

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission (HOGARC) prepared a new Regional Plan in 2013/2014 as required by the Georgia Planning Act of 1989 and new Georgia Department of Community Affairs' Regional Planning Requirements; and

WHEREAS, this required Regional Plan consists of two parts, a *Regional Assessment* of inventory, analysis, and preliminary identification of needs (prepared in 2013), and a *Regional Agenda* (prepared in 2014) for delineation of implementation strategies to realize the identified regional vision and to address selected needs, including a HOGARC Regional Work Program; and

WHEREAS, this Regional Plan was designed as a guide to action for all concerned with the improvement and future well being of the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Region (State Service Delivery Region 9), and needs to remain current; and

WHEREAS, the new Regional Plan, entitled *Green with Greener Days Ahead*, was first approved by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), and was then adopted by the Regional Council of the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Development Center in September, 2014; and


WHEREAS, the Regional Commission has now prepared a new annual Regional Plan Update in 2018 in accordance with the DCA Regional Planning Requirements, and has previously submitted this 2018 HOGARC Regional Work Program Update to DCA for review and approval; and


WHEREAS, the 2018 HOGARC Regional Work Program Update has now been certified by this review as adequately addressing the requirements of the Minimum Standards and Procedures for Regional Planning; and

WHEREAS, the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission is now desirous of adopting the 2018 HOGARC Regional Work Program Update and its approved changes as part of its official Regional Plan under the Georgia Planning Act of 1989 and DCA Standards.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Regional Council of the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission hereby adopts the 2018 HOGARC Regional Work Program Update as part of its official Regional Plan.

SO RESOLVED at the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission Council Meeting this 25th day of October, 2018.


Raymond Mullis, Chair

Attest: 
Brett Manning, Executive Director



**HEART OF GEORGIA ALTAMAHA
REGIONAL COMMISSION**

June 29, 2018

Georgia Department of Community Affairs
Office of Planning and Environmental Management
60 Executive Park South, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30329

RE: Regional Plan Annual Implementation Program Report Submittal

The Heart of Georgia Altamaha 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 *June 28, 2018* 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.

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,
- *Altamaha Regional Water Plan and the Upper Oconee Regional Water Plan,*
- *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) - Heart of Georgia Altamaha Economic Development District 2017-2022*
- *Central Savannah River Area Regional Plan, Coastal Regional Plan, Middle Georgia Regional Plan, River Valley Regional Plan, and Southern Georgia Regional Plan.*

If you have any questions concerning our submittal, please contact James Pope, Assistant Executive Director/Planning Director at 912-367-3648 or pope@hogarc.org.

Sincerely,



Brett Manning
Executive Director

Enclosures

HEART OF GEORGIA ALTAMAHA REGIONAL COMMISSION

FY 2018 REGIONAL PLAN UPDATE

The Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission's Regional Plan, *Green with Greener Days Ahead*, was adopted by the Regional Council in September, 2014 after certification by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA). Despite the Regional Plan not being in place for a full year, a Regional Plan Update consisting of the DCA required Annual Regional Work Program Update and Evaluation and Monitoring was conducted in 2015. This was accomplished both to unequivocally meet the state requirement and to keep the Regional Plan current and effective. This process was repeated, as required by DCA's Regional Planning Requirements, in 2016. Due to Regional Planning Standards changes in 2017 an update was not required for 2017.

Report of Plan Accomplishments

Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission staff prepared a FY 2019 Regional Commission Regional Work Program (RWP) Report of Accomplishments after internal review and survey of regional leaders and stakeholders. The plan was noted as being comprehensive, effective, and appropriate. It was determined that the list of RWP activities, while extensive and worded on a general basis to allow flexibility and breadth on which the wide-ranging activities of the Regional Commission is involved, was both appropriate and effective. While generally ongoing, these activities do address identified issues and opportunities not easily solved short-term, and do facilitate achievement of the Regional Vision. As the accomplishments noted in the comments column revealed, there was some activity in almost every item included in the previous work program, despite its breadth. This Report of Accomplishments has been uploaded to the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission's Office 365 FY 2018 Annual Report folder.

New Regional Work Program

While the Regional Commission believes the extensive list of RWP activities as previously submitted in 2014, 2015, and 2016 is very reflective of the true measure of HOGARC involvement and assistance in advancing the vision and implementation strategies of the Regional Plan and improving the Region and its local governments, the new Regional Commission Regional Work Program has been modified to include Regional Priorities and Strategies directly related to each work program activity. These changes were made as required by the new Regional Planning Standards. This new Regional Commission Regional Work Program has been approved by the Regional Council and has been uploaded to the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission's Office 365 FY 2018 Annual Report folder.

Areas Requiring Special Attention Update

It was determined after internal staff review and regional leader/stakeholder input evaluation that there was no need to update the adopted Regional Plan's "Areas Requiring Special Attention." The currently identified areas remain appropriate without requirement for change.

Evaluation and Monitoring Report

As noted in the adopted Regional Plan, the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission is committed to an ongoing, almost continuous process of evaluation and monitoring of the Regional Plan. This process includes direct communication with the Region's local governments, the Regional Council, and other Region stakeholders; staff evaluation of issues, questions, and concerns being voiced within the Region to the Regional Commission or otherwise being publicly discussed; and direct survey query and evaluation, both by the Regional Commission and the DCA/Department of Audits Performance and Satisfaction Survey.

Activities Description.

1. Performance and Quality of Growth Effectiveness. In addition to direct communication with local governments in day-to-day assistance with local governments, Regional Commission staff specifically discuss the Local Government Performance Standards and other Regional priorities at the local government Plan Implementation Assessment Meetings conducted at least once every two fiscal years (but in practice more often), and during local comprehensive plan preparation assistance. Due to the newly adopted (September, 2014) status of the Regional Plan, no formal survey of the implementation of the Local Government Performance Standards was conducted in FY 2015. The new Local Government Performance Standards have been introduced through the Plan Implementation Assessment Meetings, the Regional Council, RC newsletter, and other means. The first formal Performance and Quality Growth Effectiveness Survey with invitation to self-report and apply for Regional Planning Excellence was sent to all Region local governments early in 2016. Follow-up invitations were sent to local governments in 2017 and 2018 and results are still being evaluated. It is known that a vast majority of Region local governments currently meet the "Minimum Standards," except for two who have not yet adopted Part V environmental ordinances (these local governments also do not meet other Minimum Performance Standards). One local government does not have an approved comprehensive plan, resulting in the loss of their Qualified Local Status (QLG). A total of 11 local governments currently do not have QLG status with the State of Georgia. Each local government was offered technical assistance in FY 2018. Formal adoption notifications of the Part V environmental ordinances were not received by the Regional Commission. These local governments will be provided assistance in FY 2019.

2. Survey of Regional Leaders/Stakeholders. The Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission conducted an electronic survey of identified regional leaders, stakeholders, and other potentially interested parties which combined the regional leader survey on the Regional Plan's effectiveness and implementation with the survey of changes and developments within the Region to determine whether the Regional Plan is being effectively implemented and is having the desired impact on regional development patterns. This combined survey was sent through e-blast to the Region's local governments (both appointed and elected officials), to Regional Council members, to local Chambers/Development Authorities, the local legislative delegation, local schools, Regional technical and other colleges, and other agencies/parties. The survey was sent with narrative explanation, reference to the Regional Commission website for access to the entire plan, and with the entire "Implementation Program" (not just the RC Regional Work Program) section of the Regional Plan attached as a pdf document to the e-mail. Six questions were asked in the combined survey. These were:
 - 1) Do you feel the Regional Plan adequately and comprehensively addresses current issues and opportunities?
 - 2) Are there other issues or needs within the Region the Regional Plan should address? If so, please identify them.
 - 3) Are the identified implementation strategies, both for the RC and other parties, appropriate? What else needs to be identified?
 - 4) Please identify any recent happenings, changes, or developments (e.g. planned or announced job creation by expanding or new businesses or industry) within your jurisdiction which impact, or help implement, the Regional Plan's strategies?
 - 5) Do you feel the Regional Plan and its identified strategies are being appropriately implemented?
 - 6) How could the implementation or strategies be improved?
3. Other Activities. As noted earlier, the Regional Plan, its effectiveness, and the Local Government Performance Standards, have been discussed in FY 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 directly with local governments, with the Regional Council, and through the Regional Commission newsletter and other communication.

Monitoring and Evaluation Results

A limited number of responses were received from the survey conducted. All received were complimentary and positive. Those detailing comments noted that they thought the Regional Plan and its implementation strategies ‘remained relevant’ are “being implemented appropriately” and “HOGARC is doing an excellent job at implementing strategies outlined in the workplan.” The specific regional needs for state support of rural hospitals and critical health care access, and improved natural gas capacity were again voiced by several parties as very compelling needs for regional quality of life and economic competitiveness. The overall evaluation and monitoring conclusion was that the Regional Plan, as is, appropriately and comprehensively addresses current Regional issues and opportunities, voices appropriate Regional implementation strategies, and is effective, thus far, in implementation.

Plan Amendments Required

There were no major plan amendments to the Regional Plan identified as being required as a result of the evaluation and monitoring findings. Stated housekeeping changes to the Regional Commission Regional Work Program were made, including the addition of regional priorities and strategies for each activity of the RWP.

Regional Council Action

The Regional Council approved by resolution the submittal of the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission’s FY 2019 Regional Plan Update to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs at its June 28, 2018 meeting. A copy of this resolution has been uploaded to the RC’s Office 365 FY 2018 Annual Report folder.



Public Hearing

Regional Plan Work Program 2018

Montgomery County Senior Center

Mount Vernon, GA – 6:00 PM – 6.28.18

<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone #</u>	<u>Email</u>
Katy Morton	478-277-5076	mortonk@dlega.com
Annie Willis	478-463-5207	AnnieWilson73@gmail.com
Molly Olson	912-314-4565	molly@selectcandler.com
Bennie Watson	229-315-0648	

**Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission
Local Government Performance Standards Update**

The following list of governments have not achieved the regional commission's established regional plan minimum performance standards.

Local Government	Meet/Does Not Meet Minimum Standards	Minimum Performance Standard(s) Not Met	Specific Action Steps taken to Assist Government <i>(Optional: Also, identify resources that may aid LG achievement)</i>
Appling County	Meets		
City of Baxley	Meets		
City of Graham	Meets		
City of Surrency	Meets		
Bleckley County	Meets		
City of Cochran	Meets		
Candler County	Meets		
City of Metter	Does Not Meet	Maintain current Qualified Local Government Status by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs; Have an approved and adopted comprehensive plan under the Georgia Planning Act of 1989, as amended; Have an adopted ordinance(s) in compliance with the GDNR Part V Environmental Planning Criteria Rules for Groundwater Recharge Areas, Wetlands Protection, and River Corridor Protection	The Regional Commission offered Comprehensive Planning services to the City in FY 2017 and 2018. RC services were not utilized. The Regional Commission provided the City with an environmental protections model ordinance in late 2017. Attempts were made by the RC seeking the status of the ordinance adoption. The Regional Commission has not received a notification of adoption.
Town of Pulaski	Meets		
Dodge County	Meets		
City of Chauncey	Meets		
Town of Chester	Meets		
City of Eastman	Meets		
City of Milan	Does Not Meet	Maintain current Qualified Local Government Status by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs	Local governments are offered assistance with technical issues when completing surveys or documentation submittals required to maintaining QLG status in our Plan Implementation meetings. These meetings are held with each local government at least once every two years.
City of Rhine	Meets		
Emanuel County	Meets		
City of Adrian	Meets		

Local Government	Meet/Does Not Meet Minimum Standards	Minimum Performance Standard(s) Not Met	Specific Action Steps taken to Assist Government <i>(Optional: Also, identify resources that may aid LG achievement)</i>
City of Garfield	Meets		
City of Nunez	Meets		
City of Oak Park	Does Not Meet	Maintain current Qualified Local Government Status by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs; Have an adopted ordinance(s) in compliance with the GDNR Part V Environmental Planning Criteria Rules for Groundwater Recharge Areas, Wetlands Protection, and River Corridor Protection	The Regional Commission provided the City with an environmental protections model ordinance in late 2017. Attempts were made by the RC seeking the status of the ordinance adoption. The Regional Commission has not received a notification of adoption. Local governments are offered assistance with technical issues when completing surveys or documentation submittals required for maintaining QLG status in our Plan Implementation meetings. These meetings are held with each local government at least once every two years.
City of Stillmore	Meets		
City of Summertown	Does Not Meet	Maintain current Qualified Local Government Status by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs	Local governments are offered assistance with technical issues when completing surveys or documentation submittals required for maintaining QLG status in our Plan Implementation meetings. These meetings are held with each local government at least once every two years.
City of Swainsboro	Meets		
City of Twin City	Meets		
Evans County	Meets		
City of Bellville	Meets		
City of Claxton	Meets		
City of Daisy	Meets		

Local Government	Meet/Does Not Meet Minimum Standards	Minimum Performance Standard(s) Not Met	Specific Action Steps taken to Assist Government <i>(Optional: Also, identify resources that may aid LG achievement)</i>
City of Hagan	Does Not Meet	Maintain current Qualified Local Government Status by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs	Local governments are offered assistance with technical issues when completing surveys or documentation submittals required for maintaining QLG status in our Plan Implementation meetings. These meetings are held with each local government at least once every two years.
Jeff Davis County	Meets		
City of Denton	Does Not Meet	Maintain current Qualified Local Government Status by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs	Local governments are offered assistance with technical issues when completing surveys or documentation submittals required for maintaining QLG status in our Plan Implementation meetings. These meetings are held with each local government at least once every two years.
City of Hazlehurst	Meets		
Johnson County	Meets		
City of Kite	Meets		
City of Wrightsville	Meets		
Laurens County	Meets		
Town of Cadwell	Meets		
Town of Dexter	Meets		
City of Dublin	Meets		
City of Dudley	Meets		
City of East Dublin	Meets		
Town of Montrose	Does Not Meet	Maintain current Qualified Local Government Status by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs	Local governments are offered assistance with technical issues when completing surveys or documentation submittals required for maintaining QLG status in our Plan Implementation meetings. These meetings are held with each local government at least once every two years.
Town of Rentz	Meets		
Montgomery County	Meets		
City of Ailey	Meets		
Town of Alston	Meets		
City of Higgston	Meets		

Local Government	Meet/Does Not Meet Minimum Standards	Minimum Performance Standard(s) Not Met	Specific Action Steps taken to Assist Government <i>(Optional: Also, identify resources that may aid LG achievement)</i>
City of Mount Vernon	Meets		
City of Tarrytown	Meets		
City of Uvalda	Does Not Meet	Maintain current Qualified Local Government Status by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs	Local governments are offered assistance with technical issues when completing surveys or documentation submittals required for maintaining QLG status in our Plan Implementation meetings. These meetings are held with each local government at least once every two years.
Tattnall County	Meets		
City of Cobbtown	Meets		
City of Collins	Meets		
City of Glennville	Meets		
City of Manassas	Meets		
City of Reidsville	Meets		
Telfair County	Meets		
City of Jacksonville	Meets		
City of Lumber City	Meets		
City of McRae-Helena	Meets		
City of Scotland	Meets		
Toombs County	Meets		
City of Lyons	Meets		
City of Santa Claus	Does Not Meet	Maintain current Qualified Local Government Status by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs	Local governments are offered assistance with technical issues when completing surveys or documentation submittals required for maintaining QLG status in our Plan Implementation meetings. These meetings are held with each local government at least once every two years.
City of Vidalia	Meets		
Treutlen County	Meets		
City of Soperton	Meets		
Wayne County	Meets		
City of Jesup	Meets		
City of Odum	Meets		
City of Screven	Meets		
Wheeler County	Meets		

Local Government	Meet/Does Not Meet Minimum Standards	Minimum Performance Standard(s) Not Met	Specific Action Steps taken to Assist Government <i>(Optional: Also, identify resources that may aid LG achievement)</i>
City of Alamo	Does Not Meet	Maintain current Qualified Local Government Status by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs	Local governments are offered assistance with technical issues when completing surveys or documentation submittals required for maintaining QLG status in our Plan Implementation meetings. These meetings are held with each local government at least once every two years.
City of Glenwood	Meets		
Wilcox County	Meets		
City of Abbeville	Meets		
City of Pineview	Does Not Meet	Maintain current Qualified Local Government Status by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs	Local governments are offered assistance with technical issues when completing surveys or documentation submittals required for maintaining QLG status in our Plan Implementation meetings. These meetings are held with each local government at least once every two years.
City of Pitts	Meets		
City of Rochelle	Meets		

Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission
Regional Work Program
Report of Accomplishments

Activity	Planning and Coordination or Review	Timeframe	Status	Comments
Economic Development				
Maintain/update a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Plan to meet federal Economic Development Administration requirements and otherwise advocate for Regional economic development	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Ongoing	Annual report of accomplishments each year; CEDS update was completed in 2017; Next major update in 2022
Implement administration of WIOA Program and otherwise advance Regional workforce development	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Ongoing (2021+)	Continuing workforce development each year under GDEcD contract
Provide data/technical assistance/support to Chambers of Commerce/Development Authorities/Technical Colleges/Others in promotional strategies, project evaluation and development, and program access and funding, or otherwise so as to support and advance economic and community development	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Ongoing (2021+)	Assisted at least nine counties
Partnership/support with GDEcD/DCA and other state/regional agencies/organizations/alliances to further regional priorities and advance economic/community development	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Ongoing (2021+)	Assisted with 11 CDBG applications for total of approx. \$6.25 million; Prepared OneGeorgia applications totaling \$1 million for Claxton and Soperton; Prepared 2 Immediate Threat & Danger applications; Prepared 1 EDA Public Assistance Grant
Facilitate/promote regional/local efforts to enhance tourism through organizations, events, planning, or facility/park development/expansion	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Ongoing (2021+)	Prepared Georgia Trails Grant applications for Montgomery, Wayne, Abbeville, Vidalia; LWCF – Rentz, Lyons, Vidalia

**Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission
Regional Work Program
Report of Accomplishments**

Activity	Planning and Coordination or Review	Timeframe	Status	Comments
Provide project development and grant writing assistance to further infrastructure development, enhance services, or otherwise advance Regional economic and community development	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Ongoing (2021+)	Assist as requested; Advocated in comp plans; Submitted USDA Revolving Loan Fund App.; Redevelopment Fund App.; Assisted with 11 CDBG applications; Prepared OneGeorgia applications for Claxton and Soperton (\$1 million Total); Prepared 2 Immediate Threat & Danger applications; Prepared 1 EDA Public Assistance Grant
Provide technical assistance and project development services to local downtown revitalization and historic rehabilitation efforts	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Ongoing (2021+)	Assist as requested; Advocate in comp plan meetings; Provided information for potential projects in Lyons and Rochelle; Submitted USDA Revolving Loan Fund App.; Redevelopment Fund App.; Created a downtown marketing report for the City of Abbeville DDA
Support/facilitate entrepreneurship and small business development with technical assistance, referral, and other efforts	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Ongoing (2021+)	Part of local comp planning; Referred approx. 4 private businesses for SBDC assistance
Assist/facilitate/promote local efforts and needs for rural hospitals/improved Regional health care access	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Ongoing (2021+)	Part of local comp planning
Assist/facilitate/promote improved Regional broadband/high-speed internet access	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Ongoing (2021+)	Part of local comp planning
Provide technical assistance/support to 2010 TIA (T-SPLOST) implementation	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Ongoing (ends in 2023)	Provided technical assistance to local governments and GDOT with project band changes and to Regional Advisory Committee Citizens Review Panel;
Natural and Cultural Resources				
Provide Regional historic preservation technical assistance and implement contract with DNR Historic Preservation Division	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Ongoing (2021+)	Part of HPD/DNR Contract; Provided T.A to Watermelon Creek Vineyard with National Register nomination/local district/and/or CLG program; Provided T.A. to Dixie Theatre (Swainsboro, Section 106) and potential projects in Lyons and Rochelle

**Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission
Regional Work Program
Report of Accomplishments**

Activity	Planning and Coordination or Review	Timeframe	Status	Comments
Promote/support efforts to enhance access, utilization, and protection of Region's rivers and other identified and important Regional natural and cultural resources, especially those identified in the Regional Resources Plan	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Ongoing (2021+)	Part of Regional Resource Plan promulgation and supported in local comp planning; Promoted through Plan Implementation Assessment Meetings; Organization Contact (Woodpecker Trail Assoc., Altamaha River Partnership, Ocmulgee Water Trail Partnership); Sansavilla WMA, Bullard Creek WMA, Alligator Creek WMA and Ohoopce Dunes WMA protected/expanded
Provide T/A to local governments with adopting/implementing the RC model Environmental Conservation or other ordinances which meet DNR's Minimum Environmental Planning Criteria	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Ongoing (complete by end of FY 2018)	Part of Minimum Local Government Performance Standards; Discussed at Plan Implementation Assessment meetings; 22 local governments were provided with model ordinance, assistance with adoptions in progress
Community Facilities				
Provide local/Regional transportation planning assistance through GDOT Safety and Rural Transit contracts or other means	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Ongoing (2021+)	Authored a Transit Development Plan for Wheeler County in SFY 2017; Rural transit planning funds (5403) were unavailable; Contract is funded in SFY 2019 and RC will assist one county with plan development; Safe Routes to School assistance per GDOT contract; Involved with safety focus travel plan for Jeff Davis County Board of Education (2016) and conducted a walk audit for Sally D. Meadows Elementary School in Vidalia (2017)

**Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission
Regional Work Program
Report of Accomplishments**

Activity	Planning and Coordination or Review	Timeframe	Status	Comments
Provide transportation technical assistance/support in advocating general improvements/needs, or developing specific projects of all types of transportation facilities, including traditional and alternative	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Ongoing (2021+)	Part of GDOT contract; Part of Regional Resource Plan and Multi-Region River Study promulgation; Part of local comp planning, Regional Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan, and Regional Bike/Ped website: gohoga.org; assisted with 2 Multi-Model Safety and Access Grant applications
Update/promote Regional Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Ongoing (2021+)	Plan completed per terms of GDOT contract; Promotion of Regional Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan is ongoing
Implement DHS Coordinated Transportation Contract and otherwise advocate for improved Regional transit access	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Ongoing (2021+)	Implemented under yearly DHS contract
Provide technical assistance to local governments in infrastructure needs analysis/planning and project development/funding support	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Ongoing (2021+)	Assisted with 11 CDBG applications; Prepared OneGeorgia application for Abbeville; Prepared 3 Immediate Threat & Danger applications; Assisted City of McRae-Helena Water Conservation Plan
Assist local governments in local recreation/park planning and facility development, including grant writing assistance	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Ongoing (2021+)	Assisted with Trails Grant applications for Abbeville, Vidalia, Montgomery and Wayne Counties and Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Applications for Rentz, Lyons, and Vidalia; Provided T.A. to Lyons for locally prepared Trails Grant application; Provided information to Twin City
Provide technical assistance to local governments in planning/funding public safety and general government facility improvements	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Complete	Assisted with 22 AFG applications and 1 COPS grant application for Lyons
Provide technical assistance to local governments in hazard mitigation planning	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Due 2018 and 2019/2021	Assisted/Assisting Appling, Bleckley, Candler, Dodge, Jeff Davis, Johnson, Montgomery, Telfair, Toombs, Wheeler and Wilcox counties with hosting plan meetings and drafting plans

**Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission
Regional Work Program
Report of Accomplishments**

Activity	Planning and Coordination or Review	Timeframe	Status	Comments
Provide technical assistance to local governments in general governmental administration, survey response, or similar needs to enhance local management and efficiency	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Ongoing (2021+)	T.A. provided on ongoing basis through Regional Council, response to local inquires, and survey/other T.A., including updating pay scale, website development, and discussion re. Pay scale creation for Reidsville; Marketing materials for Bleckley County; SAM and DUNS registration for Tarrytown; SAM registration for Chauncey; Non-compliance notifications for required QLG forms/audit reporting; Sent survey to all Region local governments asking them to self-evaluate using Region's Minimum and Excellence Performance Standards. Deadline to respond was 2/9/18;
Implement Area Agency on Aging contract with DHR Division of Aging Services, and otherwise carry-out activities to improve lives and provide services to Region's senior and disadvantaged citizens	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Ongoing (2021+)	SFY 2019 Area Plan submitted to DAS 3/1/18; Provide 2 fee for service programs: Hospital Care Transitions and Evidence Based Programs
Housing				
Advocate/support efforts to improve the quality and quantity of housing within the Region, including technical assistance, data provision, planning, and grant support to local governments/authorities	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Ongoing (2021+)	Assist as requested; Assisted Dublin with the creation of an Urban Redevelopment Plan; Money Follows the Person Program (MFP) clients transition from Nursing Home to subsidized housing
Land Use				
Provide comprehensive planning assistance to Region's local governments	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Ongoing (2021+)	Assisted Appling, Candler, and Emanuel counties (2017); Assisting Johnson, Tattnall, and Wilcox counties (2018)
Provide solid waste management planning assistance to Region's local governments	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Ongoing (2021+)	Assisted with plans in Appling, Bleckley, Candler, Dodge, Emanuel, Jeff Davis counties

**Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission
Regional Work Program
Report of Accomplishments**

Activity	Planning and Coordination or Review	Timeframe	Status	Comments
Implement annual planning contract with DCA, including providing plan implementation meetings and assistance to locals/Region, facilitating DRI reviews, and RIR promulgation	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Ongoing (2021+)	Part of DCA Contract; Met with 11 counties (2017/2018); No DRI reviews have been necessary since 2016
Assist local governments in maintaining QLG designation	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Ongoing (2021+)	Assist as requested; Non-compliance notifications were communicated to each local government as a reminder for each past-due QLG survey/audit document
Develop/maintain/improve a Regional GIS database and otherwise improve/support local government mapping and GIS development	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Ongoing (2021+)	Assisted with mapping in approx. 11 counties, including comp plans; Ailey and Hagan water/sewer maps; HAZUS Risk Assessments for 11 counties; Map 21 Program – Bleckley, Jeff Davis, and Wheeler counties; Coordinate GIS initiatives with State GIO officer through GARC
Maintain/update Regional Plan which meets state standards and advances/advocates Regional advancement and coordinated economic and community development	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Ongoing (2021+)	Regional Work Program Update was completed in SFY 2016; participated in task force for regional planning standards revisions; New Regional Plan Update due in SFY 2019; Promoted through Plan Implementation Assessment meetings; Local Comp Plans; Organization contact
Provide local/regional planning and other assistance to implement local/Regional plans and otherwise address issues of community and economic development	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Ongoing (2021+)	Promoted through Plan Implementation Assessment meetings; Local Comp Plans; Organization contact
Evaluate local government plan implementation success and encourage local governments to seek RC designation of “Planning Excellence” in accordance with Regional Plan	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Ongoing (2021+)	Sent survey to all Region local governments asking them to self-evaluate using Region’s Minimum and Excellence Performance Standards. Deadline to respond was 2/9/18; Provided T/A to Vidalia (2016), Jesup (2017), and Swainsboro (2018) with PlanFirst applications (Vidalia and Jesup selected, Swainsboro application is pending)

**Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission
Regional Work Program
Report of Accomplishments**

Activity	Planning and Coordination or Review	Timeframe	Status	Comments
Intergovernmental Coordination				
Support and assist with preparation of countywide Service Delivery Strategies in compliance with state law	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Ongoing (2021+)	Assisted Appling, Emanuel, and Candler counties
Act as a forum/liaison/advocate to address/develop solutions for shared regional issues and items of mutual concern and to partner with state and federal agencies	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Ongoing (2021+)	Part of Regional Council function; Communicated/consulted regularly with Regional Reps
Participate in GARC to better serve constituency and coordinate activities/RC performance	PC	FY 2017-FY 2021	Ongoing (2021+)	Regularly attended GARC Executive Leadership monthly meetings; Staff attended GARC Conference November 8-10, 2017

HOGARC REGIONAL NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

This list of Needs and Opportunities was developed through an extensive planning process held in 2013 and 2014 for inclusion in the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission’s Regional Plan, “Green with Greener Days Ahead.” Items included on this list are challenges faced by most local governments in the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Region, as well as opportunities recognized by the Region. Stakeholders and Regional Commission staff have modified this list to develop a priority status for the Needs and Opportunities which directly relate to activities with which the Regional Commission is involved. The Priority Needs and Opportunities are addressed by implementation measures in the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission’s Annual Regional Work Program update. The Regional Issues and Opportunities that follow are categorized by various planning elements (i.e. Economic Development, Natural and Cultural Resources, etc.)

Economic Development

Priority Needs

- EDN-1 Additional workforce development/job skills improvement efforts to ensure that the population has the skills and training necessary to allow the Region to better attract and retain businesses and industries.
- EDN-2 Greater infrastructure development (e.g. water, sewer, telecommunications, etc.) to guide/ attract growth.
- EDN-3 Greater development of modern, up-to-date transportation network (increased access to four-lane highways, rail, airport upgrades).
- EDN-4 Lack of access to high-speed technology infrastructure in all areas.
- EDN-5 Greater promotion/development of tourism efforts with a focus on venues and activities that capitalize on the Region’s heritage and resources (agricultural, natural, cultural, etc.).

Other Needs

- EDN-6 Lower levels of educational attainment than the state as a whole.
- EDN-7 Lack of a regional economic development organization(s) solely focused on Heart of Georgia Altamaha Region.

- EDN-8 Lack of an enhanced economic development marketing strategy that seeks to promote a regional identity.
- EDN-9 Lack of professional development staff and local marketing strategies.
- EDN-10 Small number of active leadership development training/programs to educate communities on importance of growth and development.
- EDN-11 Need for increased downtown revitalization efforts, particularly in smaller communities.
- EDN-12 Significant presence of migrant/seasonal workers presents challenges concerning the delivery of public services (education, health care, etc.).
- EDN-13 Greater focus on water supply planning needed in conjunction with regional and statewide water management plans.

Priority Opportunities

- EDO-1 Capitalize on the presence of several technical colleges and post-secondary institutions to further workforce development and educational level improvement efforts.
- EDO-2 Passage of the Transportation SPLOST in the HOGARC Region and ongoing transportation improvements (e.g. four-laning of U.S. 1, airport upgrades, etc.) to increase connectivity.
- EDO-3 Continue to support/enhance the Region’s economic base (agriculture/forestry, etc.).
- EDO-4 Increase efforts at downtown development/small town revitalization to enhance and maintain vibrant and attractive downtowns throughout the Region.

Other Opportunities

- EDO-5 Proximity to the Georgia Coast and the ports at Savannah and Brunswick.
- EDO-6 Enhance ongoing leadership development training and foster new programs.
- EDO-7 Several regional partnerships to support economic development efforts: joint development authorities, Altamaha River Partnership, Woodpecker Trail Association, I-16 Corridor Alliance, Middle Coastal Unified Development

Authority, Golden Isles Parkway Association, and Ocmulgee River Water Trail Partnership.

- EDO-8 Continue support of tourism promotion efforts and seek to develop additional activities/ venues.
- EDO-9 Support/enhance promotion of new markets and uses and alternative agricultural and forestry crops/resources.
- EDO-10 Rayonier's production of specialized chemical cellulose, as well as other existing regional industries' products.
- EDO-11 Capitalization of Region's advantages in logistics/location.
- EDO-12 Utilize HOGARC Regional Resource Plan and Multi-Region River Corridor Feasibility Study to encourage increased conservation and sensitive utilization of natural and cultural resources for nature-based and heritage tourism.

Natural and Cultural Resources

Priority Needs

- NCRN-1 Encouraging compatible utilization of the Region's natural/cultural resources through efforts to promote/attract nature-based/adventure, heritage tourism, and agri-tourism, along with increased development of outdoor recreation opportunities.
- NCRN-2 Need for increased utilization/promotion of historic preservation in downtown development efforts.

Other Needs

- NCRN-3 Need for increased focus on public educational awareness efforts emphasizing the importance of conservation/protection of the Region's natural/cultural resources.
- NCRN-4 Lack of growth management/regulation/enforcement that would seek to preserve the Region's rural character.
- NCRN-5 Continued promotion/enhanced knowledge of the Region's history/historic sites.
- NCRN-6 Greater focus needed for aesthetics/beautification improvements.
- NCRN-7 Continued protection of water quality and availability. A number of water bodies in the Region are included on the EPA 303 (d) List of Impaired Streams. The need exists for greater enforcement of EPD's Part V Environmental Planning Criteria. Increased attention to water supply planning also exists with the development of regional water management plans and a statewide plan.

Priority Opportunities

- NCRO-1 Continue to support efforts to retain, enhance, and promote the availability of outdoor recreation opportunities (i.e. three (3) state parks, numerous Wildlife Management Areas and Public Fishing Areas) and seek development of additional venues and linkages.
- NCRO-2 Regional development of bicycle trails, events, and cooperative marketing.

Other Opportunities

- NCRO-3 Regional cooperation and marketing of tourism events, opportunities, and resources.
- NCRO-4 Significant number of protected river corridors.
- NCRO-5 Capitalize on the Region's history and numerous historic sites to promote heritage tourism.
- NCRO-6 Utilize HOGARC Regional Resource Plan and Multi-Region River Corridor Feasibility Study to encourage increased nature-based tourism and conservation efforts.
- NCRO-7 Certified Local Government (CLG) designation for Dublin, the first local historic preservation program in Region to achieve this recognition.
- NCRO-8 Utilization of existing, and development of new, local advocacy and support organizations

Community Facilities and Services

Priority Needs

- CFSN-1 Region's communities are continuously seeking funding to maintain/upgrade/expand public infrastructure (particularly water and sewer) to maintain adequate capacity to serve existing residents as well as to accommodate and provide for future growth.
- CFSN-2 Significant upgrades to the Region's transportation network are needed (especially increased road paving/resurfacing in many communities and widening of major highways, but also rail system improvements and continued airport upgrades) to increase connectivity and to attract/promote future development.

- CFSN-3 Lack of adequate access to alternative forms of transportation (i.e. bicycle/pedestrian).
- CFSN-4 Many communities are seeking funding to expand access to/upgrade telecommunications/technology infrastructure to provide broadband and to meet current and future demand.
- CFSN-5 Need to upgrade broadband service levels in Region.
- CFSN-6 A critical need exists for the continued provision of access to quality health care, including needed improvements/upgrades to facilities, retention of local hospitals and access to immediate and emergency care, the continued recruitment of health care professionals in all communities, and access to Level I or II trauma centers.
- CFSN-7 Increased funding is needed to assist the Region's communities in maintaining/improving parks and recreational facilities in order to enhance quality of life and protect greenspace.

Other Needs

- CFSN-8 Enhancements to public safety services/facilities are much needed throughout the Region.
- CFSN-9 The affordability of maintaining adequate access to solid waste services/facilities, including the expansion/development of stable markets for recycling programs, is a concern.
- CFSN-10 There is an ongoing need for improvements to educational facilities/services in order to maintain state-of-the-art programs and services.
- CFSN-11 Communities are continuously seeking funding to enhance cultural facilities/services to promote improved quality of life.
- CFSN-12 The ability to continue to provide adequate government facilities/services and support for professionally managed governmental operations remains a concern.

Priority Opportunities

- CFSO-1 Passage of the T-SPLOST in the HOGARC Region and the presence of several state-designated developmental highways (e.g. U.S. 1, U.S. 280, U.S. 441) and their planned upgrades will be instrumental in attracting future growth.
- CFSO-2 Public transit programs throughout the Region provided through DHR and other entities offer increased mobility for residents.

- CFSO-3 The opportunity exists for improved access to alternative forms of transportation through sidewalk improvements in many communities, the presence of a U.S. Bike Route, and several state bicycle routes in the Region along with numerous designated regional routes, and the potential for the development of local bike routes, and multi-use trails within/near Region's river corridors.
- CFSO-4 Ongoing efforts to expand/upgrade telecommunications infrastructure present opportunities to extend modern, high-speed technology access to all areas of the Region.
- CFSO-5 Georgia Community Paramedicine Program Strategic and Rural Emergency Hospital initiatives

Other Opportunities

- CFSO-6 There are opportunities throughout the Region to utilize ongoing and/or planned infrastructure expansions to guide growth to desired areas and prevent sprawl.
- CFSO-7 Promotion of major regional transportation routes as interstate alternatives and/or tourism/economic development opportunities.
- CFSO-8 Ongoing efforts to upgrade/improve airports in numerous communities in the Region (runway extensions, new terminal buildings, etc.) will be essential in attracting future industrial growth in particular, in addition to providing quicker, easier transportation access.
- CFSO-9 Continuing expansion of Region's rail network, and inclusion of Region's federally designated Macon-to Savannah-Jacksonville high speed rail corridor.
- CFSO-10 Greater alternative access to destinations along the East Coast will be provided through the continued retention of an Amtrak passenger rail hub in Jesup in the renovated historic depot.
- CFSO-11 The continuing development of the Middle Georgia College Aviation Campus in Eastman offers vast potential for the unique existence of a highly-skilled aviation workforce in the Region.
- CFSO-12 The presence of an abundant supply of groundwater provides great potential for drawing future growth to the Region.
- CFSO-13 Georgia Medical Student Scholarship Program
- CFSO-14 Improved access to parks/recreational facilities helps create greater outdoor recreation opportunities that promote an improved quality of life.

- CFSO-15 Continued support/expansion of the Region’s technical colleges presents opportunities for increased access to post-secondary education and a more skilled workforce.
- CFSO-16 Ongoing enhancements to various cultural facilities and services in the Region can lead to increased opportunities for entertainment and enrichment.

Housing

Priority Needs

- HN-1 The prevalence of substandard housing due to a lack of code enforcement in many communities has presented a growing need to seek solutions to reduce and eliminate areas of blight and help revitalize declining neighborhoods.
- HN-2 A lack of land use/growth management regulations, primarily in the unincorporated areas, presents major challenges to guiding/directing future housing growth to desired areas served by existing and/or planned infrastructure.

Other Needs

- HN-3 Many communities are seeking assistance to help citizens in need of pursuing housing rehabilitation and other improvements to upgrade housing quality, especially low to moderate income housing.
- HN-4 The lack of sufficient availability of affordable housing choices presents existing and future residents with limited housing options.
- HN-5 The lack of diversity of the Region’s housing mix has led to an increased reliance on manufactured housing as the most viable option for many residents, which in turn creates concerns dealing with tax revenue and structural maintenance.
- HN-6 A concern regionwide is developing solutions to deal with the need to provide adequate housing options for migrants and seasonal workers.
- HN-7 Many communities have a significant need for aesthetics/appearance improvements, particularly in gateway areas.
- HN-8 A growing need exists to address the issue of special needs housing (i.e. senior, disabled, assisted living, shared residences) to assist in making more housing options available.

Priority Opportunities

- HO-1 Opportunity for infill development within Region municipalities or their current service areas.

Other Opportunities

- HO-2 The availability of ample land throughout the Region presents substantial opportunities and potential for attracting future residents.
- HO-3 The increased utilization/promotion of available assistance programs from various state and federal agencies presents opportunities for creative solutions to address regional issues, such as workforce housing, rehabilitation, blight elimination, and neighborhood revitalization.
- HO-4 A greater focus on constructing more single-family dwellings on smaller lots can present a more affordable alternative to manufactured housing and create a better diversity of housing choices.

Land Use

Priority Needs

- LUN-1 Renewed efforts are needed for community aesthetics/beautification improvements in many areas, particularly concerning community gateways/entranceways, in order to create a more attractive first impression to visitors and travelers.
- LUN-2 Many communities are seeking assistance to revitalize their downtown areas and central business districts in order to revitalize local economies, attract more people to the core urban areas, and to reduce sprawl.

Other Needs

- LUN-3 Public and political support is significantly lacking in many communities, especially the unincorporated areas, for the development of coordinated land use management planning regulations to guide and direct growth.
- LUN-4 A number of jurisdictions have yet to adopt enforcement of Georgia's Uniform Construction Codes that would ensure that structures are maintained and prevented from becoming substandard.
- LUN-5 The lack of growth management regulations makes it difficult for communities to properly manage and guide the expansion of infrastructure to desired areas and to limit the potential for sprawl.
- LUN-6 A greater focus is needed on developing regulations that emphasize the protection, conservation, and sensitive utilization of the Region's natural and cultural resources, particularly the conservation of agricultural and forestry lands and the retention of the Region's rural character.

Priority Opportunities

- LUO-1 The increased presence and utilization of geographic information systems allows communities a valuable resource in assessing existing land use patterns and projecting future trends.

Other Opportunities

- LUO-2 The utilization of alternative zoning and land use regulations may present communities with a more palatable option for addressing the need for growth management regulations than traditional zoning.
- LUO-3 Due in large part to its existing and attractive rural character and abundant, outstanding natural and cultural resources, the Region is well positioned to attract future residents from those seeking a more relaxed setting and a higher quality of life than is often attainable in larger urban centers.
- LUO-4 Because of its rural nature, land values in the Region are typically lower and more affordable than in more urbanized areas. This presents another key factor in being able to attract future growth.
- LUO-5 Underutilized, but especially significant, regionally important natural and cultural resources hold much unrecognized potential for tourism and general economic and community development.
- LUO-6 There are no major conflicts between existing land uses in the Region at present, and there is opportunity to expand current growth areas without conflict.

Intergovernmental Coordination

Priority Needs

- ICN-1 With financial resources being limited, there is a greater need for cooperation and coordination among local governments in the areas of services sharing, the joint delivery of services, and/or consolidation.
- ICN-2 Improved coordination is needed among jurisdictions in establishing/enforcing growth management regulations to prepare for future growth.
- ICN-3 Greater enhancement of the management and structure of local governments is needed, particularly in smaller communities.

Priority Opportunities

- ICO-1 Improved cooperation and services sharing among local governments would allow communities to better maximize their resources and lead to greater efficiencies in service delivery.
- ICO-2 Continued utilization of/participation in regional partnerships (e.g. HOGARC, Altamaha River Partnership, U.S. 341 Association, Woodpecker Trail Association, Ocmulgee Water Trail Partnership, etc.) presents increased opportunities to promote further regional cooperation and coordination and to encourage communities to think regionally.

Other Opportunities

- ICO-3 There exists a significant amount of cooperation among cities and counties, both intra-county as well as regionally, in addition with state agencies, particularly in the area of economic development. This should continue to be encouraged and expanded.
- ICO-4 The Region's river corridors and other natural/cultural resources hold much potential for enhanced and coordinated protection, resource utilization, and expanded tourism/economic development opportunities through additional cooperation/partnership.
- ICO-5 Establishment of regional economic development organization(s) solely focused on Heart of Georgia Altamaha Region.

**Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission
Regional Work Program**

Regional Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short Term (1-5 yrs.)	Long Term (6-10 yrs.)	Ongoing
Economic Development	Develop, promote, and support efforts and strategies to improve regional identity, regional collaboration, and regional marketing.	Maintain/update a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Plan to meet federal Economic Development Administration requirements and otherwise advocate for Regional economic development	EDA	Year 5 135K/Each Year		
		Partnership/support with GDEcD/DCA and other state/regional agencies/organizations/alliances to further regional priorities and advance economic/community development	GDEcD, DCA, Local Governments, Chambers, Dev. Authorities			Staff Time
	Support, enhance, and promote local and regional tourism efforts and opportunities, especially those capitalizing on the Region's heritage, agricultural, natural and cultural resources.	Facilitate/promote regional/local efforts to enhance tourism through organizations, events, planning, or facility/park development/expansion	Local Governments, Tourism Boards, Chambers, Dev. Authorities, GDEcD, DCA, DNR, Conservation groups			Staff Time
Infrastructure	Support the efficient implementation of local and regional T-SPLOST projects and the supportive utilization of local T-SPLOST funds for further enhancement of the Region's transportation network.	Provide technical assistance/support to 2010 TIA (T-SPLOST) implementation	Local Governments, Citizens Review Panel, GDOT	Years 1-5 Staff Time		
		Provide transportation technical assistance/support in advocating general improvements/needs, or developing specific projects of all types of transportation facilities, including traditional and alternative	GDOT, Local Governments, Chambers, Dev. Authorities, Tourism Boards			Staff Time
	Support local government efforts to improve the built environment and sustain development through project planning and funding assistance	Provide technical assistance to local governments in infrastructure needs analysis/planning and project development/funding support	Local Governments, Dev. Authorities			Staff Time
		Provide project development and grant writing assistance to further infrastructure development, enhance services, or otherwise advance Regional economic and community development	Local Governments, Chambers, Dev. Authorities			Staff Time \$150,000
	Advocate and support improved access, within communities and to important recreational, natural, and cultural amenities, through enhanced development of alternative forms of transportation, including sidewalk improvements, development of local bicycle routes/trails/events, and the establishment of greenways, multi-use or other trails.	Provide local/Regional transportation planning assistance through GDOT Safety and Rural Transit contracts or other means	GDOT, Local Governments	Year 1-5 \$30,000 Each Year		
		Update/promote Regional Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan	GDOT, Local Governments, Chambers, Tourism Boards	Year 3 \$40,000 GDOT Contract		
	Improve access to critical services destinations for all citizens	Implement DHS Coordinated Transportation Contract and otherwise advocate for improved Regional transit access	DHS, Local Governments, GDOT	Each Year \$1.8 Million		
Unemployment, Education/Workforce Development	Utilize existing programs and support efforts to enhance workforce development and job skills improvements and to further educational attainment within the Region.	Implement administration of WIOA Program and otherwise advance Regional workforce development	JTU, GDEcD, WIOA Board	Each Year \$6.3 Million		

**Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission
Regional Work Program**

Regional Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short Term (1-5 yrs.)	Long Term (6-10 yrs.)	Ongoing
Broadband Access/High-Speed Internet Availability	Advocate for, and support expansion of, telecommunications/technology infrastructure and broadband capability and service within the Region.	Assist/facilitate/promote improved Regional broadband/high-speed internet access	Local Governments, Ga. Tech. Auth., Chambers, Dev. Authorities, Private businesses, Utility Cos.			Staff Time
Natural Resources/Tourism	Expand awareness, understanding, and education of importance of Region's heritage, its outstanding natural/cultural resources, and their need for documentation/conservation/protection.	Provide data/technical assistance/support to Chambers of Commerce/Development Authorities/Technical Colleges/Others in promotional strategies, project evaluation and development, and program access and funding, or otherwise so as to support and advance economic and community development	Local Governments, Chambers, Dev. Authorities, Tech. Colleges			Staff Time
	Support and seek to develop multi-use trails, other outdoor recreation facilities, and usage along the Region's river corridors, especially those with multi-county linkages.	Promote/support efforts to enhance access, utilization, and protection of Region's rivers and other identified and important Regional natural and cultural resources, especially those identified in the Regional Resources Plan	Local Governments, DCA, DNR, Conservation groups, Tourism Boards, Local/Regional organizations			Staff Time
		Assist local governments in local recreation/park planning and facility development, including grant writing assistance	DNR, Local Governments			Staff Time \$50,000
	Promote, support, and advocate use of best management practices by the public, developers, and agricultural, forest, and other interests.	Provide T/A to local governments with adopting/implementing the RC model Environmental Conservation or other ordinances which meet DNR's Minimum Environmental Planning Criteria	Local Governments, DCA, DNR	Year 1 Staff Time		
Rural Hospitals/Health Care Access	Encourage programs targeting increases to rural healthcare access and holistic community health endeavors	Assist/facilitate/promote local efforts and needs for rural hospitals/improved Regional health care access				Staff Time
		Implement Area Agency on Aging contract with DHR Division of Aging Services, and otherwise carry-out activities to improve lives and provide services to Region's senior and disadvantaged citizens	DHS, Dept. of Comm. Health, Local Governments, Hospitals, Private	Each Year		

**Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission
Regional Work Program**

Regional Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short Term (1-5 yrs.)	Long Term (6-10 yrs.)	Ongoing
Community and Downtown Development	Seek to protect historic resources of the region and promote adaptive reuse when possible	Provide technical assistance and project development services to local downtown revitalization and historic rehabilitation efforts	Local Governments, DCA, GDEcD, DNR/HPD	Each Year \$5,000		
		Provide Regional historic preservation technical assistance and implement contract with DNR Historic Preservation Division	DNR/HPD, Local Governments			Staff Time
	Improve community preparedness and public safety capabilities within the region	Provide technical assistance to local governments in planning/funding public safety and general government facility improvements	U.S. Dept. of Justice, FEMA, USDA, Local Governments	Year 1-4 Staff Time		
		Provide technical assistance to local governments in hazard mitigation planning	GEMA, FEMA, Local Governments	Year 1-3 \$60,000		
	Ensure local governments meet state mandated requirements for governmental administration and coordination	Provide technical assistance to local governments in general governmental administration, survey response, or similar needs to enhance local management and efficiency	Local Governments, DCA, EPD			Staff Time
		Provide comprehensive planning assistance to Region's local governments	DCA, Local Governments	Each Year \$100,000		
		Implement annual planning contract with DCA, including providing plan implementation meetings and assistance to locals/Region, facilitating DRI reviews, and RIR promulgation	DCA, Local Governments	Each Year \$100,000		
		Assist local governments in maintaining QLG designation	DCA, Local Governments			Staff Time
		Provide solid waste management planning assistance to Region's local governments	Local Governments	Year 1-4 \$80,000 Total		
		Support and assist with preparation of countywide Service Delivery Strategies in compliance with state law	DCA, Local Governments			
		Educate communities of the need for improved housing and the development of sustainable housing initiatives	Advocate/support efforts to improve the quality and quantity of housing within the Region, including technical assistance, data provision, planning, and grant support to local governments/authorities	HUD, DCA, Local Governments, Housing Authorities, USDA		Each Year Staff Time
	Provide communities with the ability to make capital improvement decisions based on available data and modern mapping techniques	Develop/maintain/improve a Regional GIS database and otherwise improve/support local government mapping and GIS development	DCA, Local Governments			Staff Time \$180,000
	Serve as an identifier and monitor of regional issues and opportunities while developing sustainable solutions and/or strategies for goal attainment	Maintain/update Regional Plan which meets state standards and advances/advocates Regional advancement and coordinated economic and community development	DCA, Local Governments	Year 1 & 5 Staff Time		
		Provide local/regional planning and other assistance to implement local/Regional plans and otherwise address issues of community and economic development	DCA, Local Governments, DNR, GDOT	Year 1-3 Staff Time		
		Evaluate local government plan implementation success and encourage local governments to seek RC designation of "Planning Excellence" in accordance with Regional Plan	Local Governments, DCA	Year 3 Staff Time		
		Act as a forum/liaison/advocate to address/develop solutions for shared regional issues and items of mutual concern and to partner with state and federal agencies	State and federal agencies, Local Governments, Regional Council			Staff Time
		Participate in GARC to better serve constituency and coordinate activities/RC performance	Other RCs, DCA			Staff Time

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission (HOGARC) prepared a new Regional Plan in 2013/2014 as required by the Georgia Planning Act of 1989 and new Georgia Department of Community Affairs' Regional Planning Requirements; and

WHEREAS, this required Regional Plan consists of two parts, a *Regional Assessment* of inventory, analysis, and preliminary identification of needs (prepared in 2013), and a *Regional Agenda* for delineation of implementation strategies to realize the identified regional vision and to address selected needs, including a HOGARC Regional Work Program (prepared in 2014); and

WHEREAS, this Regional Plan was designed as a guide to action for all concerned with the improvement and future well being of the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Region (State Service Delivery Region 9), and needs to remain current; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Plan, entitled *Green with Greener Days Ahead*, was first approved by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), and was then adopted by the Regional Council of the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Development Center in September, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Commission prepared and adopted a 2016 Regional Plan Update as required by DCA's Regional Planning Requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Commission has now prepared a new Regional Plan Update in 2018 in accordance with the DCA Regional Planning Requirements; and

WHEREAS, the 2018 HOGARC Regional Work Program Update included coordination with local governments, chambers of commerce, and many others in the Region, and resulted in a new HOGARC Work Program and other corresponding minor changes to the *Regional Agenda*.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Regional Council of the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission hereby approves this 2018 HOGARC Regional Work Program Update to its Regional Plan, and authorizes its submission to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

SO RESOLVED at the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission Council Meeting this 28th day of June, 2018.


Raymond Mullis, Chair

Attest: 
Brett Manning, Executive Director