

April 3, 2025

Georgia Department of Community Affairs  
Office of Planning and Environmental Management  
60 Executive Park South, NE  
Atlanta, GA

RE: Regional Plan Annual Implementation Program Report Transmittal

The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission has completed an annual implementation program report for its regional plan and is submitting it with this letter for review by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

I certify that we have held one required public hearing on April 3, 2025, and have involved regional stakeholders in development of the annual report in a manner appropriate to our region's dynamics and resources and in accordance with the Standards and Procedures for Regional Planning, Chapter 110-12-6. Documentation of the required public hearing has been included with our submittal.

I certify that appropriate regional staff and decision-makers have, at a minimum, reviewed the following planning documents and taken them into consideration in formulating our annual report:

- Georgia's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
- Regional Water Plans: Savannah-Upper Ogeechee, Upper Oconee, and Middle Ocmulgee
- Northeast Georgia Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
- Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Plans: Gainesville-Hall, Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study, Atlanta Regional Commission
- Adjacent Regional Commissions' Plans: Georgia Mountains Regional Commission, Atlanta Regional Commission, Three Rivers Regional Commission, Middle Georgia Regional Commission, Central Savannah River Area Regional Commission

If you have any questions concerning our submittal, please contact Planning & Government Services Director, Mark Beatty, at [mbeatty@negrc.org](mailto:mbeatty@negrc.org) or (706) 369-5650.

Sincerely,



Eva Kennedy  
Executive Director

**Northeast Georgia Regional Plan**  
Annual Implementation Report - **DRAFT**  
Fiscal Year 2025

Northeast Georgia Regional Commission

**Fiscal Year 2025** Northeast Georgia Regional Plan Report of Accomplishments 2023-2027

#	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1–5 years)	Ongoing	Aligns with	Implementation Status (FY25)
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**Priority: Provide resources to support local and regional transportation infrastructure improvements**

**Strategy: Provide local governments with tools to help plan and budget for complete streets infrastructure**

1	Update NEGRC Complete Streets Guide to include cost-breakdowns for complete streets infrastructure improvements	GDOT, local governments	Year 2–3 \$8,000		Goals 5 and 7	Postponed for initiation in FY26
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**Strategy: Support development and use of public electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure**

2	Develop a plan for public EV charging station locations throughout the Region	GDOT, local governments, local development authorities	Years 3–4 \$15,000		Goals 5 and 7	Scheduled for initiation in FY26
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**Strategy: Analyze feasibility of regional water trails and facilities**

3	Complete a feasibility study identifying public access along the Region’s major rivers and lakes, outline the feasibility of the network, and outline any federal, state, or local policy barriers to implementation	DCA, GDOT, DNR, local governments, recreation departments, land trusts	Years 2–4 \$25,000		Goals 6 and 7	Postponed for initiation in FY26
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4	Create an online map of potential future public access point locations identified in regional water trail feasibility study	DCA, GDOT, DNR, local governments, recreation departments, land trusts	Year 5 \$2,000		Goals 6 and 7	Scheduled for initiation in FY27
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## Priority: Facilitate cooperative management of natural and cultural resources

### Strategy: Identify and make available information about cultural and historic resources within the Region

5	As a foundation for future research by others in the Region, conduct and publish a regional historic Native American resource analysis, identifying historic trading routes and settlements	Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, local governments, local historic preservation boards, SHPO	Years 3–5 \$15,000		Goal 6	Scheduled for initiation in FY26
6	Create an online map of locations identified during the historic Native American resource analysis	Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, local governments, local historic preservation boards, SHPO	Year 5 \$2,000		Goals 6 and 7	Scheduled for initiation in FY27
7	Develop GIS inventory delineating the boundaries of local and national historic districts and resources within the region	Local governments, local historic preservation boards, SHPO	Years 1–2 \$5,000		Goals 6 and 7	Completed
8	Create, manage, and promote a publicly accessible inventory of historic landmarks, festivals and events, tours, and other visitor attractions	JDANEGA and other development authorities, chambers of commerce, local governments	Years 1–2 (initial development) \$5,000	Years 1–5 (maintenance) \$1,000 annually	Goals 3, 6, and 7	Completed

**Strategy: Develop guidance for addressing water and climate challenges during comprehensive planning**

9	Following adoption of updated Regional Water Plans for the Middle Ocmulgee, Savannah-Upper Ogeechee, and Upper Oconee regions (expected 2023), develop guidance identifying opportunities for aligning comprehensive plans with regional water management planning objectives	Local government s, local water authorities, State Water Council, Regional Water Planning Councils	Years 1–2 \$10,000		Goals 6 and 7	Completed
10	Develop a guide local governments can refer to for ideas about how to incorporate climate resilience into local plans	Local government s, Georgia Initiative for Climate and Society (UGA)	Years 3-4 \$3,000		Goals 2, 3, and 7	Scheduled for initiation in FY27

**Priority: Address needs associated with population growth and changing demographics**

**Strategy: Explore options for expanding water supply capacity for growing communities**

11	Evaluate and publish a report on the feasibility, options, and costs of county groundwater surveys	Georgia EPD, Regional Water Planning Councils	Years 2–3 \$15,000		Goal 6	Postponed for initiation in FY26
12	Develop a presentation for decision-makers summarizing groundwater survey options, including costs, benefits, justification, methodological considerations, and other relevant considerations	Local government s, local water authorities, State Water Council, Regional Water Planning Councils, Georgia EPD	Year 3 \$2,000		Goals 6 and 7	Scheduled for initiation in FY26

**Strategy: Share tools and information to help address projected development and housing needs**

13	Create growth-scenario projections of a major urban center or centers in the region	Local government s, development authorities, chambers of commerce	Years 3–4 \$10,000		Goals 3 and 7	Scheduled for initiation in FY26
14	Host regional housing collaborative forum(s), such as a housing roundtable, to promote information sharing and identification of partnership opportunities	Local housing authorities, land trusts, local government s, DCA	Year 1-5 \$4,000		Goal 4	Completed

**Strategy: Develop guidance on accessible, inclusive design of public spaces**

15	Develop and publish a collaborative report providing guidance on designing public spaces that are accessible and inclusive for all ages and physical abilities	Local government s, NEGRC Aging Division	Years 3–4 \$15,000		Goals 2 and 7	Scheduled for initiation in FY26
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**Priority: Share information and resources to enhance planning capabilities**

**Strategy: Create tools and guidance to enhance the region’s planning capabilities, including spatial analysis, public participation, and awareness of funding opportunities**

16	Create and publish a Geospatial Strategy to serve as a business-oriented plan defining how the PGS Division of NEGRC will use GIS to increase efficiency, productivity, and collaboration for spatial analysis projects across the region	GARC, local government s, local GIS consultants	Year 1–2 \$12,000		Goal 7	Completed
17	Hold a manager roundtable featuring examples of public input and engagement best practices from around the region	Local government s	Years 4–5 \$1,000		Goal 7	Scheduled for initiation in FY27
18	Develop a working inventory of state and federal funding opportunities, categorized by program activity, for internal use and to share with local governments in the region when needed; use this information to publish an annual report summarizing funding opportunities by type	State and Federal agencies	Year 1 (initial development) \$1,000	Years 1–5 (annual report; inventory updates) \$1,000	Goals 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7	Completed

**Priority: Enhance economic mobility and competitiveness**

**Strategy: Implement the economic development roadmap laid out in the Northeast Georgia Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2022–2026**

19	As part of the CEDS Action Plan for Item 1: Transportation, complete a study to determine the feasibility of a regional transit authority	CEDS Committee, local development authorities, local governments	Year 1		Goals 1 and 5	Completed
20	As part of the CEDS Action Plan for Item 2: Technology & Energy, offer at least one targeted managers roundtable or educational program on renewable energy	CEDS Committee, local development authorities, local governments	Year 4		Goals 1 and 7	Postponed for initiation in FY26
21	As part of the CEDS Action Plan for Item 3: Broadband, host one or more broadband education events, including knowledgeable guest speaker(s)	CEDS Committee, local development authorities, local governments	Year 2		Goals 1 and 7	Postponed for initiation in FY26
22	As part of the CEDS Action Plan for Item 4: Education, perform regional SWOT analysis regarding workforce education and training in the construction and manufacturing sector	CEDS Committee, local development authorities, local governments	Year 3		Goal 1	Scheduled for initiation in FY26
23	As part of the CEDS Action Plan for Item 5: Equity, perform a regional brownfields analysis as a strategy to reduce greenfield development	CEDS Committee, local development authorities, local governments	Year 5		Goals 1 and 2	Scheduled for initiation in FY27

**Strategy: Connect employers with skilled and dedicated employees**

24	Produce region-wide report on link between educational preparation/attainment and existing/future employees	WIB, local governments, TCSG	Year 5 \$10,000		Goal 1	Scheduled for initiation in FY27
25	Develop educational program (materials and workshop) to educate local governments about workforce training programs, internship resources, and incentives for public-private partnerships	Local governments, TCSG, NEGRC WIOA, local employment centers, DOL	Year 2 \$7,500		Goals 1 and 4	Postponed for initiation in FY26

Partner abbreviations used in Work Program table on preceding pages:

*CEDS Committee: Northeast Georgia Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee*

*DCA: Georgia Department of Community Affairs*

*DOL: Georgia Department of Labor*

*DNR: Georgia Department of Natural Resources*

*GARC: Georgia Association of Regional Commissions*

*GIS Consultants: Geographic Information Systems consultants*

*GDOT: Georgia Department of Transportation*

*EPD: Georgia Environmental Protection Division*

*JDANEGA: Joint Development Authority of Northeast Georgia*

*WIOA: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act program*

*SHPO: State Historic Preservation Office*

*TCSG: Technical College System of Georgia*

*UGA: University of Georgia*

*WIB: Workforce Investment Board*

**Local Government Performance Standards, Fiscal Year 2025**

The State of Georgia requires Regional Commissions to provide annual updates on the status of each local government that has not achieved the minimum performance standards laid out in the respective Commissions' regional plans.

The minimum standards per the Northeast Georgia Regional Plan are:

- Update the local Comprehensive Plan, including the Future Development Map and/or Future Land Use Map, at regular intervals, as required by the State of Georgia.
- Utilize the Future Development Map and/or Future Land Use Map to steer new development to appropriate areas of the community.
- Update the Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) and Capital Improvements Element (CIE), where applicable, as required by the State of Georgia.
- Submit potential Developments of Regional Impact (DRIs) to the Regional Commission per the Development Thresholds established by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.
- Comply with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Part V. Environmental planning Criteria of the Georgia Planning Act by adopting appropriate ordinances for water supply watersheds, groundwater recharge areas, wetlands protection, and river corridor protection, where applicable.



- Update the local pre-disaster mitigation plan per the standards established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- Share updated Tax Assessor's data tables and land parcels with the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission annually, where applicable.
- Report annexation and deannexation to the Department of Community Affairs, and forward the GIS shapefiles to the Department of Community Affairs and Reapportionment Office.

**As of March 2025, the following NEGRC local governments do not meet the minimum standards:**

- Jasper County (Overdue CIE Annual Updates: FY2023, FY2024)
- Town of Bishop (Delinquent Reports: FY2021 RLGF, FY2022 RLGF, FY2023 RLGF, FY2024 RLGF)
- City of Bowman (Delinquent Reports: FY2021 RLGF, FY2022 RLGF, FY2023 RLGF)
- Town of Buckhead (Delinquent Reports: FY2024 RLGF)
- Town of Carl (Delinquent Reports: FY2021 RLGF, FY2022 RLGF, FY2023 RLGF)
- City of Colbert (Delinquent Reports: 2023 GOMI, FY2021 RLGF, FY2022 RLGF, FY2023 RLGF)
- City of Hull (Delinquent Reports: FY2022 RLGF, FY2023 RLGF)
- City of Madison (Delinquent Reports: 2024 GOMI, FY2023 RLGF, FY2024 RLGF)
- City of Maxeys (Delinquent Reports: 2024 GOMI, FY2020 RLGF, FY2021 RLGF, FY2022 RLGF, FY2023 RLGF)
- Morgan County (Delinquent Reports: FY2024 RLGF)
- Town of Porterdale (Delinquent Reports: FY2023 RLGF)
- City of Woodville (Delinquent Reports: FY2021 RLGF, FY2022 RLGF, FY2023 RLGF)



## Regional Hearing Records

### Press Release:

Area Agency on Aging Development  
Local Government Services  
Planning  
Workforce

**NEGRC**  
NORTHEAST GEORGIA  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

335 Research Drive  
Athens, GA 30605-3790  
Phone: 706-369-5650  
**Burke Walker**, Executive Director

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### ***Press Release***

**For Immediate Release — March 19, 2025**

**REGIONAL PLAN ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM REPORT**

The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC) announces a regional hearing for the FY25 annual implementation report on the 12-county Regional Plan. The purpose of the regional hearing is to inform interested parties about the contents of the report and the process by which it will be adopted. The report outlines progress made on the Regional Plan Work Program during the 2025 fiscal year.

*The regional hearing will take place at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 3, 2025 at the NEGRC office at 305 Research Drive, Athens GA 30605. Please contact the Planning & Government Services Division at [pgsassist@negrc.org](mailto:pgsassist@negrc.org) or (706) 369-5650 if you have any questions prior to the meeting.*

The NEGRC serves Athens-Clarke, Barrow, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Jasper, Madison, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, and Walton Counties.

3/19/2025

Serving the City and County Governments of Barrow, Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Jasper, Madison, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, and Walton Counties.

## NEGRC Website Posting:

negrc.org/planning-government-services/regional-hearing-notice-fy25\_implementation\_report/

HOME ADMINISTRATION WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AGING **PLANNING & GOVERNMENT SERVICES** MORE INFO

PGS

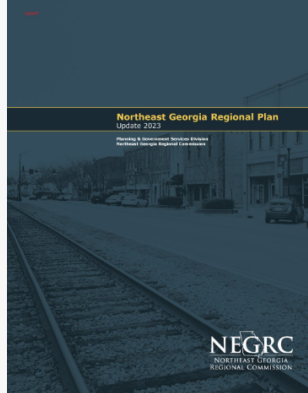
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Additional Resources

- National Association of Development Organizations
- Georgia Municipal Association
- Advancing Georgia's Counties
- Georgia Association of Regional Commissions

### Regional Hearing For The FY25 Regional Plan Annual Implementation Report

Mar 19, 2025



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**Public Hearing Agenda:**

Area Agency on Aging Development Local Government Services Planning Workforce	 <b>NEGRC</b> NORTHEAST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION	305 Research Drive Athens, GA 30605-2795 Phone: 706.369.5651 Eve Kennedy, Executive Director
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**NORTHEAST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION**  
**Regional Hearing for Regional Plan FY25 Annual Implementation Report**


**Meeting Agenda**

April 3, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.  
305 Research Drive, Athens GA 30605

I. Purpose of Regional Hearing  
II. Contents of Annual Implementation Report  
III. Review and Adoption Process  
IV. Questions and Comments  
V. Adjournment

Serving the City and County Governments of Barrow, Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Jasper, Madison, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, and Walton Counties.

**Sign-In Sheet – 4/3/2025:**

 <b>NEGRC</b> NORTHEAST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION	Northeast Georgia Regional Plan Annual Implementation Report Regional Hearing: 3:00p.m., April 3, 2024 305 Research Drive, Athens GA 30605		
NAME	TITLE	ADDRESS	EMAIL
Mark Beatty	PGS Director	305 Research Drive Athens, GA 30605	mbeatty@negrc.org

