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

June 4, 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 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 we have held one required public hearing on March 31, 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,
- *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



March 25, 2025

Regional Plan Annual Report FY 2025

River Valley Regional Commission



Report of Accomplishments 2025

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 transportation 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pursued funding for Muscogee-Harris trails connection 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	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 continued to work with the C4C Coalition. The Coalition applied for RECOMPETE funds, but were not funded.

	investment.							
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff attended the Fall GICH Conference. • Assisted Montezuma with GICH activities.
	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 3 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		This program is shifting from DCA to GTA. However, each community comp plan has a required broadband element.
	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 CDBG applications • 3 CHIP applications • 4 TAP 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	Complete streets training will be incorporated into comprehensive planning 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	Provided technical assistance to Americus for downtown streetscape 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q1 meeting was held on 10-01-2024. • Q2 meeting was held on Feb. 05, 2025. Q3 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research for FY2025 transit plan is ongoing. Scheduled to be completed July 2025. • The RVRC Council adopted the completed FY 2024 Transit Development Plan in February 2025.

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, Taylor 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 Events: Sumter Co. Rec. Dept. Sumter Co. Primary
	Complete walkability audits for 2 schools annually.	RVRC Local BOE GDOT	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	Met with Taylor Co. RE Safety Action Plan for new Taylor School campus
	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	1 Event: Taylor Co.
	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; RIDES: Prison to Peanuts Ride, Plains Peanut Festival Ride, Carter Butts Memorial Ride, Columbus MLK Day Ride, Columbus Juneteenth Ride, Pedaling for Pups Ride completed

Transportation (continued)

[illegible]

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	Held 2 Zoning training sessions in Fall 2024.
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 72 COA applications 7/1/24 – 3/15/25
	Provide information and present 2 programs educating the general public of the benefits of historic preservation.	RVRC DNR DCA		\$10,000				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hosted HP table at the OneCSU Earth Day event. Presented to Traveler's Rest Historic Society on National Register and Preservation of African American Resources.
	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	Agreement Review is at a standstill with the City of Columbus

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)	Talbot County and Marion County planning processes are underway.
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				No activity for period.
	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				Completed. Grant ended 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				No activity for period.
	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				Completed.

Aging and Human Services								
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.								
Increase the number of First-Time contacts to the ADRC	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 90% update rate.
	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.
Priority: Expand Efforts to Provide Evidence Based Programs to Individuals to allow them to Remain in Their Desired Residence as Long as Possible								
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	This objective has been discontinued.

Workforce Development

[illegible]

Regional Cooperation

Priority: Create a Balanced Sustainable Region.

[illegible]

Local Government Performance Standards Update
3/14/2025

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	Included in new community work program
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	Reportedly adopted but signed official documents not found
Richland (Stewart)	Groundwater Recharge Area Ord Wetlands Protection Ord	Reportedly adopted but signed official documents not found
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

**Jurisdiction is below the regional plan population threshold (1,000) for Minimum Performance Standards to apply.*



Public Hearing for Regional Plan Annual Report FY 2025

RVRC invites you to attend a public hearing to review and receive public input on the Regional Plan Annual Report for FY 2025.

The draft Annual Report for FY 2025 can be viewed at the link below.

[RVRC Annual Work Plan Report 2025.pdf](#)

Questions?

CONTACT

Allison Slocum

aslocum@rivervalleyrc.org

(706) 256-2910

March 31, 2025

@ 12:00—1:00 pm

How to Attend:

The meeting is accessible by computer, tablet, or smartphone at the link below.

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MGE5NzYxNjAtZTBhMi00NWQ2LTg5YjktZWE2ZDBhNWlyNDVi%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22381444bd-c87f-4681-96d0-0fdb93aa44c9%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2256c0e985-9ade-4bfe-9370-db3900012fc8%22%7d

Meeting ID: 261 154 365 441

Passcode: kS7e2dP2

OR Dial in by Phone

[+1 762-233-1078](tel:+17622331078), [935115596#](tel:+1935115596)

United States, Augusta

Phone conference ID: 935 115 596#



March 31, 2025

Public Hearing for Regional Plan Annual Report FY 2025

River Valley Regional Commission



River Valley Regional Commission Regional Plan

In accordance with state planning requirements the River Valley Regional Commission prepares and implements a regional plan.

The most recent ten-year document was adopted in September 2023 and is scheduled to be updated in 2027.

In each of the intervening years an annual report is prepared consisting of a concise statement of accomplishments in a prescribed reporting format.

The draft Annual Report for FY 2025 can be viewed at the link below.

[RVRC Annual Work Plan Report 202.pdf](#)

Virtual Public Hearing

A virtual hearing will be held **Monday, March 31, 2025, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.**

How to Attend:

The meeting is accessible by computer, tablet, or smartphone at the link below.

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MGE5NzYxNjAtZTBhMi00NWQ2LTg5YjktZWE2ZDBhNWlyNDVi%40thread.v2/0?content=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22381444bd-c87f-4681-96d0-0fdb93aa44c9%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2256c0e985-9ade-4bfe-9370-db3900012fc8%22%7d

Meeting ID: 261 154 365 441

Passcode: kS7e2dP2

OR Dial in by Phone

+1 762-233-1078,,935115596# United States, Augusta

Phone conference ID: 935 115 596#

Public Participation & Comment Process

- Posted hearing notification on RC web site and Facebook page
- Direct notification to members of the regional council
- Direct notification to stakeholders for the original plan
- Direct notification to local government elected and appointed officials
- Direct notification to area newspapers
- Direct notification to DCA staff
- Virtual Public Hearing held via MS Teams March 31, 2025, 12:00-1:00 pm



Public Hearing Agenda

- I. Welcome and Introduction**
- II. Review of Regional Plan Process**
- III. Review of RVRC Report of Accomplishments 2025**
- IV. Review of Local Government Performance Standards Update**
- V. Questions and Comments**
- VI. Adjourn**



March 31, 2025

Questions?

CONTACT

Allison Slocum

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(706) 256-2910

