1. **ACT Design Steering Committee Participates in Weekend Planning Retreat – July 22-23**

The Altama Community Transformation (ACT) Design Steering Committee participated in a day-and-a-half planning retreat hosted by UGA faculty at the College of Coastal Georgia. The purpose of the retreat was to identify specific goals and strategies for meeting those goals, as the community begins implementation of the ACT Redevelopment Plan. Some 15 community members committed their time, energy and efforts to this step in the planning process.

Of discussion were the results of the Visual Preference Survey conducted in May; preliminary results from Carl Vinson Institute, Small Business Development Center, Housing and Demographics Research Center, and Fanning Institute faculty research; as well as design elements proposed by UGA College of Environment and Design students along Altama.

Specific priorities from the June 28 Town Hall meeting were also discussed, including pedestrian safety along Altama, opportunities for business and economic growth within the District, and connectivity between the College of Coastal Georgia and Southeast Georgia Health System campuses, respectively.

UGA faculty will present a first draft of the ACT Redevelopment Plan, Phase I to the ACT Design Steering Committee at a date to be determined in September for their review and comment. A presentation of the Redevelopment Plan draft will also be given to a joint meeting of the Archway Executive Committee and Growth Task Force, as well as key community stakeholders, on Thursday, September 22, to receive their input and feedback as well. A final draft of the plan will be presented to Brunswick-Glynn County at a date in October.

2. **Leadership Development Task Force Discusses Model Programs – August 3**

The Leadership Development Task Force convened for a second time on Wednesday, August 3. The purpose of the meeting was to identify best practices among leadership development programming around the state for possible implementation in Glynn County. To provide guidance in this initiative was Fanning Institute faculty member, Louise Hill, who offered insight into programs around Georgia that have been successful in identifying and engaging emerging leaders, as well as sustaining participation after graduation.

Emily Watson, Archway Public Health Professional, shared a “boots on the ground,” perspective from Colquitt County’s leadership program. The group was also joined by Julie Swick with neighboring Camden County’s Citizens’ Academy.

Next steps from this discussion include the drafting of a white paper to identify the needs, issues and challenges faced in Glynn County; as well as to create a framework as to why this community priority should be addressed. Mary Beth Chew agreed to have a draft of this white paper available for review by the Leadership Development Task Force and Archway Executive
Committee by the end of August. Additionally, a new Chair of the Leadership Development Task Force, Mason Waters, agreed to guide the process moving forward with the creation of a smaller work group.

3. **CED Student, Brittany Williams, Completes Landscape and Design Projects with Pinova, Inc. and Brunswick-Glynn County Joint Water and Sewer Commission – August 4**

UGA College of Environment and Design student, Brittany Williams completed local landscape and design projects with local industry, Pinova, Inc., and the Brunswick-Glynn County Joint Water and Sewer Commission, respectively.

Seeking assistance along a specific portion of their priority, Pinova sought design assistance to develop a landscape and design project to help screen a portion of their property along U.S. Highway 17. The U.S. 17 corridor is a primary entryway into Brunswick and the Golden Isles, and Pinova requested a design that would enhance their property as well as promote an attractive entrance into the community by shielding part of their operations from public view. Brittany’s design incorporated these elements, as well as paid homage to the plant’s origins by showcasing the feature that makes Pinova unique—the pine stumps used to produce resin—recommending a small-scale pine “forest” be planted on-site.

Brittany also worked with the Brunswick-Glynn County Joint Water and Sewer Commission (JWSC) to design a screen and buffer for their water treatment plant located on U.S. Highway 341—another primary corridor in the community and entrance into downtown Brunswick. Honoring their request to incorporate JWSC’s mural project into her concept design, Brittany’s final design included low-growing, limited maintenance native plant species that would complement the proposed mural design. Additionally, in recognition of JWSC’s employees’ tradition of growing fruit trees and vegetable plants on-site, Brittany suggested designating a specific space to encourage this practice at the treatment plant. Finally, her design included specific drawings to increase tree canopy to provide shade cover at the site.