

RiverValleyRC.org (877) 819-6348

### **COLUMBUS OFFICE**

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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

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



# Regional Plan Annual Report FY 2024

River Valley Regional Commission



### **Report of Accomplishments 2024**

Economic Developm	ent							
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	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.
and the unique aspects of the region.	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	Pursued funding for Muscogee Harris trails connection     pursued funding for Americus multimodal plan     explored feasibility of Cusseta rails-to-trail project
Priori	ty: Promote the Chattahoochee Valley as a	n ideal location f	or a region	nal hub for	semicond	luctor mai	nufacturin	g.
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 Neighb	orhood Development							
Strategy	Action	Partners	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Status
	Priority: Provide safe, standard, and	l affordable hous	ing option	s for all re	sidents 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.
	Assist 2 local governments to identify GICH team community partners.	RVRC DCA	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000			Staff attended the Spring GICH Conference.
Support local housing efforts through	Meet with 2 local governments to identify locally driven housing solutions.	RVRC DCA	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000			Completed for period
planning and technical assistance.	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	s and Services							
Strategy	Action	Partners	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Status
Priority: Improve Broadband/Internet Capacity.								
	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
Identify and address telecommunications deficiencies in the region.	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 O	ld or Inadequate	Infrastru	cture Systo	ems.			
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		
	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.		
Assist local governments to identify key transportation needs and issues.	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 (cont	tinued)							
Strategy	Action	Partners	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Status
	Priority: Increase	e Awareness of R	ural Tran	sit Options	S.			
Improve the region's	Host 4 Regional Transit Coordinating Council meetings annually.	RVRCAAA DHS	\$25,0 00	\$25,0 00	\$25,0 00	\$25,0 00	\$25,0 00	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.
mobility by offering alternative means of transportation.	Develop 1 regional transit plan per year.	RVRC GDOT	\$25,0 00	\$25,0 00	\$25,0 00	\$25,0 00	\$25,0 00	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 (con	tinued)							
Strategy	Action	Partners	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Status
Priori	ty: Promote initiatives aimed at the develo means of increasing connecti						ptions as	a
	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
Host events to	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
encourage the development of safe	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
walking and cycling environments for all the region's residents.	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)								
Strategy	Action	Partners	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Status
Develop and expand trail networks to connect the region's green and blue infrastructure.	Review bike connections between Harris and Muscogee County.	RVRC GDOT Local Govts MPO	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	Pursuing funding for segments within Columbus Phenix City MPO; exploring Harris County segment
Work with GDOT officials to monitor the second TIA tax.	Work with 51 local communities to market the successes of the current TIA program through printed materials, media articles, and presentations.	RVRC GDOT BIL Local Govts		\$10,000				Information posted on RVRC social media regularly.
-	Provide funding updates to regional local governments quarterly.	RVRC GDOT	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	Completed for period.

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	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.	
manage development.	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 Neigh	borhoods	and Build	ings.				
	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 technical assistance to local governments in their preservation activities.	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	

Strategy	Action	Partners	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
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	Priority: Preservation			•				
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	e Agricultural Re	esources in	the Regio	n.			
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/Aqui	fers.			
Increase education and	Coordinate 2 training opportunities for the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream program.	RVRC GAAAS UGA Extension GAEPD	\$10,000	\$10,000				In Progress.
outreach programs directed toward improving water quality.	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 Cultur	al Resources (continued)								
Strategy	Action	Partners	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Status	
	Priority: Maintain environmental integrity in the region								
	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.	
Create a balance between protection of natural resources and development.	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 S	Gervices								
Strategy	Action	Partners	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Status	
Priority: Ensure older Georgians, persons with disabilities, caregivers and families have access to information about resources and services that is accurate and reliable.									
	Maintain Database at a 90% update rate or higher to ensure confidence in the information provided.	Family Connections Hispanic Outreach Coalition Churches RVRCAAA	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	Improved to 80% update rate.	
Increase the number of First-Time contacts to the ADRC	Attend health fairs to promote the ADRC.	Family Connections Hispanic Outreach Coalition Churches RVRCAAA	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	Completed for period.	
	Provide speakers for groups upon request.	Family Connections Hispanic Outreach Coalition Churches RVRCAAA	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	Completed for period	
Pri	ority: Expand Efforts to Provide Evidence Desired F	Based Programs Residence as Long			ow them to	Remain i	in Their		
Increase Number of Evidence Based Programs taught.	Increase number of instructors/lay leaders/coaches by 5%.	RVRCAAA PSOA (Professionals Serving Older Adults) Senior Centers	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	Completed for period.	
	Market the programs to Assisted Living Communities which will pay \$25/person to attend the classes.	RVRCAAA PSOA (Professionals Serving Older Adults) Senior Centers	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	Completed for period.	

Aging and Human Services (continued)									
Strategy	Action	Partners	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Status	
Priori	Priority: Increase Professional Capacity of Georgia's Aging Network to Better Meet the Needs of Family Caregivers and At-Risk Adults								
Increase support Family Caregivers	Continue to staff and support the River Valley Care-Net which meets quarterly to support family caregivers.	RVRCAAA DAS Rosalynn Carter Institute (RCI) Care-Net	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	Completed for period.	

Workforce Development								
Strategy	Action	Partners	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Status
Priority: Train the Regional Workforce.								
Provide GED prep and soft skills development services.	literacy education and follow-up	RVRC Fam Conn Local BOE WIOA Bd	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	Active – On going
Provide On the Job Training (OJT).	Provide OJT services for 40 individuals each year.	RVRC WIOA Bd Colleges & Univ.	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	Active – On -going
Provide work-based learning services (WEX) for individuals with limited work history to enhance existing skills.	Provide hands-on work experience with local area participating businesses/ employers for 30 individuals.	RVRC WIOA Bd Providers	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	Active – on-going
Individual Training Accounts	Provide ITA's for 60 individuals each year.	RVRC WIOA Bd Colleges & Univ.	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	Active on-going

Regional Cooperation								
Priority: Create a Balanced Sustainable Region.								
Strategy	Action	Partners	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Status
Work with local governments, community organizations, and businesses to improve efficiency in delivery of services.	Host quarterly meetings of regional city and county managers.	RVRC Local Govts	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	Completed for period.
	Utilize the SDS update to ensure the efficient delivery of services.	RVRC Local Govts	\$42,000 (14 plans)	\$30,000 (10 plans)	\$21,000 (7 plans)	\$21,000 (7 plans)	\$36,000 (12 plans)	Completed for period.
	Facilitate Plan Assessment meetings for 8 counties a year.	RVRC Local Govts	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$16,000	Meetings were held in conjunction with comprehensive planning processes for 6 counties.
	Update the Regional Plan as needed.	RVRC Local Govts					+/- \$100,000 (full plan)	Completed for period.
Priority: Support Fort Moore								
Provide after-grant support to local governments that participated in the RVCCD project.	Provide technical assistance to local governments and businesses to implement recommendations from the RVCCD plan and develop capacity in eco and heritage tourism economy.	RVRC Local Govts UGA DCA USDA EDA DOD	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	Active-On-going

## Local Government Performance Standards Update 7/25/2024

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