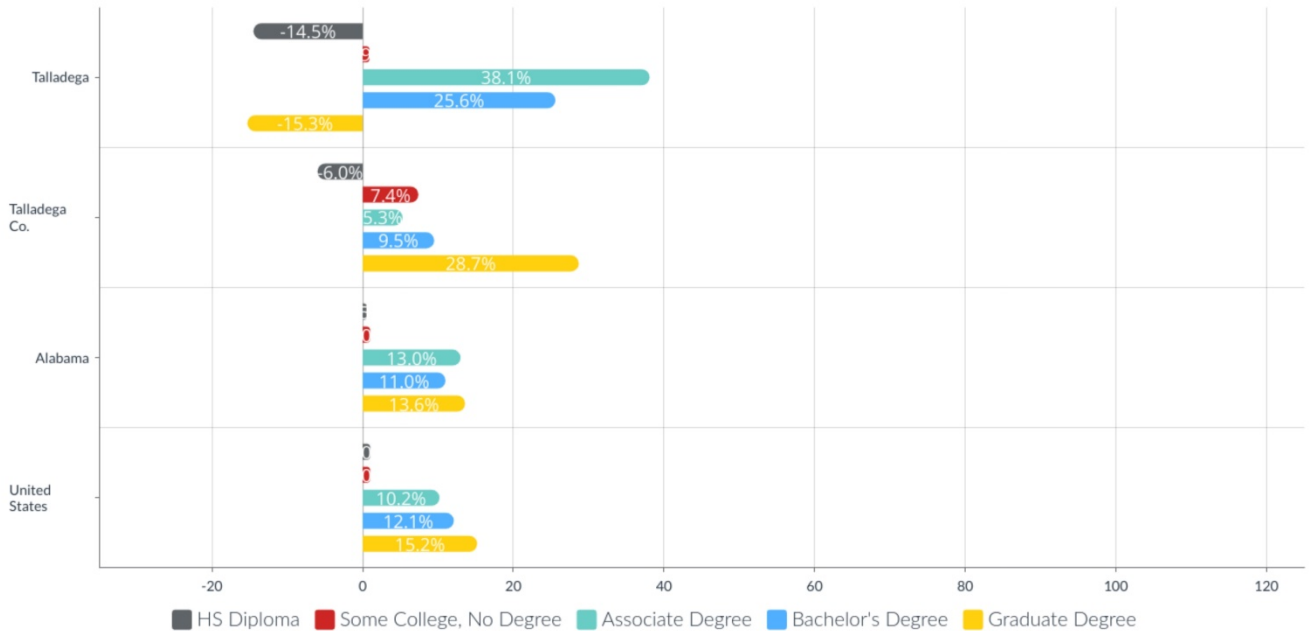
**Table E-1. Educational Attainment: Talladega, AL**

Education al Level	Talladega			Talladega County			Alabama			U.S.		
	2016	2020	% Chang e	2016	2020	% Chang e	2016	2020	% Chang e	2016	2020	% Chang e
Less Than 9th Grade	993	668	-	3,907	2,792	-	162,018	133,650	-	11,913,913	10,923,030	-8.3%
% of Total Pop. 25 Years +	9.0%	6.3%	32.7%	7.0%	5.0%	28.5%	5.0%	4.0%	17.5%	5.6%	4.9%	-8.3%
9th to 12th Grade, No Diploma	1,806	1,970	9.1%	7,397	7,419	0.3%	334,018	305,297	-8.6%	15,904,467	14,639,650	-8.0%
% of Total Pop. 25 Years +	16.4 %	18.6 %		13.2 %	13.2 %		10.2%	9.1%		7.4%	6.6%	
High School Graduate	4,032	3,446	-	19,975	18,777	-6.0%	1,009,593	1,014,342	0.5%	58,820,411	59,421,419	1.0%
% of Total Pop. 25 Years +	36.7 %	32.6 %	14.5%	35.7 %	33.5 %		31.0%	30.3%		27.5%	26.7%	
Some College, No Degree	2,209	2,228	0.9%	12,773	13,712	7.4%	714,201	721,609	1.04%	44,772,845	45,242,162	1.0%
% of Total Pop. 25 Years +	20.1 %	21.1 %		22.8 %	24.4 %		21.9%	21.6%		21.0%	20.3%	
Associate Degree	588	812	38.1%	4,611	4,854	5.3%	258,502	292,064	13.0%	17,469,724	19,254,254	10.2%
% of Total Pop. 25 Years +	5.3%	7.7%		8.2%	8.6%		7.9%	8.7%		8.2%	8.6%	
Bachelors Degree	711	893	25.6%	4,519	4,948	9.5%	492,382	546,674	11.0%	40,189,920	45,034,610	12.1%
% of Total Pop. 25 Years +	6.5%	8.4%		8.1%	8.8%		15.1%	16.3%		18.8%	20.2%	
Graduate or Profession al	662	561	-	2,811	3,619	28.7%	290,694	330,370	13.6%	24,577,867	28,321,709	15.2%
% of Total Pop. 25 Years +	6.0%	5.3%	15.3%	5.0%	6.4%		8.9%	9.9%		11.5%	12.7%	
Number of Persons 25 Years and Over	11,001	10,578	-3.8%	55,993	56,121	0.2%	3,261,408	3,344,006	2.5%	213,649,147	222,836,834	4.3%
Total Population	15,793	15,861	0.4%	80,103	82,149	2.6%	4,863,300	5,024,279	3.3%	323,127,515	331,449,281	
% of Persons 25 Years and Over	69.7 %	66.7 %	-4.3%	69.9 %	68.3 %	-2.3%	67.1%	66.6%	-0.8%	66.1%	67.2%	1.7%

Source: 2012-2016 and 2016-2020 American Community Survey



**E-1: Percent Change in Education Attainment**  
Talladega, AL (2016-2020)



## Household Income

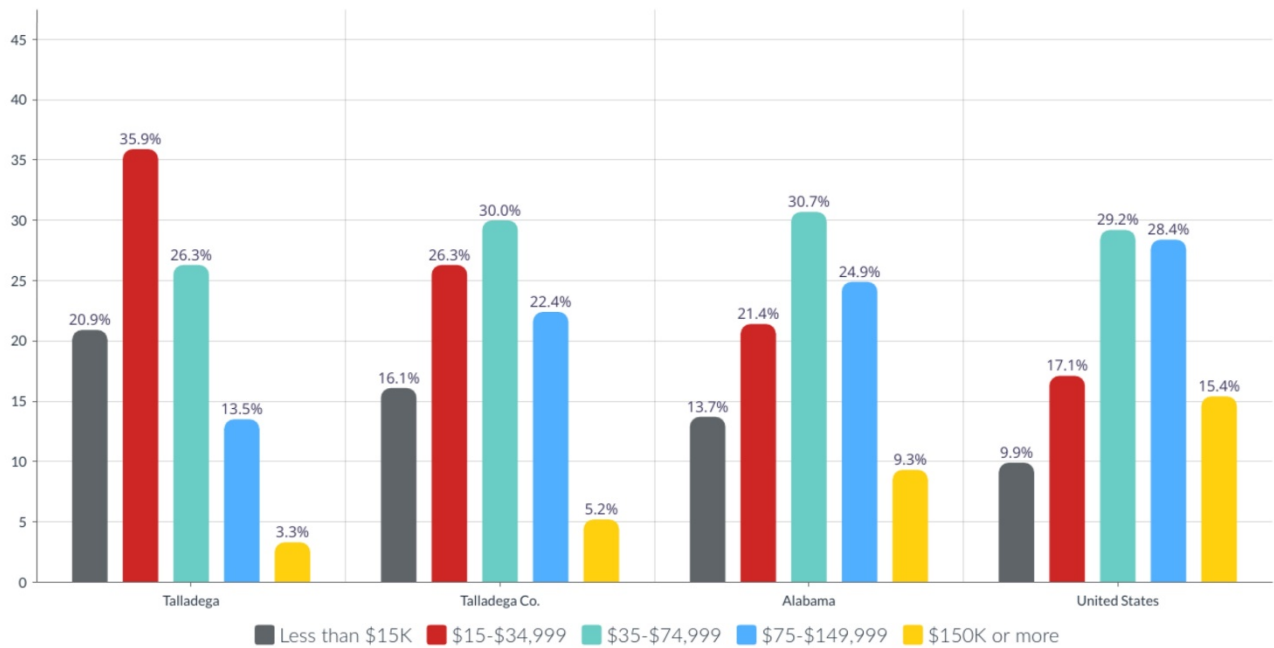
**Table E-2. Household Income Distribution: Talladega, AL**

Income Level	Talladega			Talladega County			Alabama			U.S.		
	2016	2020	%Change	2016	2020	%Change	2016	2020	%Change	2016	2020	%Change
Less than \$15 K	1,384	1,184	-14.5%	5,946	5,116	-14.0%	305,425	259,050	-15%	14,243,665	12,165,848	-14.6%
% of Total	24.1%	20.9%		18.9%	16.1%		16.5%	13.7%		12.1%	9.9%	
\$15 - \$34,999 K	1,963	2,028	3.3%	8,872	8,333	-6.1%	440,553	403,784	-8%	23,778,680	20,929,184	-12.0%
% of Total	34.2%	35.9%		28.2%	26.3%		23.8%	21.4%		20.2%	17.1%	
\$35 - \$74,999 K	1,648	1,484	-10.0%	10,066	9,529	-5.3%	581,233	579,349	-0.3%	36,492,033	35,725,161	-2.1%
% of Total	28.7%	26.3%		32.0%	30.0%		31.4%	30.7%		31.0%	29.2%	
\$75 - \$149,999 K	597	762	27.6%	5,537	7,120	28.6%	401,680	470,881	17%	30,253,073	34,742,181	14.8%
% of Total	10.4%	13.5%		17.6%	22.4%		21.7%	24.9%		25.7%	28.4%	
\$150,000 or more	149	187	25.5%	1,007	1,643	63.2%	120,319	175,440	46%	13,066,502	18,791,845	43.8%
% of Total	2.6%	3.3%		3.2%	5.2%		6.5%	9.3%		11.1%	15.4%	
Total Households	5,741	5,645	-1.7%	31,461	31,741	0.9%	1,851,061	1,888,504	2%	117,716,237	122,354,219	3.9%
Median HH Income	\$29,074	\$30,088	3.5%	\$37,923	\$43,969	15.9%	\$44,758	\$50,536	13%	\$55,322	\$64,994	17.5%

Source: 2012-2016 and 2016-2020 American Community Survey



**E-2: Household Income**  
Talladega, AL (2020)



## Commuting Means

**Table E-3. Commuting Means (pop. 16 years and over): Talladega, AL 2016**

Commuting Means	Talladega		Talladega County		Alabama		U.S.	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Vehicle (drove alone)	3,530	76.7%	25,304	84.3%	1,727,392	85.7%	111,448,640	76.4%
Vehicle (carpooled)	668	14.5%	3,192	10.6%	176,555	8.8%	13,588,601	9.3%
Public Transportation (excluding taxi cab)	122	0.0%	182	0.6%	7,841	0.4%	7,476,312	5.1%
Walked	120	2.6%	429	1.4%	23,010	1.1%	4,030,730	2.8%
Other means (including taxi cab)	52	1.1%	234	0.8%	15,269	0.8%	1,308,867	0.9%
Worked at Home	89	1.9%	560	1.9%	58,991	2.9%	6,661,892	4.6%
Total	4,603	96.9%	30,027	100.0%	2,014,965	99.7%	145,861,221	99.1%
Mean Travel Time to Work (Minutes)	17.7	x	25.0	x	24.5	x	26.1	x

Source: 2012-2016 American Community Survey

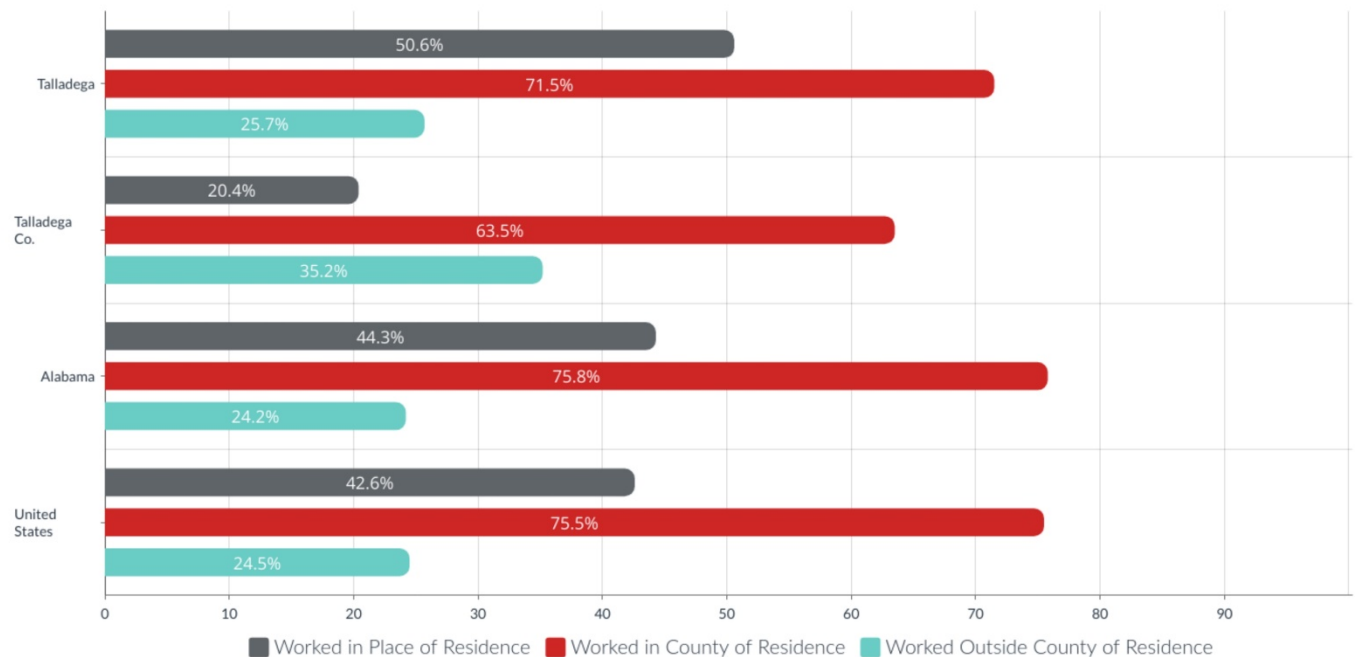


**Table E-4. Commuting Means (pop. 16 years and over): Talladega, AL 2020**

Commuting Means	Talladega		Talladega County		Alabama		U.S.	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Vehicle (drove alone)	3,741	78.4%	26,264	84.0%	1,778,257	84.9%	115,127,720	74.9%
Vehicle (carpooled)	621	13.0%	3,219	10.3%	174,781	8.3%	13,605,122	8.9%
Public Transportation (excluding taxi cab)	49	1.0%	67	0.2%	6,960	0.3%	7,044,886	4.6%
Walked	108	2.3%	342	1.1%	23,265	1.1%	3,854,692	2.5%
Other means (including taxi cab)	129	2.7%	464	1.5%	14,338	0.7%	1,461,318	1.0%
Worked at Home	113	2.4%	816	2.6%	92,836	4.4%	11,153,095	7.3%
Total	4,773	99.7%	31,257	99.7%	2,095,195	99.8%	153,665,654	99.1%
Mean Travel Time to Work (Minutes)	21.9	x	25.4	x	25.2	x	26.9	x

Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey

**E-3: Commuting Patterns**  
Talladega, AL (2020)





## Place of Work

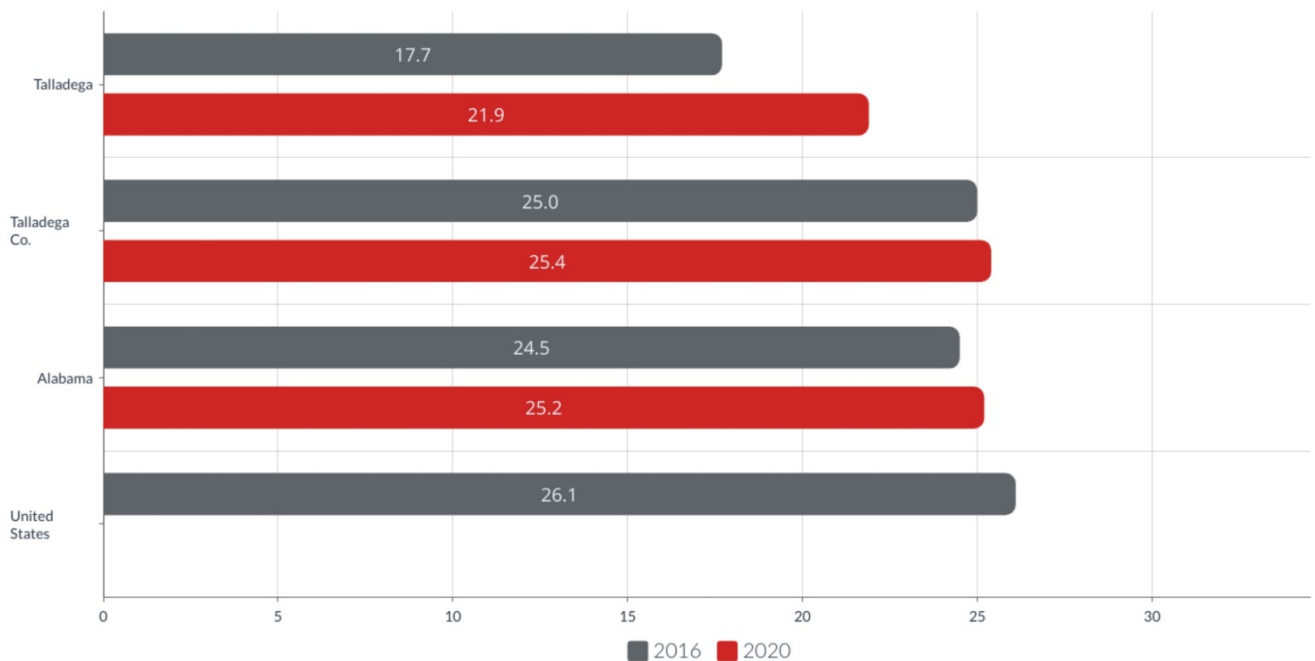
**Table E-5. Commuting Patterns: Commuting (pop. 16 and over) Talladega, AL**

Commuting Patterns	Talladega		Talladega County		Alabama		U.S.	
	2016	2020	2016	2020	2016	2020	2016	2020
Worked in Place of Res.	2,728	2,417	6,623	6,376	593,932	623,685	45,903,215	49,768,145
% of Total	59.3%	50.6%	22.1%	20.4%	44.3%	44.3%	42.0%	42.6%
Worked outside Place of Res.	1,875	2,356	11,389	12,794	745,620	784,133	63,390,029	67,121,235
% of Total	40.7%	49.4%	37.9%	40.9%	55.7%	55.7%	58.0%	57.4%
Total	4,603	4,773	30,027	31,257	1,339,552	1,407,818	109,293,244	116,889,380
Worked in County of Res.	3,569	3,415	18,963	19,843	1,462,868	1,518,221	105,598,812	111,899,766
% of Total	77.5%	71.5%	63.2%	63.5%	76.1%	75.8%	75.2%	75.5%
Worked outside County of Res.	971	1,227	10,534	11,006	458,919	483,682	34,793,487	36,234,663
% of Total	21.1%	25.7%	35.1%	35.2%	23.9%	24.2%	24.8%	24.5%
Total	4,603	4,773	30,027	31,257	1,921,787	2,001,903	140,390,299	148,134,429
Mean Travel Time to Work	17.7	21.9	25.0	25.4	24.5	25.2	26.1	26.9

Source: 2012-2016 and 2016-2020 American Community Survey

### E-4: Commuting Means: Mean Travel Time to Work (Minutes)

Talladega, AL (2016-2020)





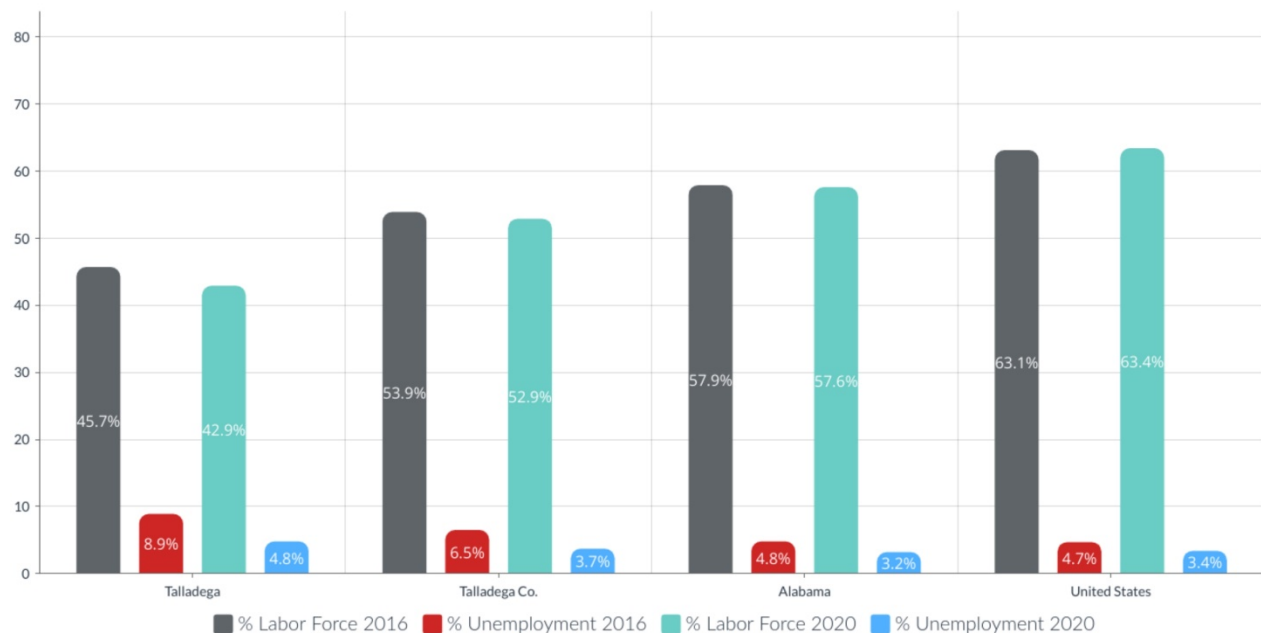
## Labor Force Participation and Unemployment

**Table E-6. Labor Force Participation (Population 16 and over): Talladega, AL**

Labor Classification	Talladega			Talladega County			Alabama			U.S.		
	2016	2020	% Change	2016	2020	% Change	2016	2020	% Change	2016	2020	% Change
Total Persons 16+	13,026	13,126	0.8%	65,110	65,349	0.4%	3,864,302	3,926,842	1.6%	253,323,709	261,649,873	3.3%
In Labor Force	5,958	5,635	-5.4%	25,085	34,544	37.7%	2,238,654	2,259,980	1.0%	160,818,740	165,902,838	3.2%
% in Labor Force	45.7%	42.9%	-6.1%	53.9%	52.9%	-1.9%	57.9%	57.6%	-0.5%	63.1%	63.4%	0.5%
Armed Forces	0	19	0.0%	8	43	437.5%	12,150	14,651	20.6%	1,011,641	1,143,342	13.0%
% in Armed Forces	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0003%	0.0012%	300.0%	0.3%	0.4%	33.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.0%
Civilian Labor Force	5,958	5,616	-5.7%	35,077	34,501	-1.6%	2,226,504	2,245,329	0.8%	159,807,099	164,759,496	3.1%
Employed	4,799	4,991	4.0%	30,853	32,068	3.9%	2,042,025	2,119,986	3.8%	148,001,326	155,888,980	5.3%
Unemployed	1159	625	-46.1%	4,224	2,433	-42.4%	184,479	125,343	-32.1%	11,805,773	8,870,516	-24.9%
% Unemployed	8.9%	4.8%	-46.1%	6.5%	3.7%	-43.1%	4.8%	3.2%	-33.3%	4.7%	3.4%	-27.7%
Not in Labor Force	7,078	7,491	5.8%	30,077	30,805	2.4%	1,625,648	1,666,862	2.5%	92,504,969	95,747,035	3.5%

Source: 2012-2016 and 2016-2020 American Community Survey

**E-5: Labor Force Participation and Unemployment**  
Talladega, AL (2016-2020)





## Occupational Status

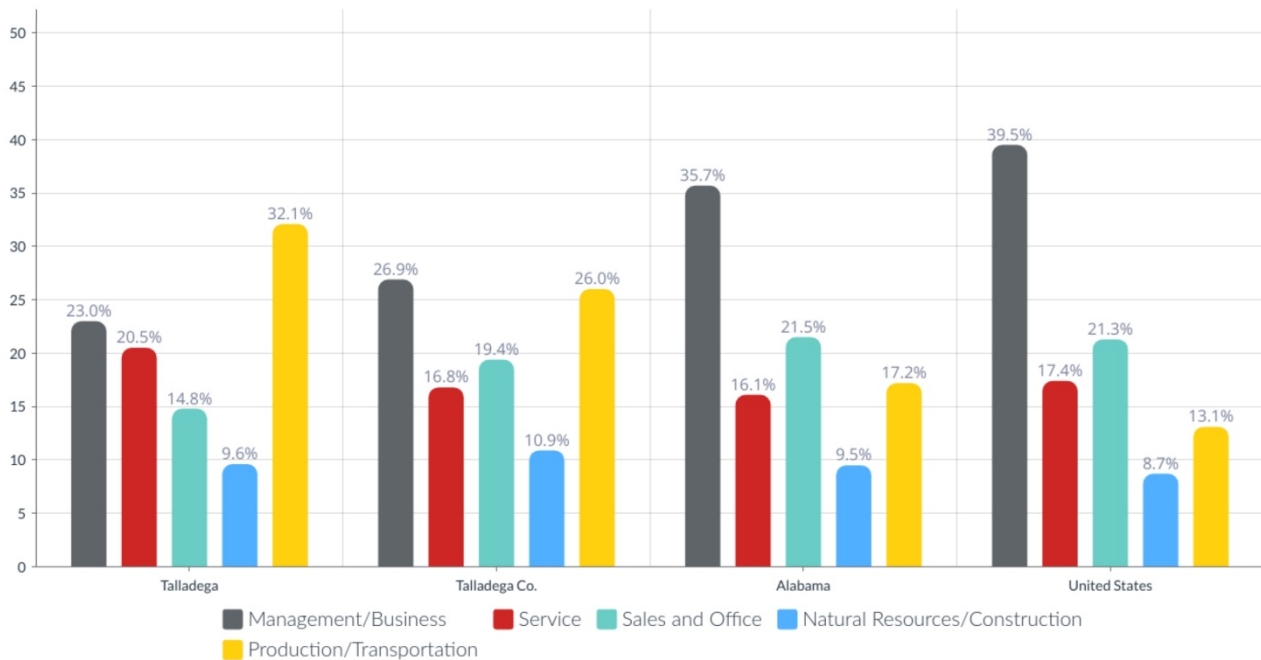
**Table E-7. Occupational Status: Talladega, AL**

Occupational Status	Talladega			Talladega County			Alabama			U.S.		
	2016	2020	% Change	2016	2020	% Change	2016	2020	% Change	2016	2020	% Change
Management / Business	1,332	1,150	-13.7%	8,672	8,627	-0.5%	685,523	756,013	10.3%	54,751,318	61,526,906	12.4%
% of Total	27.8%	23.0%		28.1%	26.9%		33.6%	35.7%		37.0%	39.5%	
Service	752	1,023	36.0%	4,659	5,372	15.3%	339,793	341,826	0.60%	26,765,182	27,095,654	1.2%
% of Total	15.7%	20.5%		15.1%	16.8%		16.6%	16.1%		18.1%	17.4%	
Sales and Office	854	737	-13.7%	6,881	6,235	-9.4%	489,112	456,424	-6.7%	35,282,759	33,247,878	-5.8%
% of Total	17.8%	14.8%		22.3%	19.4%		24.0%	21.5%		23.8%	21.3%	
Nat. Resources / Construction	404	480	18.8%	3,353	3,496	4.3%	199,303	201,224	1.0%	13,171,632	13,620,436	3.4%
% of Total	8.4%	9.6%		10.9%	10.9%		9.8%	9.5%		8.9%	8.7%	
Production / Transportation	1,457	1,601	9.9%	7,288	8,338	14.4%	328,294	364,449	11.0%	18,030,435	20,398,106	13.1%
% of Total	30.4%	32.1%		23.6%	26.0%		16.1%	17.2%		12.2%	13.1%	
Total	4,799	4,991	4.0%	30,853	32,068	3.9%	2,042,025	2,119,986	3.8%	148,001,326	155,888,980	5.3%

Source: 2012-2016 and 2016-2020 American Community Survey

## E-6: Occupational Status

Talladega, AL (2020)





## Industrial Composition

**Table E-8. Industrial Composition: Talladega, AL**

Industry	Talladega			Talladega County			Alabama			U.S.		
	2016	2020	% Change	2016	2020	% Change	2016	2020	% Change	2016	2020	% Change
Agriculture	46	83	80.4%	510	489	-4.1%	32,734	29,921	-8.6%	2,843,703	2,658,413	-6.5%
% of Total	1.0%	1.7%		1.7%	1.5%		1.6%	1.4%		1.9%	1.7%	
Manufacturing/ Construction	1,433	1,623	13.3%	8,653	8,580	-0.8%	417,658	443,979	6.3%	24,572,992	26,033,657	5.9%
% of Total	29.9%	32.5%		28.0%	26.8%		20.5%	20.9%		16.6%	16.7%	
Retail/Wholesale Trade	578	706	22.1%	4,161	4,487	7.8%	296,990	298,065	0.4%	21,021,273	21,166,856	0.7%
% of Total	12.0%	14.1%		13.5%	14.0%		14.5%	14.1%		14.2%	13.6%	
Transportation /Info.	151	148	-2.0%	2,130	2,707	27.1%	142,635	148,630	4.2%	10,543,121	8,943,605	-15.2%
% of Total	3.1%	3.0%		6.9%	8.4%		7.0%	7.0%		7.1%	5.7%	
FIRE	106	110	3.8%	1,548	1,370	-11.5%	114,110	118,006	3.4%	9,731,609	10,319,201	6.0%
% of Total	2.2%	2.2%		5.0%	4.3%		5.6%	5.6%		6.6%	6.6%	
Services/Public Administration	2,485	2,321	-6.6%	13,851	14,435	4.2%	1,037,898	1,081,385	4.2%	79,288,628	84,073,248	6.0%
% of Total	51.8%	46.5%		44.9%	45.0%		50.8%	51.0%		53.6%	53.9%	
Total	4,799	4,991	4.0%	30,853	32,068	3.9%	2,042,025	2,119,986	3.8%	148,001,326	155,888,980	5.3%

Source: 2012-2016 and 2016-2020 American Community Survey

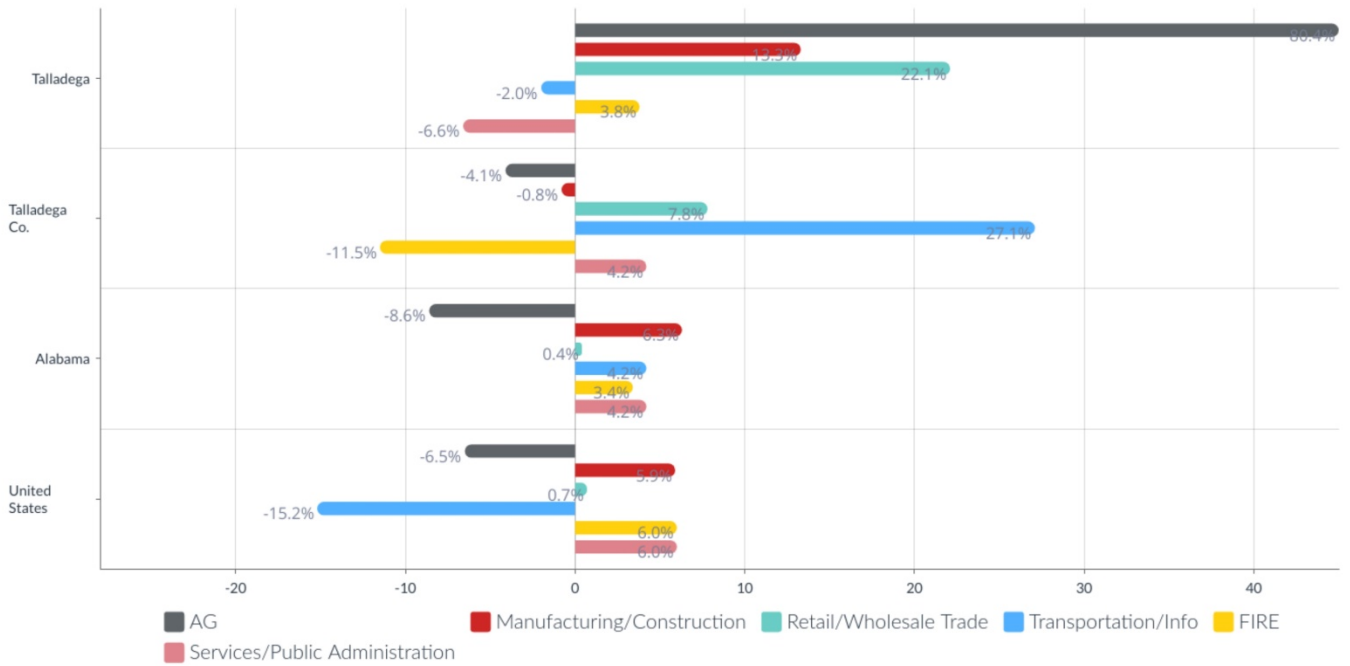
**Table E-8. Industrial Composition: Ranburne, AL**

Industry	Ranburne			Cleburne County			Alabama			2016	
	2016	2020	% Change	2016	2020	% Change	2016	2020	% Change		
Agriculture	14	3	-78.6%	324	200	-38.3%	32,734	29,921	-8.6%	2,843,703	
% of Total	6.9%	1.4%		5.6%	3.4%		1.6%	1.4%		1.9%	
Manufacturing/ Construction	55	42	-23.6%	1,788	1,917	7.2%	417,658	443,979	6.3%	24,572,992	20
% of Total	27.2%	19.5%		30.7%	33.0%		20.5%	20.9%		16.6%	
Retail/Wholesale Trade	28	23	-17.9%	932	726	-22.1%	296,990	298,065	0.4%	21,021,273	2
% of Total	13.9%	10.7%		16.0%	12.5%		14.5%	14.1%		14.2%	
Transportation /Info.	16	38	137.5%	395	307	-22.3%	142,635	148,630	4.2%	10,543,121	8
% of Total	7.9%	17.7%		6.8%	5.3%		7.0%	7.0%		7.1%	
FIRE	12	8	-33.3%	192	237	23.4%	114,110	118,006	3.4%	9,731,609	10
% of Total	5.9%	3.7%		3.3%	4.1%		5.6%	5.6%		6.6%	
Services/Public Administration	77	101	31.2%	2,192	2,427	10.7%	1,037,898	1,081,385	4.2%	79,288,628	8



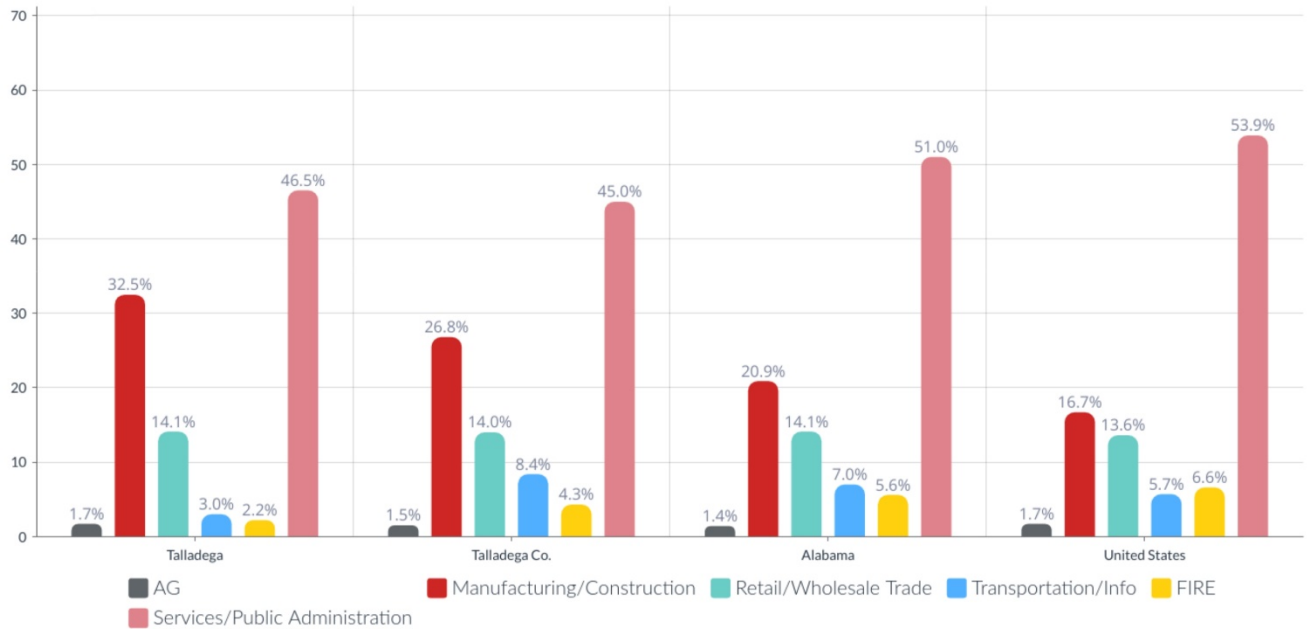
% of Total	38.1%	47.0%		37.6%	41.7%		50.8%	51.0%		53.6%
Total	202	215	6.4%	5,823	5,814	-0.2%	2,042,025	2,119,986	3.8%	148,001,326

**E-7: % Change in Industrial Composition**  
Talladega, AL (2016-2020)





**E-8: Industrial Composition**  
Talladega, AL (2020)



## Poverty Status

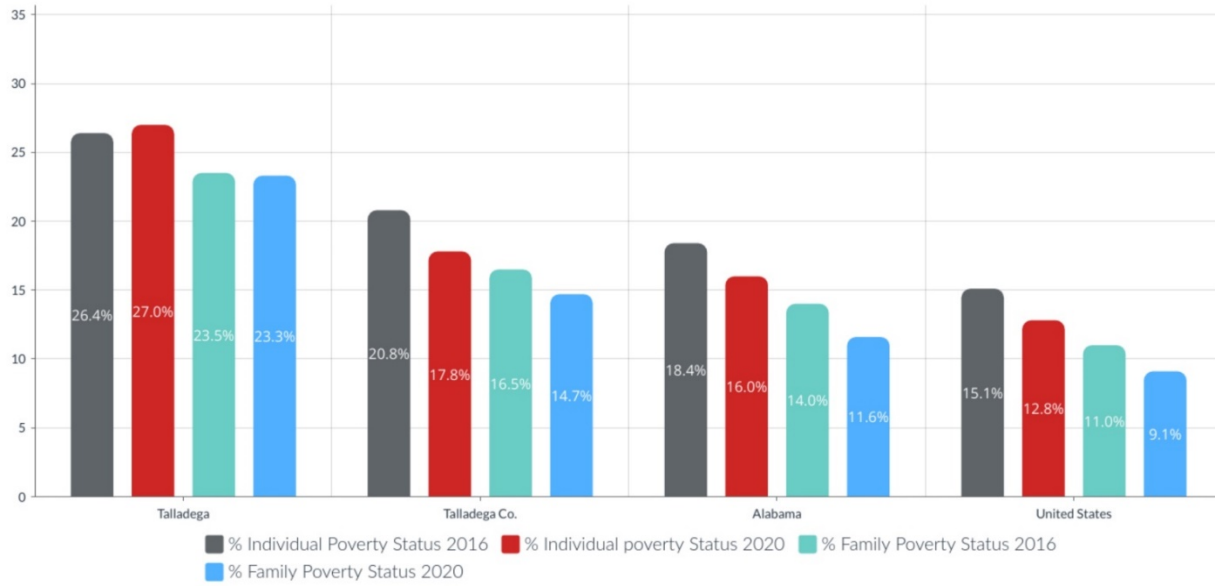
**Table E-9. Poverty Status (Percent of Total): Talladega, AL**

Poverty Status	Talladega		Talladega County		Alabama		U.S.	
	2016	2020	2016	2020	2016	2020	2016	2020
Individuals 18 years and older	38.6%	41.7%	30.7%	28.4%	27.9%	25.3%	23.5%	21.4%
Individuals 65 years and older	15.9%	16.1%	11.7%	11.1%	10.6%	10.2%	9.3%	9.3%
Related children under 18 years	47.5%	44.4%	32.3%	24.9%	22.7%	18.9%	17.4%	14.3%
Related children 5 to 17 years old	28.4%	37.9%	24.9%	19.6%	19.6%	16.5%	14.8%	12.3%
Unrelated individuals 15 years and older	18.0%	8.7%	15.7%	5.7%	31.6%	29.7%	26.6%	24.2%
Total Individuals below poverty level	26.4%	27.0%	20.8%	17.8%	18.4%	16.0%	15.1%	12.8%
Total families below poverty level	23.5%	23.3%	16.5%	14.7%	14.0%	11.6%	11.0%	9.1%

Source: 2012-2016 and 2016-2020 American Community Survey



E-9: Poverty Status  
Talladega, AL (2016-2020)





## Talladega Housing

### Housing Unit Types

**Table H-1. Housing Unit Types: Talladega, AL (American Community Survey)**

Housing Types	Talladega			Talladega County			Alabama			U.S.		
	2016	2020	%Change	2016	2020	%Change	2016	2020	%Change	2016	2020	%Change
Single-family	4,481	4,542	1.4%	24,057	24,371	1.3%	1,551,665	1,596,801	2.9%	90,444,476	93,661,138	3.6%
% of Total	66.5%	66.2%		64.7%	64.1%		70.2%	70.3%		67.5%	67.7%	
Multi-family	1,610	1,847	14.7%	4,300	3,999	-7.0%	360,121	374,270	3.9%	35,047,045	36,264,047	3.5%
% of Total	23.9%	26.9%		11.6%	10.5%		16.3%	16.5%		26.1%	26.2%	
Mobile home	646	471	-27.1%	8,720	9,565	9.7%	295,722	296,231	0.2%	8,454,133	8,374,539	-0.9%
% of Total	9.6%	6.9%		23.4%	25.2%		13.4%	13.0%		6.3%	6.0%	
Other	0	0	N/A	120	86	-28.3%	1,827	3,096	69.5%	109,245	133,027	21.8%
% of Total	0.0%	0.0%		0.3%	0.2%		0.1%	0.1%		0.1%	0.1%	
Total Units	6,737	6,860	1.8%	37,197	38,021	2.2%	2,209,335	2,270,398	2.8%	134,054,899	138,432,751	3.3%

Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey

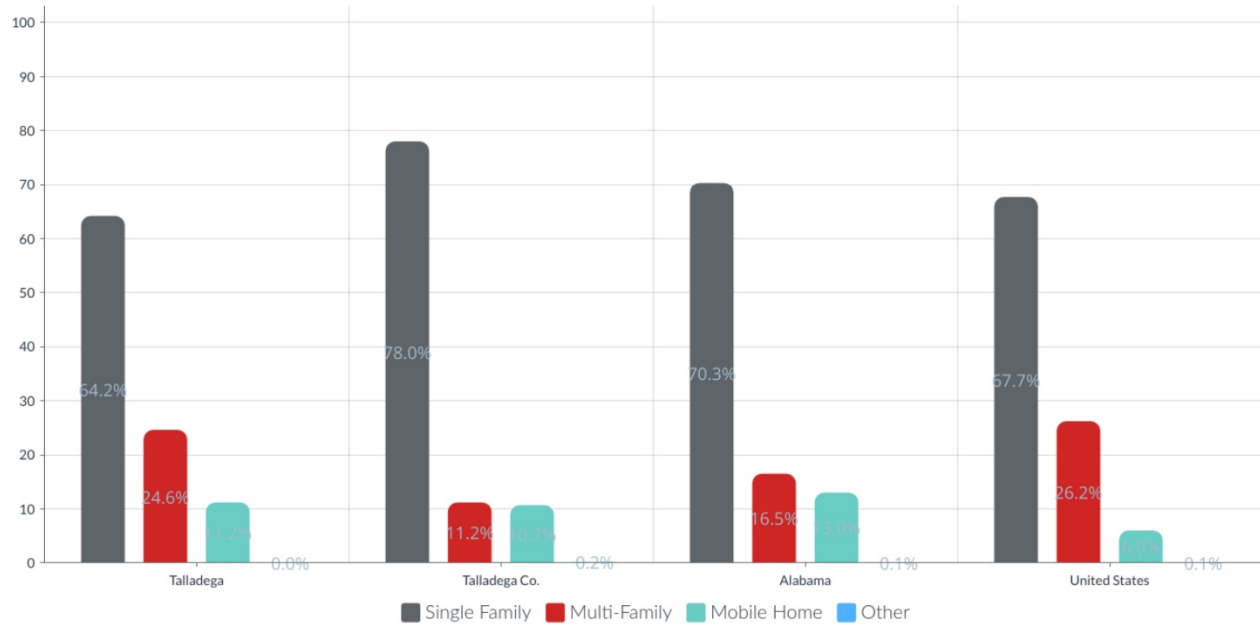
**Table H-1. Housing Unit Types: Talladega, AL 2020**

Housing Types	Talladega		Talladega Co.		Alabama		U.S.	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total
Single-family	326	64.2%	37,269	78.0%	1,596,801	70.3%	93,661,138	67.7%
Multi-family	125	24.6%	5,348	11.2%	374,270	16.5%	36,264,047	26.2%
Mobile home	57	11.2%	5,097	10.7%	296,231	13.0%	8,374,539	6.0%
Other	0	0.0%	91	0.2%	3,096	0.1%	133,027	0.1%
Total Units	508	100.0%	47,805	100.0%	2,270,398	100.0%	138,432,751	100.0%

Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey



H-1: Housing Unit Types  
Talladega, AL (2020)



## Tenure and Occupancy

Table H-2. Tenure and Occupancy: Talladega, AL (2016-2020 American Community Survey)

Tenure & Occupancy	Talladega			Talladega County			Alabama			U.S.		
	2016	2020	%Change	2016	2020	%Change	2016	2020	%Change	2016	2020	%Change
Occupied	5,741	5,645	-1.7%	31,461	31,741	0.89%	1,851,061	1,888,504	2.0%	117,716,237	122,354,219	3.9%
% of Total	85.2%	82.3%		84.6%	83.5%		83.8%	83.2%		87.8%	88.4%	
Owner-occupied	3,227	3,092	-4.2%	22,718	22,692	-0.1%	1,267,824	1,306,505	3.1%	74,881,068	78,801,376	5.2%
% of Total	47.9%	45.1%		61.1%	59.7%		57.4%	57.5%		55.9%	56.9%	
Renter-occupied	2,514	2,553	1.6%	8,743	9,049	3.5%	583,237	581,999	-0.2%	42,835,169	43,552,843	1.7%
% of Total	37.3%	37.2%		23.5%	23.8%		26.4%	25.6%		32.0%	31.5%	
Vacant	996	1,215	22.0%	5,736	6,280	9.5%	358,274	381,894	6.6%	16,338,662	16,078,532	-1.6%
% of Total	14.8%	17.7%		15.4%	16.5%		16.2%	16.8%		12.2%	11.6%	
Total Units	6,737	6,860	1.8%	37,197	38,021	2.2%	2,209,335	2,270,398	2.8%	134,054,899	138,432,751	3.3%

Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey

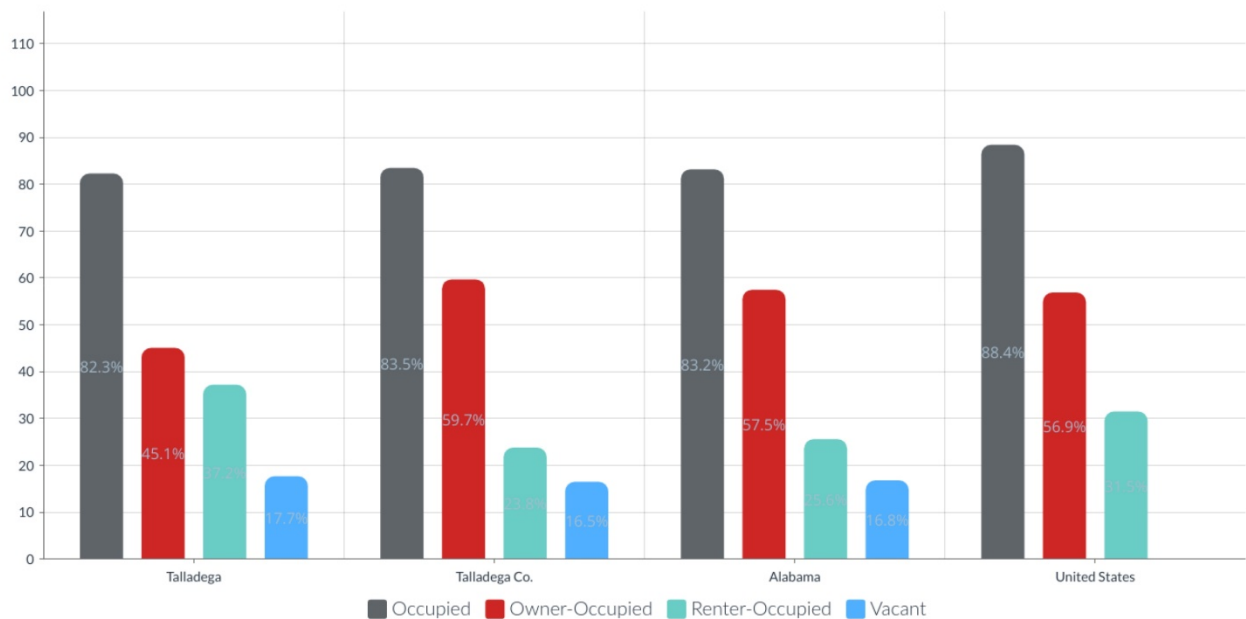


**Table H-2. Housing Occupancy and Tenure: Talladega, AL 2020**

Tenure and Occupancy	Talladega		Talladega County		Alabama		U.S.	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total
Occupied	5,645	82.3%	31,741	83.5%	1,888,504	83.2%	122,354,219	88.4%
Owner-occupied	3,092	45.1%	22,692	59.7%	1,306,505	57.5%	78,801,376	56.9%
Renter-occupied	2,553	37.2%	9,049	23.8%	581,999	25.6%	43,552,843	31.5%
Vacant	1,215	17.7%	6,280	16.5%	381,894	16.8%	16,078,532	11.6%
Total Units	6,860	100.0%	38,021	100.0%	2,270,398	100.0%	138,432,751	100.0%

Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey

**H-2: Tenure and Occupancy**  
Talladega, AL (2020)





## Vacancy Status

**Table H-3. Housing Vacancy: Talladega, AL (American Community Survey 2016-2020)**

Vacancy Status	Talladega			Talladega County			Alabama			U.S.		
	2016	2020	% Change	2016	2020	% Change	2016	2020	% Change	2016	2020	% Change
For rent, only	213	141	-33.8%	733	595	-18.8%	61,550	63,532	3.2%	2,855,844	2,704,553	-5.3%
% of Total	21.4%	11.6%		12.8%	9.5%		17.2%	16.6%		17.5%	16.8%	
For sale, only	128	214	67.2%	808	489	-39.5%	31,544	21,865	-30.7%	1,395,797	1,129,755	-19.1%
% of Total	12.9%	17.6%		14.1%	7.8%		8.8%	5.7%		8.5%	7.0%	
Rented or sold, not occupied	31	57	83.9%	141	377	167.4%	26,858	29,155	8.6%	1,253,648	1,178,130	-6.0%
% of Total	3.1%	4.7%		2.5%	6.0%		7.5%	7.6%		7.7%	7.3%	
Miscellaneous	191	100	-47.6%	1,573	1,533	-2.5%	80,482	75,372	-6.3%	5,403,483	5,339,153	-1.2%
% of Total	19.2%	8.2%		27.4%	24.4%		22.5%	19.7%		33.1%	33.2%	
Other Vacant	433	703	62.4%	2,481	3,286	32.4%	157,840	191,970	21.6%	5,429,890	5,726,941	5.5%
% of Total	43.5%	57.9%		43.3%	52.3%		44.1%	50.3%		33.2%	35.6%	
Total Vacant	996	1215	22.0%	5,736	6,280	9.5%	358,274	381,894	6.6%	16,338,662	16,078,532	-1.6%

Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey

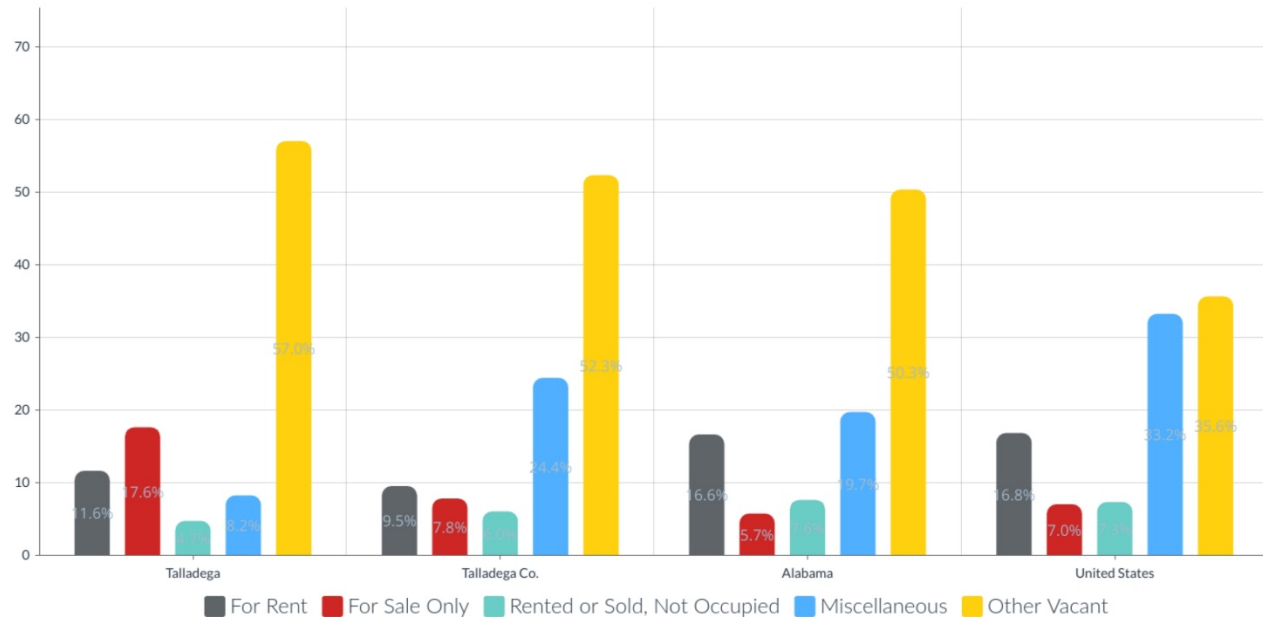
**Table H-3. Housing Vacancy: Talladega, AL 2020**

Vacancy Status	Talladega		Talladega County		Alabama		U.S.	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total
For rent	141	11.6%	595	9.5%	63,532	16.6%	2,704,553	16.8%
For sale only	214	17.6%	489	7.8%	21,865	5.7%	1,129,755	7.0%
Rented or sold, not occupied	57	4.7%	377	6.0%	29,155	7.6%	1,178,130	7.3%
Miscellaneous	100	8.2%	1,533	24.4%	75,372	19.7%	5,339,153	33.2%
Other vacant	703	57.9%	3,286	52.3%	191,970	50.3%	5,726,941	35.6%
Total	1,215	100.0%	6,280	100.0%	381,894	100.0%	16,078,532	100.0%

Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey



**H-3: Housing Vacancy Status**  
Talladega, Alabama (2020)



## Household Size

**Table H-4. Household Size: Talladega, AL 2016-2020 American Community Survey)**

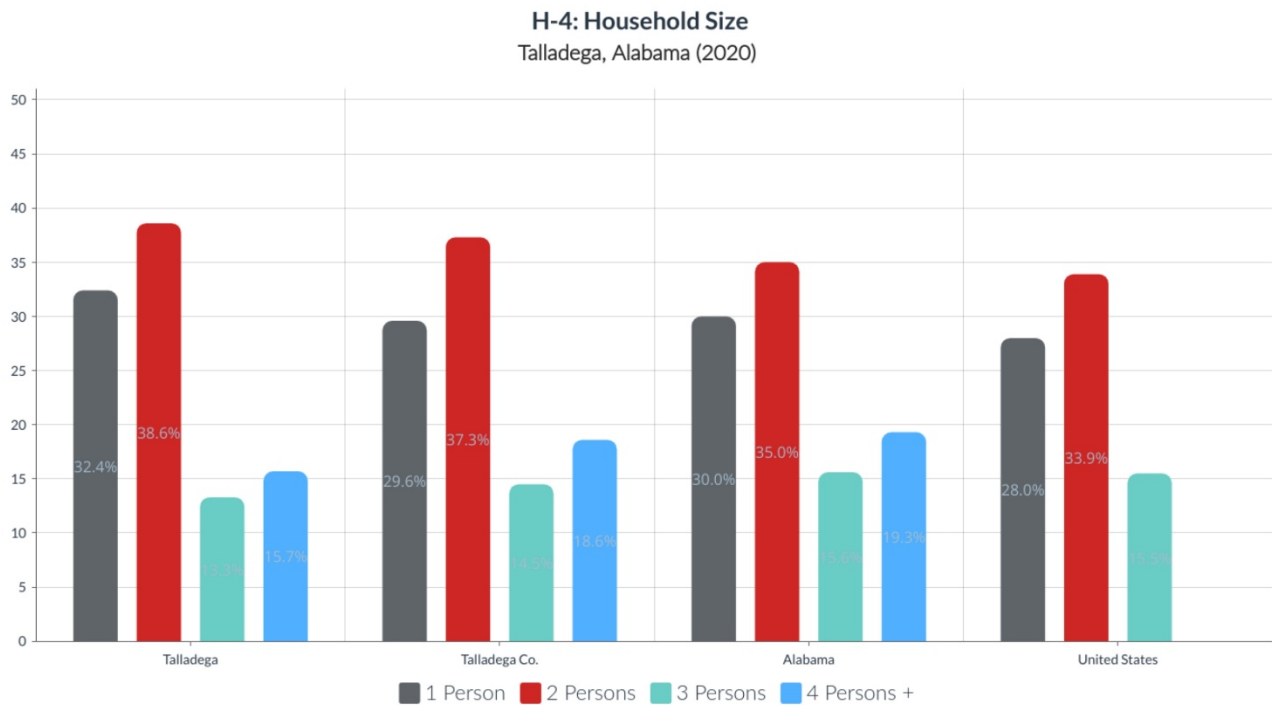
Household Size	Talladega			Talladega County			Alabama			U.S.		
	2016	2020	% Change	2016	2020	% Change	2016	2020	% Change	2016	2020	% Change
1 Person	2,032	1,828	-10.0%	9,155	9,386	2.5%	540,510	567,326	5.0%	32,607,398	34,254,532	5.1%
% of Total	35.4%	32.4%		29.1%	29.6%		29.2%	30.0%		27.7%	28.0%	
2 Persons	1,963	2,178	11.0%	11,043	11,837	7.2%	649,722	661,238	1.8%	39,670,372	41,488,418	4.6%
% of Total	34.2%	38.6%		35.1%	37.3%		35.1%	35.0%		33.7%	33.9%	
3 Persons	890	751	-15.6%	5,757	4,604	-20.0%	301,723	295,001	-2.2%	18,481,449	18,998,206	2.8%
% of Total	15.5%	13.3%		18.3%	14.5%		16.3%	15.6%		15.7%	15.5%	
4 Persons or more	856	888	3.7%	5,506	5,914	7.4%	359,106	364,939	1.6%	26,957,018	27,613,063	2.4%
% of Total	14.9%	15.7%		17.5%	18.6%		19.4%	19.3%		22.9%	22.6%	
Total Households	5,741	5,645	-1.7%	31,461	31,741	0.9%	1,851,061	1,888,504	2.0%	117,716,237	122,354,219	3.9%
Average HH Size	2.32	2.28	N/A	2.47	2.42	N/A	2.55	2.53	N/A	2.64	2.6	N/A

Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey



Table H-4. Household Size: Talladega, AL 2020				
	Talladega	Talladega Co.	Alabama	U.S.
1 Person	32.4%	29.6%	30.0%	28.0%
2 Persons	38.6%	37.3%	35.0%	33.9%
3 Persons	13.3%	14.5%	15.6%	15.5%
4 Persons +	15.7%	18.6%	19.3%	22.6%

Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey





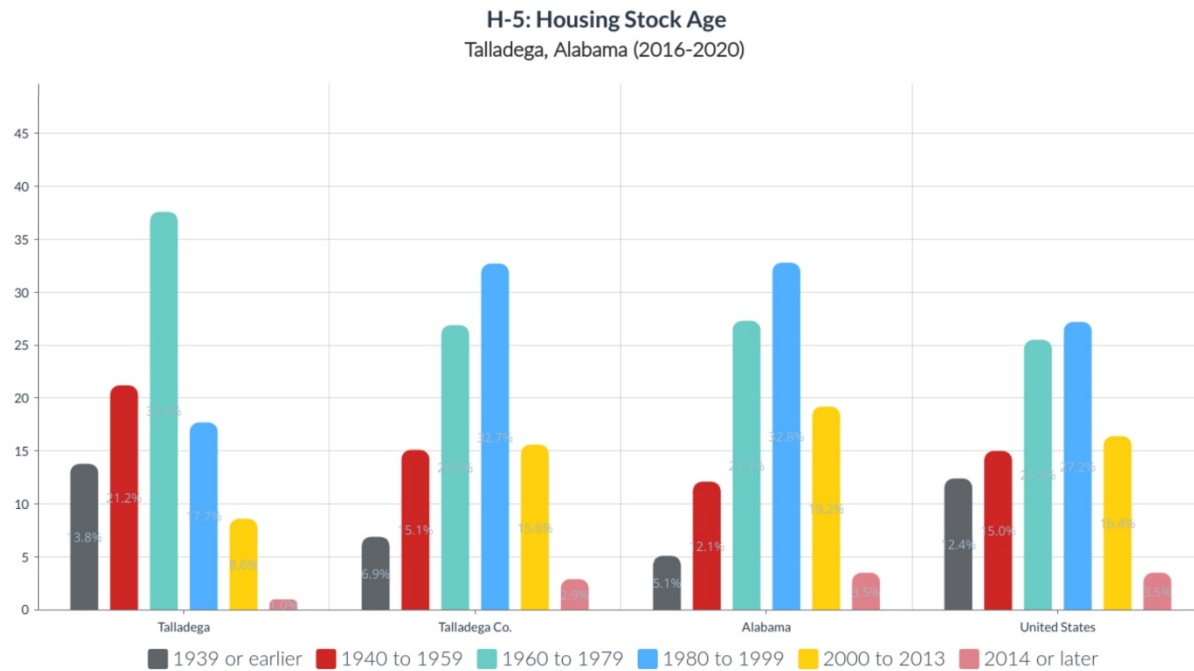
## Housing Stock Age

**Table H-5. Housing Stock Age: Talladega, AL 2020**

Housing Stock	Talladega		Talladega County		Alabama		U.S.	
	Number	%Change	Number	%Change	Number	%Change	Number	%Change
1939 or earlier	948	N/A	2,607	N/A	115,558	N/A	17,184,492	N/A
% of Total	13.8%		6.9%		5.1%		12.4%	
1940 to 1959	1,457	53.7%	5,734	119.9%	274,328	137.4%	20,745,914	20.7%
% of Total	21.2%		15.1%		12.1%		15.0%	
1960 to 1979	2,580	77.1%	10,239	78.6%	619,968	126.0%	35,317,337	70.2%
% of Total	37.6%		26.9%		27.3%		25.5%	
1980 to 1999	1,214	-52.9%	12,424	21.3%	745,054	20.2%	37,714,151	6.8%
% of Total	17.7%		32.7%		32.8%		27.2%	
2000 to 2013	592	-51.2%	5,920	-52.4%	436,624	-41.4%	22,644,613	-40.0%
% of Total	8.6%		15.6%		19.2%		16.4%	
2014 or later	69	-88.3%	1,097	-81.5%	78,866	-81.9%	4,826,244	-78.7%
% of Total	1.0%		2.9%		3.5%		3.5%	
Total Units	6,860		38,021		2,270,398		138,432,751	
Median Year Structure Built	1970		1981		1984		1978	

Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey





## Physical Housing Conditions

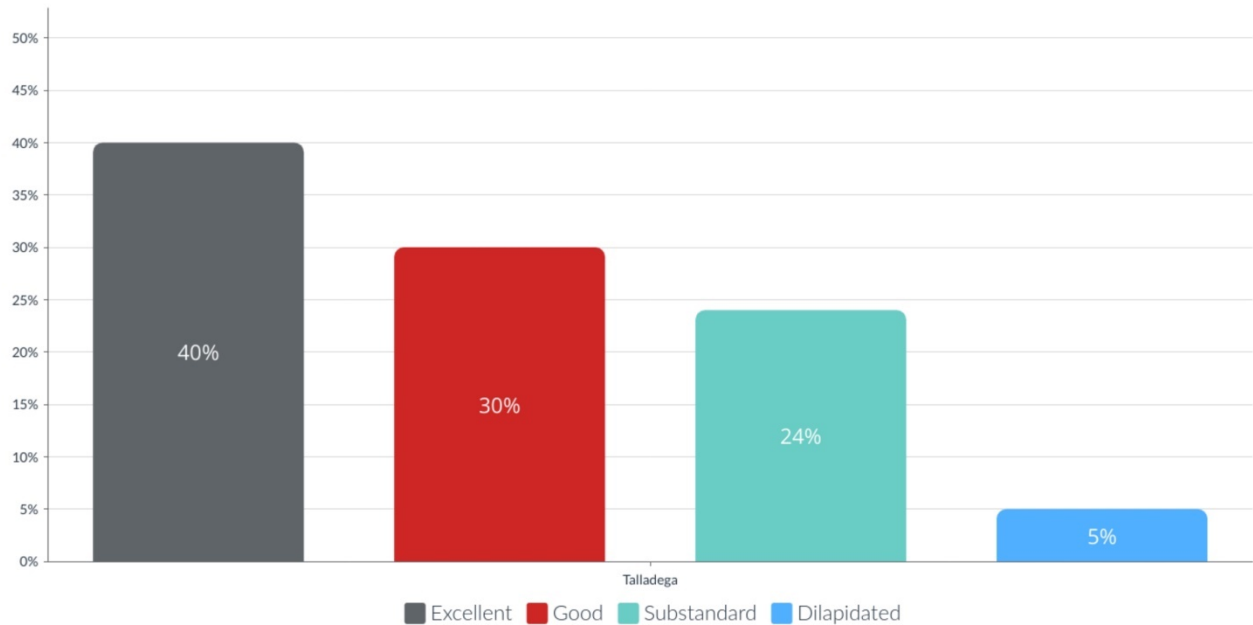
**Table H-6. Physical Housing Conditions: Talladega, AL 2023**

Housing Conditions	Single Family		Manufactured		Multi-Family				Totals	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Buildings	Percent	Units	Percent	Number	Percent
Excellent	1,619	37%	56	9%	240	57%	935	58%	2,850	40%
Good	1,457	33%	144	23%	124	29%	419	26%	2,144	30%
Substandard	1,077	24%	367	59%	57	13%	213	13%	1,714	24%
Dilapidated	249	6%	53	9%	2	0.5%	53	3%	357	5%
Total	4,402	100%	620	100%	423	100%	1,620	100%	7,065	100%

Source: EARPDC Talladega housing inventory



**H-6: Physical Housing Conditions**  
Talladega, Alabama (2023)



## Housing Value

**Table H-7. Housing Value of Owner-occupied Units: Talladega, AL 2016-2020**

Housing Value	Talladega			Talladega County			Alabama			U.S.		
	2016	2020	%Change	2016	2020	%Change	2016	2020	%Change	2016	2020	%Change
Less Than \$50,000	733	659	-10.1%	5,951	4,712	-20.8%	197,121	163,271	-17.2%	6,562,913	5,172,474	-21.2%
% of Total	22.7%	21.3%		26.2%	20.8%		15.5%	12.5%		8.8%	6.6%	
\$50,000 to \$99,999	1288	1068	-17.1%	6,009	5,452	-9.3%	290,794	257,661	-11.4%	11,046,600	8,698,428	-21.3%
% of Total	39.9%	34.5%		26.5%	24.0%		22.9%	19.7%		14.8%	11.0%	
\$100,000 to \$199,999	836	825	-1.3%	6,851	7,586	10.7%	439,304	450,990	2.7%	22,628,971	20,457,379	-9.6%
% of Total	25.9%	26.7%		30.2%	33.4%		34.7%	34.5%		30.2%	26.0%	
\$200,000 and above	370	540	45.9%	3,907	4,942	26.5%	340,605	434,583	27.6%	34,642,584	44,473,095	28.4%
% of Total	11.5%	17.5%		17.2%	21.8%		26.9%	33.3%		46.3%	56.4%	
Total Units	3,227	3,092	-4.2%	22,718	22,692	-0.1%	1,267,824	1,306,505	3.1%	74,881,068	78,801,376	5.2%
Median Value (dollars)	\$83,500	\$87,600	N/A	\$94,200	\$112,300	N/A	\$128,500	\$149,600	N/A	\$184,700	\$229,800	N/A

Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey

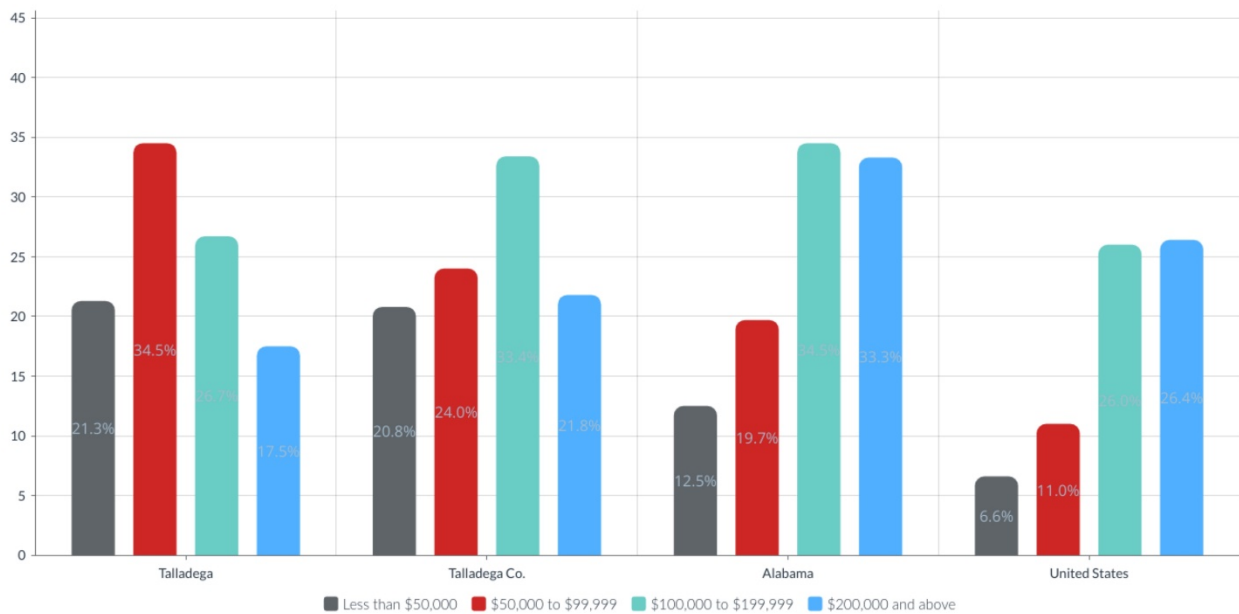


**Table H-7. Housing Value, Owner-occupied Housing Units: Talladega, AL 2020**

Housing Value	Talladega		Talladega County		Alabama		US	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total
Less Than \$50,000	659	21.3%	4,712	20.8%	163,271	12.5%	5,172,474	6.6%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	1,068	34.5%	5,452	24.0%	257,661	19.7%	8,698,428	11.0%
\$100,000 to \$199,999	825	26.7%	7,586	33.4%	450,990	34.5%	20,457,379	26.0%
\$200,000 and above	540	17.5%	4,942	21.8%	434,583	33.3%	44,473,095	56.4%
Total Units	3,092	100.0%	22,692	100.0%	1,306,505	100.0%	78,801,376	100.0%
Median Value (dollars)	\$87,600	N/A	\$112,300	N/A	\$149,600	N/A	\$229,800	N/A

Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey

**H-7: Housing Value (Owner-Occupied)**  
Talladega, Alabama (2016)



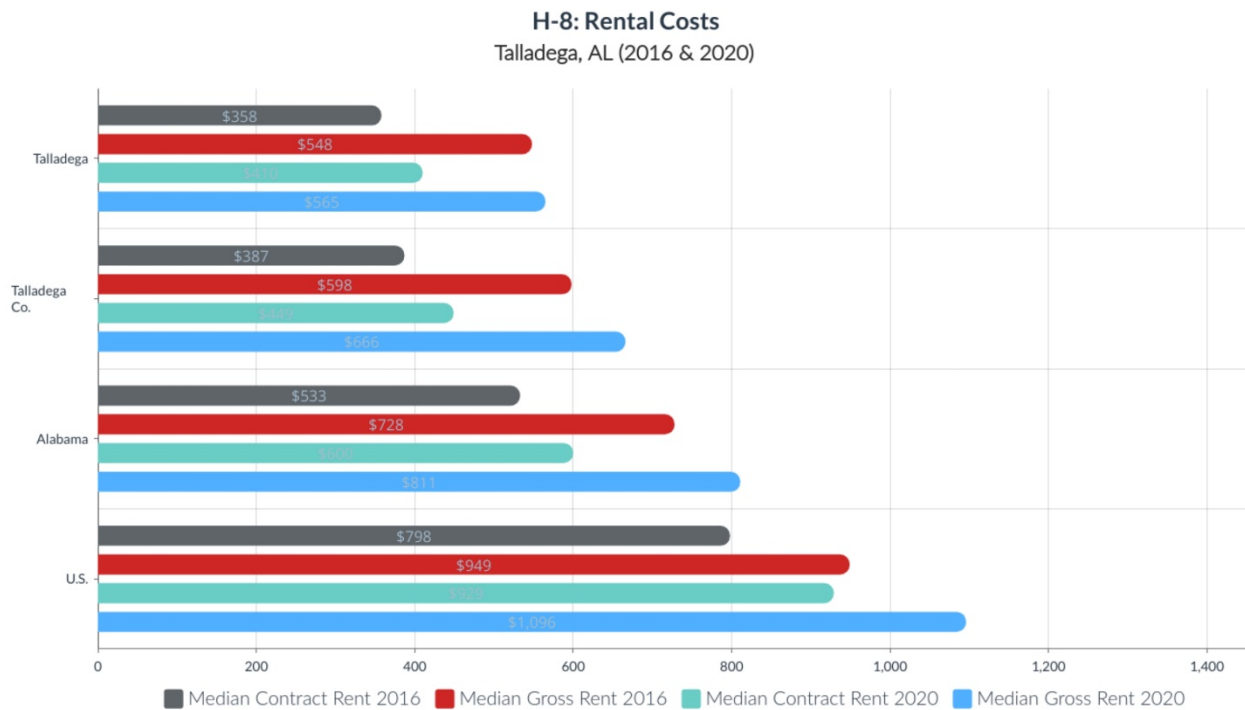


## Rental Costs

**Table H-8. Rental Costs: Talladega, AL 2016 & 2020**

Ownership Status	Talladega		Talladega County		Alabama		U.S.	
	2016	2020	2016	2020	2016	2020	2016	2020
Median Contract Rent	\$358	\$410	\$387	\$449	\$533	\$600	\$798	\$929
Median Gross Rent	\$548	\$565	\$598	\$666	\$728	\$811	\$949	\$1,096

Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey





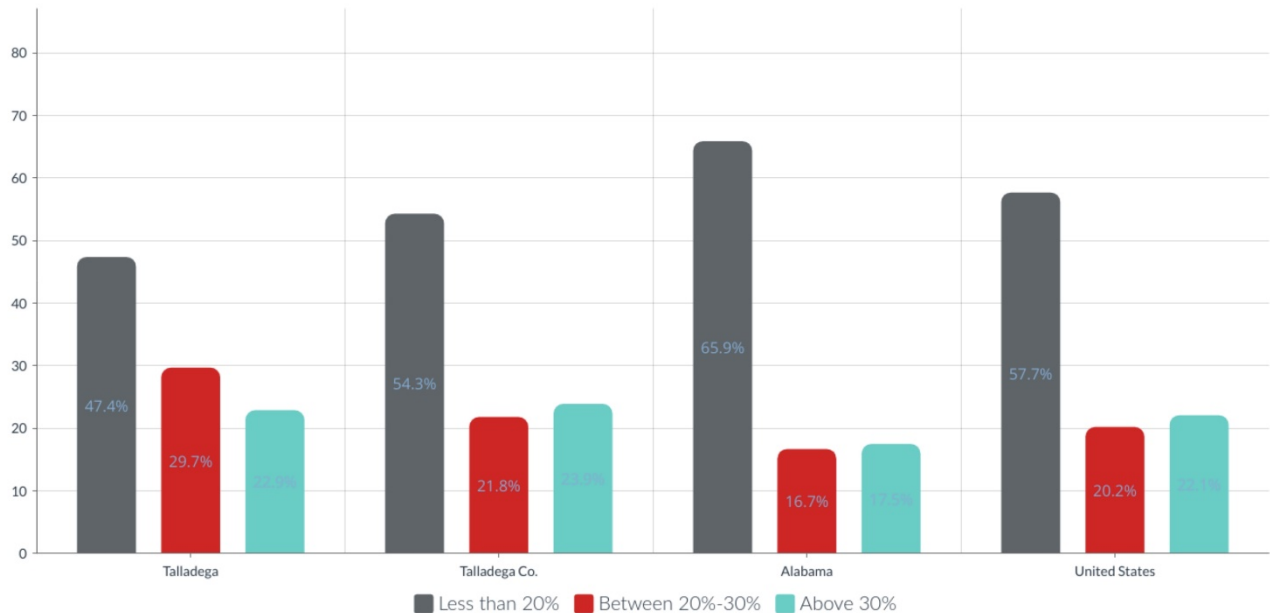
## Owner-occupied Housing Affordability

**Table H-9. Selected Monthly Owner Costs as a Percentage of Household Income: Talladega, AL 2020**

Percent of Income	Talladega	Talladega Co.	Alabama	U.S.
Less than 20%	47.4%	54.3%	65.9%	57.7%
Between 20% - 30%	29.7%	21.8%	16.7%	20.2%
30% and above	22.9%	23.9%	17.5%	22.1%

Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey

**H-9: Housing Affordability- Monthly Owner Costs as a Percentage of Household Income**  
Talladega, Alabama (2020)



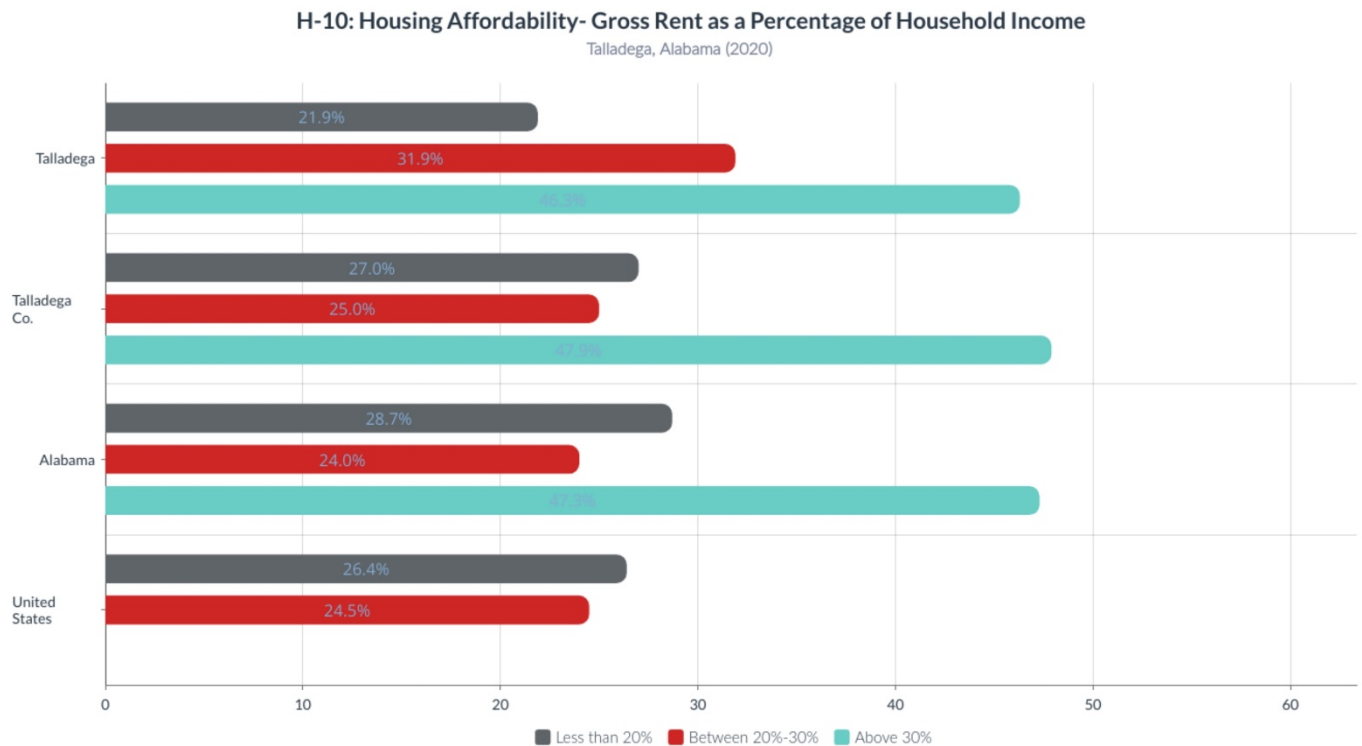


## Renter-occupied Housing Affordability

**Table H-10. Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income: Talladega, AL 2020**

Percent of Income	Talladega	Talladega County	Alabama	U.S.
Less than 20%	21.9%	27.0%	28.7%	26.4%
Between 20% - 29%	31.9%	25.0%	24.0%	24.5%
30% and Above	46.3%	47.9%	47.3%	49.1%

Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey





<b>ST-3. Summary Table: Housing Information, Talladega, AL 2020 ACS</b>				
Geography	Talladega	Talladega County	Alabama	U.S.
% Occupied units	82.3%	83.5%	83.2%	88.4%
% Owner-occupied	45.1%	59.7%	57.5%	56.9%
% Renter-occupied	37.2%	23.8%	25.6%	31.5%
% Vacant units	17.7%	16.5%	16.8%	11.6%
Homeowner vacancy rate	17.6%	7.8%	5.7%	7.0%
Rental vacancy rate	11.6%	9.5%	16.6%	16.8%
% homes built prior 1980	72.7%	48.9%	44.5%	52.9%
% homes built post 2000	9.6%	18.5%	22.7%	19.8%
Median value (dollars)	\$87,600	\$112,300	\$149,600	\$229,800
Median monthly owner costs (dollars)	\$569	\$640	\$768	\$1,142
Median gross rent (dollars)	\$565	\$666	\$811	\$1,096
Affordability Owner-occ. Below 30%	77.1%	76.1%	82.6%	77.9%
Affordability Renter-occ. Below 30%	53.8%	52.0%	52.7%	50.9%

**LEGEND (Compared to City)**

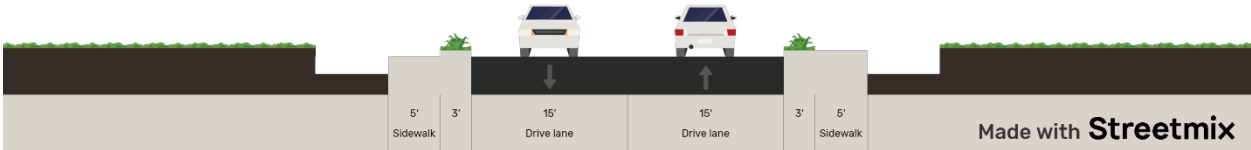
Higher than 10% or \$10,000 above	means the city does not meet par
Between 10% and -10% or +\$0-\$9,999	means the city meets par
Lower than 10% or -\$10,000 below	means the city exceeds par

Note: Homes built prior to 1980 are marked in red because the city holds considerably more older homes than the county, state, or nation, which means potentially more needs for improvement.

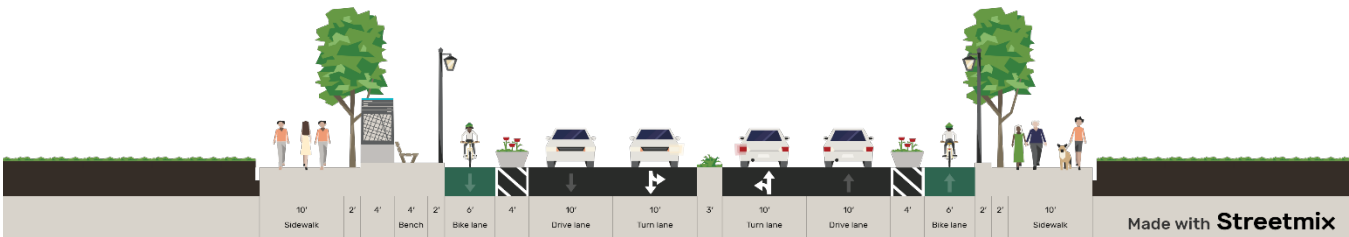
Note: Median monthly owner costs and gross rent are based on the city being either plus or minus \$100 in comparison.



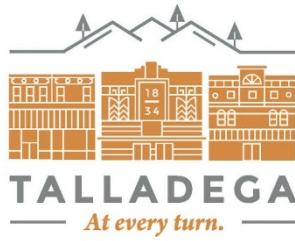
Stephen J White Memorial Blvd



Stephen J White Memorial Blvd







# Comprehensive Plan

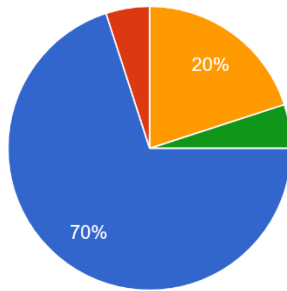
## PUBLIC INPUT SURVEY AND VISION RESULTS





## Survey Participants

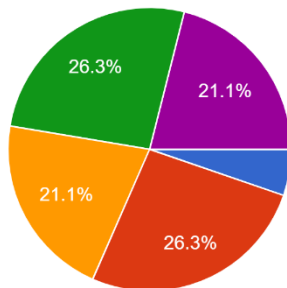
20 responses



- Resident
- Property Owner (but not a resident)
- Business Owner
- City Employee

## Respondent Age Range

19 responses

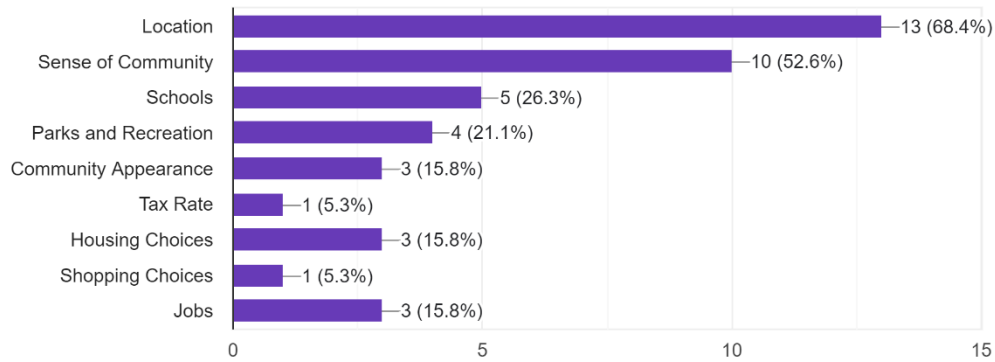


- 18-24
  - 41-55
  - 56-65
  - 66-75
  - 75+
-



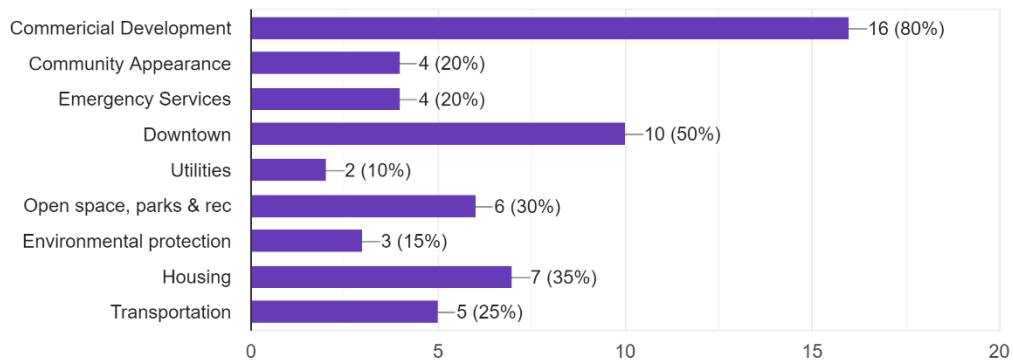
## What do you like about the City of Talladega?

19 responses



## Top 3 Items of Importance to the City of Talladega's Future

20 responses



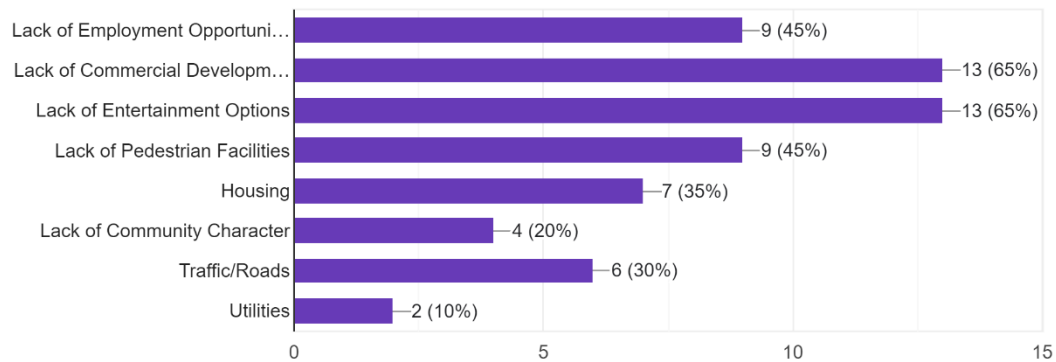


## City of Talladega

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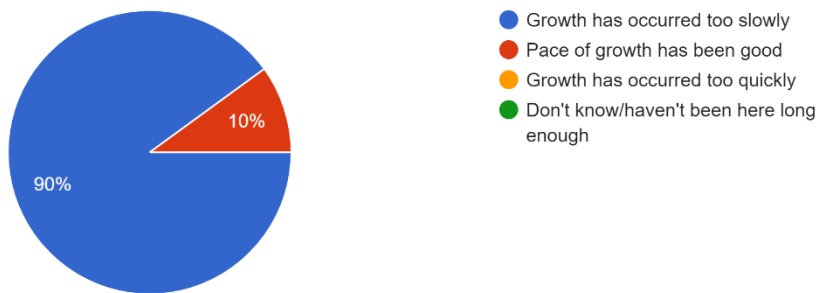
Every community has its shortcomings. Which of the following do you think apply to the City of Talladega?

20 responses



How do you feel about the pace of growth and development in Talladega over the past ten (10) years?

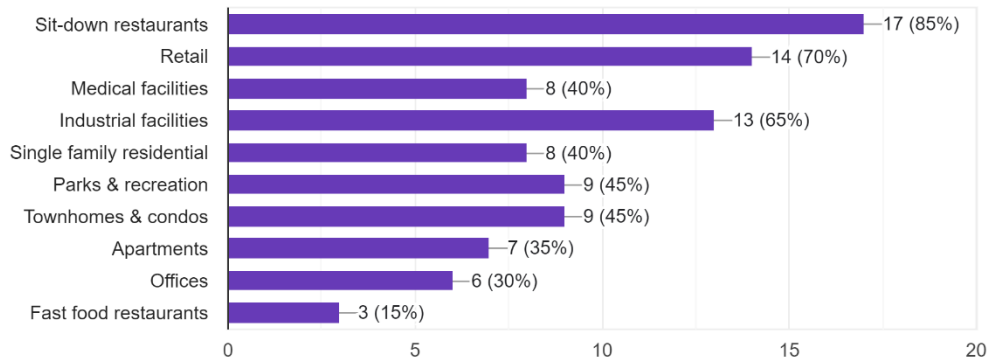
20 responses





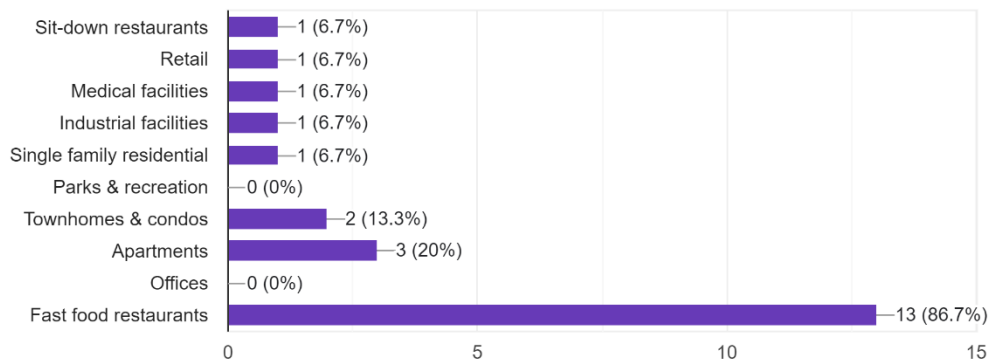
## In the future, what types of development should the City encourage?

20 responses



## In the future, what types of development should the City discourage?

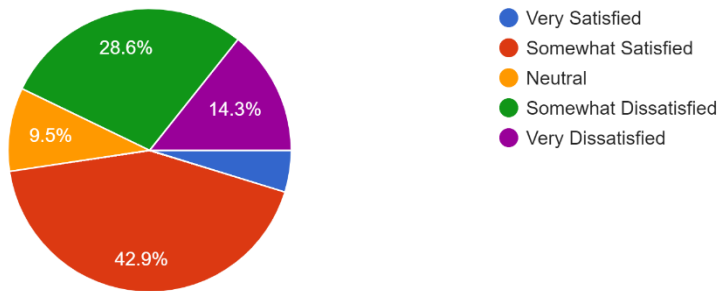
15 responses





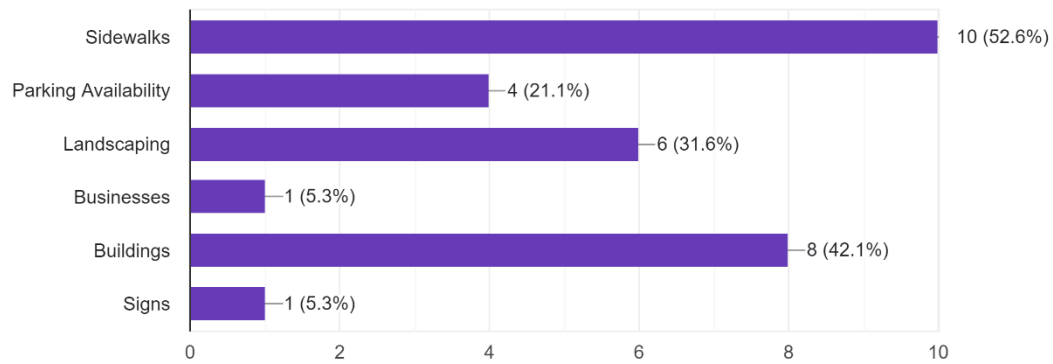
### Are you satisfied with the appearance of Downtown Talladega?

21 responses



### What do you like most about Downtown Talladega?

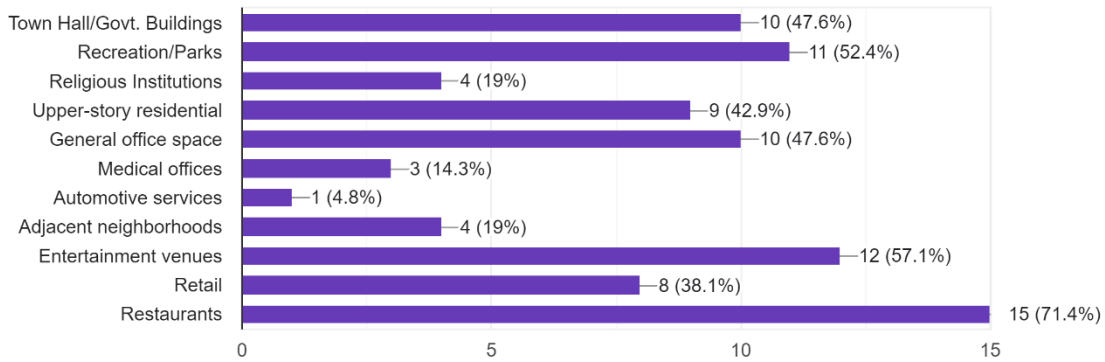
19 responses





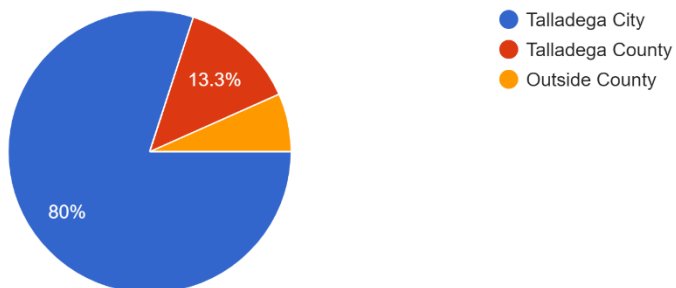
## What uses do you think are crucial for a successful Downtown?

21 responses



## Where do you work?

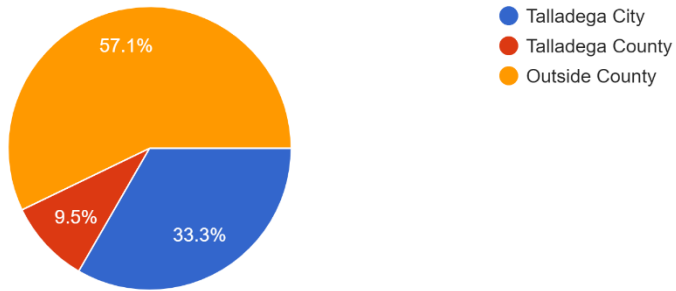
15 responses





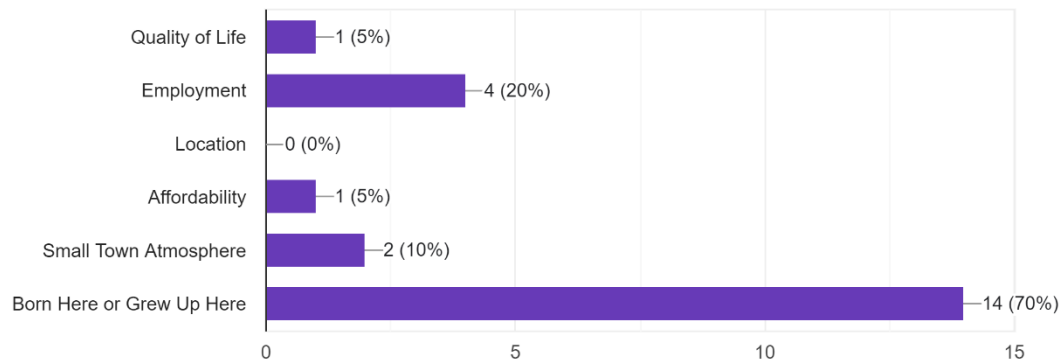
## Where do you most frequently shop?

21 responses



## What attracted you to the area?

20 responses





What is the City of Talladega's Biggest Opportunities and Challenges?	
Opportunities	Challenges
Name Recognition; Marketability	Finances; Increase in Revenue
Various Tourist Attractions/Tourism	Crime
Size	Schools; Education
Historic Character	Lack of Access
Talladega College; Welcoming a Plethora of Students to Talladega College	Getting Entire Community on Board; Lack of Participation
AIDB	Attracting New Businesses & Developers
Diversity	Keeping Current Business Profitable; Lack of Support for Local Business
Main Street	Fill Vacant Buildings for Businesses
Historic District; Historic Homes & Buildings	Keeping College and School Students after Graduation; Retain Citizens Overall
Economic Expansion: Housing for 1 <sup>st</sup> Time Home Buyers, Housing for College/AIDB Students & Staff	Infrastructure
Small Businesses; New Businesses	Operating Funds to Execute Projects
Great Assets- Parks, Land, etc.	Drainage Problems When It Rains
Location to Recreation	Need More Restaurants
Job Growth	Growth



What is the City of Talladega's Biggest Opportunities and Challenges?	
Opportunities	Challenges
Youth Activities/Entertainment; Educational Programs	Housing
Shopping Areas with Retail and Restaurants	Lack of Jobs Within the City
Capture the Business and Attention of all the Visitors that are in the Surrounding Cities Attending Different Events	Transportation
Vacant Properties to be Developed and Refurbished	Parks & Recreation
Downtown Area Holds Characteristics that Could be Warm, Charming, Inviting for Economic Growth	Apathy- No Strong Sense of Community
Develop Sports/Athletics Programs for All Ages; Improved Recreation Programs	Low Socio-Economic Conditions
Invite All Populations to be Inclusive in City Planning	Lack of Diverse Population Working Together (Isolated Populations)
Strong & Long-Term Entities  Ex.) AIDB	Need for More Industry
Continuing to Grow; Attractions Here for our Residents & Visitors	Transportation for Out of Town Doctor Appointments
Becoming Known for More than the Speedway	More After School Functions to Keep Youth out of Trouble



Developing like the Surrounding Cities; each one is Growing and Expanding	City Has Been Bypassed
<b>What is the City of Talladega's Biggest Opportunities and Challenges?</b>	
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Challenges</b>
More Restaurants	Nasty Politics, Negativity
Better Housing	Lack of Parking on the Square
Clean Streets, Attractive Environment	
Improved Safety, Less Violence	



## **Visions and Wanted Physical Attributes for The City of Talladega**

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**-Vibrant/Busy Downtown      -Senior Activities**  
**-Cleaner Downtown          -Remove Old Cars**  
**-Less Crime**

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---

***"To strive for a crime free environment, and for growth as a city and financially."***

---

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***"The time is ripe to propel Talladega into the next Generation."***

---

---

**-Recreation                      -Transportation**  
**-Entertainment                -Sit-down restaurants**

---

---

***-I would love to see a city like Trussville: downtown entertainment, jobs, recreation for families, things for the youth.***

---

---

***-Clean, well-kept buildings with shops, well planted, little crime***

---

---

**-Beautification                -New Businesses**  
**-Housing (Single Dwellings)**  
**-Jobs**

---

---

***-I would like to see the downtown area like it was in the 60's. Streets were crowded with people shopping and fellowshiping with one another.***

---



## **Visions and Wanted Physical Attributes for The City of Talladega**

---

***-Our citizens more active in the city. The way to do that is to get more attractions for us and surrounding areas to visit.***

---

---

***“Future forward City” “Future Forward Community for All Generations.”***  
***-Restaurants                      -Entertainment Area***  
***-Retail businesses***

---

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***-Be more aware of history and God.***

---

---

***-Sit-down restaurants***  
***-Better drainage system***

---

---

***-Something like Pell City would be an improvement.***

---

---

***“More attractive, safe community with more job opportunities for the community.”***

---

---

***-More opportunities for youth***  
***-Recreational facilities***

---

---

***-Attraction/retention of young professionals and families***  
***-Growth across the board***

---



## **Visions and Wanted Physical Attributes for The City of Talladega**

---

***“Diverse, inclusive, outstanding, quality of life....  
Atlanta/Mayberry feeling.”***

---

---

***“We strive to be a welcoming and diverse  
community that provides a variety of  
opportunities for our residents to be successful,  
enjoy life, enjoy the outdoors, and understand the  
importance of education, the environment, and  
community teamwork.” (Historic Character)***

---

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***-Schools/more jobs  
-More citizens to move into the City of Talladega***

---

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***-Upscale, affordable single-family dwellings  
-Multiple restaurants (varied)  
-Work together***

---

---

***“Embrace our history and move forward to a  
healthy and prosperous future.”***

---





## **Project Launch Open House (August 11, 2022)**

### **Agenda**

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

#### **Kickoff Presentation**

1. Understanding the Comprehensive Plan
2. Purpose of the Comprehensive Plan
3. Understanding Zoning Ordinance
4. Purpose of Zoning Ordinance
5. Difference between zoning ordinance and comprehensive plan

#### **Project process**

#### **Comprehensive Plan exercise**

What is Talladega's biggest opportunity?

What is Talladega's biggest challenge?

#### **Vision statement**

#### **Next steps**

#### Handouts:

Comprehensive Plan presentation slide deck

Public input survey

---



**Vision** - The vision is the foundation of the Comprehensive Plan. It is a statement that encompasses a plan for future prosperity and helps direct development and other program and policy decisions. It is a clear statement of how the community perceives itself, what it wants to become, and why residents and businesses should want to locate here.

The new vision for Talladega is a statement of

**what the community wants to be,**

**what it will offer,**

**to whom it will serve,**

and **how it will offer it better than the competition.**

---





## Comprehensive Plan Update - Public Input and Vision

### 1. Survey Participants

- ☐ Resident
- ☐ Property Owner (but not a resident)
- ☐ Business owner
- ☐ Other: Specify \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Respondent age range

- ☐ 18-24
- ☐ 25-40
- ☐ 41-55
- ☐ 56-65
- ☐ 66-75
- ☐ 75+

### 3. What do you like about the city of Talladega? (Rank the top three)

- ☐ Location
- ☐ Sense of Community
- ☐ Schools
- ☐ Parks & Recreation
- ☐ Community Appearance
- ☐ Tax Rate
- ☐ Housing Choices
- ☐ Shopping Choices
- ☐ Jobs

### 4. Please rank the top three items in order of importance as they relate to the City of Talladega's future.

- ☐ Commercial Development
- ☐ Community Appearance
- ☐ Emergency Services
- ☐ Downtown
- ☐ Utilities
- ☐ Open space, parks & rec
- ☐ Environmental protection
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Transportation

### 5. Every community has its shortcomings.

Which of the following do you think apply to the City of Talladega? **(Check all that apply)**

- ☐ Lack of employment opportunities
- ☐ Lack of commercial development
- ☐ Lack of entertainment options
- ☐ Lack of pedestrian facilities
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Lack of community character
- ☐ Traffic/Roads
- ☐ Utilities

### 6. How do you feel about the pace of growth and development in Talladega over the past (10) years?

- ☐ Growth has occurred too slowly
- ☐ Pace of growth has been good
- ☐ Growth has occurred too quickly
- ☐ Don't know/haven't been here long enough

### 7. In the future, what types of development should the City encourage? **(Check all that apply)**

- ☐ Sit-down restaurants
- ☐ Retail
- ☐ Medical facilities
- ☐ Industrial facilities
- ☐ Single family residential
- ☐ Parks & Recreation
- ☐ Townhomes & condos
- ☐ Apartments
- ☐ Offices
- ☐ Fast food restaurants





## Comprehensive Plan Update - Public Input and Vision

8. In the future, what types of development should the City discourage? **(Check all that apply)**

- ☐ Sit-down restaurants
- ☐ Retail
- ☐ Medical facilities
- ☐ Industrial facilities
- ☐ Single family residential
- ☐ Parks & Recreation
- ☐ Townhomes & condos
- ☐ Apartments
- ☐ Offices
- ☐ Fast food restaurants

9. Are you satisfied with the appearance of Downtown Talladega?

- ☐ Very Satisfied
- ☐ Somewhat Satisfied
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat Dissatisfied
- ☐ Very Dissatisfied

10. What do you like most about Downtown Talladega? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Sidewalks
- ☐ Parking Availability
- ☐ Landscaping
- ☐ Businesses
- ☐ Buildings
- ☐ Signs

11. What uses do you think are crucial for a successful Downtown? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Town Hall / Govt. Buildings
- ☐ Recreation / Parks
- ☐ Religious institutions
- ☐ Upper-story residential
- ☐ General office space

- ☐ Medical offices
- ☐ Automotive services
- ☐ Adjacent neighborhoods
- ☐ Entertainment venues
- ☐ Retail
- ☐ Restaurants

12. Where do you work?

- ☐ Talladega City
- ☐ Talladega County
- ☐ Outside County

13. Where do you most frequently shop?

- ☐ Talladega City
- ☐ Talladega County
- ☐ Outside County

14. What attracted you to the area?

- ☐ Quality of Life
- ☐ Employment
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Affordability
- ☐ Small Town Atmosphere
- ☐ Born Here or Grew up Here
- ☐ Other

15. Describe a vision that you feel embodies the future "look and feel" of the City of Talladega planning area or list physical attributes that you want to see.

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## Comprehensive Plan Update - Public Input and Vision



## **RESOLUTION NO. 2024-002**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE TALLADEGA PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVING THE 2034 CITY OF TALLADEGA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF SAID PLAN, AND FORWARDING SAID PLAN TO THE CITY COUNCIL FOR ITS CONSIDERATION AS AN ADVISORY POLICY DOCUMENT.**

**WHEREAS**, Title 11, Chapter 52, Section 8 of the Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended, authorizes the Planning Commission to make and adopt a master plan for the physical development of the municipality, including any areas outside of its boundaries which, in the Planning Commission's judgment, bear relation to the planning of the municipality and, from time to time, to amend, extend or add to the plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Talladega, Alabama recognizes the vulnerability of its resources, property, and operation to the potential impacts of future growth and development and, therefore, desires to exercise its planning powers in accordance with Alabama law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Planning Commission conducted a public hearing on August 22nd, 2024, to solicit final public comments on the 2034 City of Talladega Comprehensive Plan in accordance with Title 11, Chapter 52, Section 10 of the Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF TALLADEGA, ALABAMA:**

SECTION 1. That the 2034 City of Talladega Comprehensive Plan, and all maps contained therein, are hereby approved in accordance with the authority granted to the Planning Commission by Title 11, Chapter 52, Section 8 of the Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended.


SECTION 2. That the aforementioned plan shall become effective upon the date of approval by the Planning Commission.

SECTION 3. That the aforementioned plan shall be forwarded to the Talladega City Council for its consideration as an advisory policy document.

**ADOPTED**, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2024

  
Chair, Talladega Planning Commission

ATTEST:

  
Joanna Medlen, City Clerk



## RESOLUTION NO. 6141

**A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TALLADEGA, APPROVING THE 2034 CITY OF TALLADEGA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AS AN ADVISORY POLICY DOCUMENT.**

**WHEREAS**, Title 11, Chapter 52, Section 8 of the Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended, authorizes the Planning Commission to make and adopt a master plan for the physical development of the municipality, including any areas outside of its boundaries which, in the Planning Commission's judgment, bear relation to the planning of the municipality and, from time to time, to amend, extend or add to the plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Talladega, Alabama recognizes the vulnerability of its resources, property and operation to the potential impacts of future growth and development and, therefore, desires to exercise its planning powers in accordance with Alabama law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Planning Commission conducted a public hearing on August 22nd, 2024 to solicit final public comments on the 2034 City of Talladega Comprehensive Plan in accordance with Title 11, Chapter 52, Section 10 of the Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended, and subsequently adopted a resolution adopting the aforementioned plan, providing an effective date thereof, and forwarding the plan to the City Council for its consideration as an advisory policy document.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TALLADEGA, ALABAMA** that the 2034 City of Talladega Comprehensive Plan, and all maps contained therein, are hereby approved as an advisory document to guide the city in policy formulation and implementation.

**ADOPTED**, this 6th day of December, 2024.

  
Betty C. Spratlin – Council President

ATTEST:

  
Joanna Medlen – City Clerk