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Chattahoochee
Clay
Crisp
Dooly
Harris
Macon
Marion
Muscogee
Quitman
Randolph
Schley
Stewart
Sumter
Talbot
Taylor
Webster

July 15, 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 FY 2024 Submittal

River Valley Regional Commission has completed an annual update of its regional plan and is submitting it with this letter for review by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

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,
- *Middle Chattahoochee Regional Water Plan,*
- *Upper Flint Regional Water Plan,*
- *RVRC Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS),*
- *Columbus-Muscogee Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Plan, and*
- *Three Rivers Regional Commission's Regional Plan,*
- *Middle Georgia Regional Commission's Regional Plan,*
- *Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission's Regional Plan,*
- *South Georgia Regional Commission's Regional Plan, and*
- *Southwest Georgia Regional Commission's Regional Plan.*

If you have any questions concerning our submittal, please contact Allison Slocum, Assistant Director of Planning at (706) 256-2910 or aslocum@rivervalleyrc.org.

Sincerely,

Jim Livingston
Executive Director

Enclosures



Regional Plan Annual Report FY 2024

River Valley Regional Commission



Report of Accomplishments 2024

Economic Development								
Strategy	Action	Partners	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Status
Priority: Diversify and Strengthen the Region's Economy								
Support the Recruitment, Retention and Expansion of Businesses in the region.	Facilitate at least 1 local loan annually from the revolving loan fund.	RVRC Dev Auth	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	Completed for period.
Foster Community Leadership	Provide technical assistance to the Council of Governments (Stewart, Randolph, Quitman, and Clay).	RVRC DCA EDA Local Chambers Clay EDC	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	Completed for period.
Priority: Provide quality, genuine places and experiences for visitors								
Market special events and the unique aspects of the region.	Participate in regional tourism entities (Presidential Pathways, Scenic Southwest GA, and associated tourism groups).	RVRC Local Dev Auth Tourism Assn DNR GA Council of Arts Private Lenders Colleges & Univ.	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	No activity for period.
	Provide technical assistance to partner with local bicycle groups and eco-tourism businesses to increase the region's capacity for tourism by identifying potential greenway and blueway trails and writing grants for infrastructure projects.	RVRC 3RiversRC Local Dev Auth Tourism Assn DNR GA Council of Arts Private Lenders Colleges & Univ.	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	1) Pursued funding for Muscogee Harris trails connection 2) pursued funding for Americus multimodal plan 3) explored feasibility of Cusseta rails-to-trail project
Priority: Promote the Chattahoochee Valley as an ideal location for a regional hub for semiconductor manufacturing.								
Promote the Chattahoochee Valley as an ideal location for a regional hub for semiconductor manufacturing.	Partner with the C4C Coalition to provide technical assistance, participate in the planning process, and write grants to increase infrastructure capacity (i.e., workforce housing, public transit, water/wastewater) in preparation for investment.	RVRC Local Govts Colleges & Univ. Local Businesses Chamb. Of Comm. Local Banks GDEcD DCA USDA	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	RVRC staff has been working with the C4C Coalition.

Housing and Neighborhood Development

Strategy	Action	Partners	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Status
Priority: Provide safe, standard, and affordable housing options for all residents of the region.								
Develop a regional housing program.	Apply for funding to hire a housing specialist to create a regional housing program.	RVRC Local Govts DCA		\$5,000				Application was submitted to Thriving Communities Grant Program. Not funded.
Support local housing efforts through planning and technical assistance.	Assist 2 local governments to identify GICH team community partners.	RVRC DCA	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000			Staff attended the Spring GICH Conference.
	Meet with 2 local governments to identify locally driven housing solutions.	RVRC DCA	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000			Completed for period.
	Write grant applications for 2 local governments to implement locally driven housing solutions.	RVRC DCA USDA GICH Local Govts Local Hsg Auth	\$5,000 Per application	\$5,000 Per application	\$5,000 Per application			RVRC staff prepared and submitted 4 CHIP Applications. RVRC will complete the City of Oglethorpe CDBG.

Community Facilities and Services

Strategy	Action	Partners	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Status
Priority: Improve Broadband/Internet Capacity.								
Identify and address telecommunications deficiencies in the region.	Write Broadband Ready ordinances for local governments.	RVRC DCA Local Govts USDA EDA DOD Fed. Grants/Loans		\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000		No activity for period
	Monitor funding sources for use in broadband infrastructure build out.	RVRC Local Govts USDA EDA DOD Fed. Grants/Loans	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	Completed for period.
	Monitor the Broadband Coverage Map for changes to regional coverage and/or providers	RVRC Local Govts USDA EDA DOD Fed. Grants/Loans	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	Completed for period.
Priority: Improve Old or Inadequate Infrastructure Systems.								
Assist local governments to identify and address deficiencies of infrastructure systems.	Write grant applications for 10 local governments for identified community needs.	RVRC Local Govts DCA GEFA USDA EDA DOD Fed. Grants/Loans	\$5,000 Per application	\$5,000 Per application	\$5,000 Per application	\$5,000 Per application	\$5,000 Per application	7 CDBG applications 4 CHIP applications 7 EECBG applications

Transportation

Priority: Road Maintenance and Expansion.

Strategy	Action	Partners	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Status
Assist local governments to identify key transportation needs and issues.	Provide 2 Complete Streets training.	RVRC GA Bikes GDOT Local Govts		\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	Offered to provide complete streets training to be incorporated into comprehensive plan review process
	Provide technical assistance annually to 2 communities that have adopted Complete Streets policies to implement the program.	RVRC GA Bikes GDOT Advocacy Grps Local Govts	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	Americus and Columbus have passed Complete Streets resolutions. Provided technical assistance to Americus for a repaving project.
	Write a bicycle and pedestrian plan for 1 community.	RVRC GDOT Local Govts BID/TAD Local Businesses Advocacy Grps				\$20,000		No activity for period
	Update the RVRC Regional Bicycle Pedestrian Plan.	RVRC GDOT Local Govts BID/TAD Local Businesses Advocacy Grps		\$50,000				No activity for period
	Verify road data from local sources and provide to GDOT including intersection type, geometry, and number of legs; roundabouts' inscribed diameter; median type at intersections; edge line presence and condition.	RVRC GDOT ITOS		\$60,000	\$60,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	Completed for period.

Transportation (continued)								
Strategy	Action	Partners	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Status
Priority: Increase Awareness of Rural Transit Options.								
Improve the region's mobility by offering alternative means of transportation.	Host 4 Regional Transit Coordinating Council meetings annually.	RVRC AAA DHS	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	Q1 meeting was cancelled by DHS due to staffing shortage. Q2 meeting was held on Feb. 22, 2024. Q# meeting date is yet to be determined.
	Develop 1 regional transit plan per year.	RVRC GDOT	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	Research for FY2024 transit plan is ongoing. The plan is scheduled to be completed before the July deadline. RVRC staff continue to assist GDOT in their FY 2024 Transit Development Plan.

Transportation (continued)

Strategy	Action	Partners	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Status
Priority: Promote initiatives aimed at the development and implementation of alternative transportation options as a means of increasing connectivity, walkability, bike-ability, and healthy living.								
Host events to encourage the development of safe walking and cycling environments for all the region's residents.	Facilitate public forums for Bicycle Columbus, Sumter Cycling, Reynolds Ramblers, and other local groups to promote alternative transportation and safety.	RVRC CVA SORBA IMBA Local Govts	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	Completed for period
	Coordinate 2 Bike Rodeo events annually.	RVRC Local Govts Local BOE GDOT	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	2 Columbus YMCA day camps
	Complete walkability audits for 2 schools annually.	RVRC Local BOE GDOT	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	Working with GA SRTS to schedule walk audit at Blackmon Road Middle School, Columbus
	Plan a Bike to School Day event for 1 school annually.	RVRC Local BOE GDOT	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	2 events: Reynolds and Americus
	Update ActiveValley.org website monthly to show new events and partnerships.	RVRC	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	Completed for period
	Coordinate 2 local Bike-to-Work week events and 5 regional Bike rides	RVRC Local Govts GDOT NPS GA State Parks & Historic Sites Local Businesses Local Cycling Groups	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	Bike to Work activities completed in Americus and scheduled for Columbus; RIDES: Plains Peanut Festival Ride, Carter Butts Memorial Ride, & Columbus MLK Day Ride completed; Prison to Peanuts Ride & Columbus Juneteenth Ride scheduled

Transportation (continued)

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Land Use								
Strategy	Action	Partners	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Status
Priority: Update Ordinances, Land Use Regulations, and Guidelines.								
Develop tools to assist local governments manage development.	Update 2 zoning ordinances to comply with current laws and to allow for more compact and mixed-use development.	RVRC Local Govts DCA	\$40,000	\$40,000				Completed for period.
	Provide zoning administration technical assistance and training to 6 local governments.	RVRC DCA CVIOG	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	Completed for period.
Priority: Protection of Historic Neighborhoods and Buildings.								
Provide technical assistance to local governments in their preservation activities.	Provide monthly technical assistance and staff review for Certificate of Appropriateness to the Columbus Board of Historic and Architectural Review.	RVRC Local Govts DNR DCA	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	Reviewed 73 COA applications
	Provide information and present 2 programs educating the general public of the benefits of historic preservation.	RVRC DNR DCA		\$10,000				- Hosted a HP table at the OneCSU Earth Day event. -Presented to Taylor County Historic Society on National Register and Adaptive Reuse.
	Provide staff review of CDBG funded housing rehab and demolition for the City of Columbus.	RVRC Local Govts		\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	Programmatic Agreement still under review by SHPO

Natural and Cultural Resources								
Strategy	Action	Partners	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Priority: Preservation of Prime Agricultural/Forestry Lands.								
Educate local elected officials, industries, developers, youth, and the public on the importance of natural resource protection.	Write local government comprehensive plans.	RVRC Local Govts DCA DNR EPD DOD	\$30,000 (2 plans)	\$90,000 (6 plans)	\$30,000 (2 plans)	\$30,000 (2 plans)	\$60,000 (4 plans)	In Progress.
Priority: Grow the Agricultural Resources in the Region.								
Promote the production and sale of locally grown foods.	Provide technical assistance to local ag. businesses to develop capacity in farm to market economy.	RVRC GDAg USDA Farm Bureau UGA Extension GDEcD Georgia Grown Georgia Organics		\$25,000		\$25,000		No activity for period.
Priority: Protection of Groundwater Recharge Area/Aquifers.								
Increase education and outreach programs directed toward improving water quality.	Coordinate 2 training opportunities for the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream program.	RVRC GAAAS UGA Extension GAEPD	\$10,000	\$10,000				In Progress.
	Share information about water quality monitoring and BMP installations on RVRC social media accounts and website to raise awareness about water quality issues.	RVRC GAAAS UGA Extension GAEPD	\$10,000	\$10,000				Completed for period.

Natural and Cultural Resources (continued)

Strategy	Action	Partners	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Status
Priority: Maintain environmental integrity in the region								
Create a balance between protection of natural resources and development.	Administer a regional brownfield assessment grant for 4 local governments.	RVRC Terracon GBA USEPA Local Govts		\$20,000				In Progress. Grant ending period September 2024.
	Implement Watershed Management Plan for Pataula Creek Phase II.	RVRC GAEPD GCSU Golden Triangle RC&D GASWCC USDA NRCS Local Govts	\$220,424	\$220,424				In Progress.
	Write a brownfield site reuse plan for a site that has a completed Phase II environmental site assessment.	RVRC Terracon GBA USEPA Local Govts	\$10,000	\$10,000				In Progress. Plan completion date September 2024.

Aging and Human Services

[illegible]

Workforce Development

[illegible]

Regional Cooperation

Priority: Create a Balanced Sustainable Region.

[illegible]

Local Government Performance Standards Update
7/25/2024

Local Government	Minimum Performance Standard(s) Not Met	Specific Action Steps taken to Assist Government (Optional: Also, identify resources that may aid LG achievement)
Chattahoochee County	Groundwater Recharge Area Ord Wetlands Protection Ord River Corridor Protection Ord	Anticipating recent turnover in administration will lead to adoption
Byromville (Dooly) *	Groundwater Recharge Area Policies Wetlands Protection Policies	Included in new community work program
Dooling (Dooly) *	Groundwater Recharge Area Policies Wetlands Protection Policies	Included in new community work program
Lilly (Dooly) *	Groundwater Recharge Area Policies Wetlands Protection Policies	Included in new community work program
Unadilla (Dooly)	Subdivision Regulations	New community work program calls for wholesale update of zoning ordinance which has an elemental subdivision component
Oglethorpe (Macon)	Flint River Protection Ord River Corridor Protection Ord	Not a local priority; “inaccessible”
Lumpkin (Stewart)	Groundwater Recharge Area Ord Wetlands Protection Ord	Verbal reminders subsequent to providing samples (reportedly adopted but documents not provided)
Richland (Stewart)	Groundwater Recharge Area Ord Wetlands Protection Ord	Verbal reminders subsequent to providing samples (reportedly adopted but documents not provided)
DeSoto (Sumter) *	Groundwater Recharge Area Policies Wetlands Protection Policies	Included in new community work program
Reynolds (Taylor)	Groundwater Recharge Area Ord Wetlands Protection Ord Subdivision Regulations Implement State Building Codes	Included in new community work program
<i>*Jurisdiction is below the regional plan population threshold (1,000) for Minimum Performance Standards to apply.</i>		