

**RESOLUTION OF THE MIDDLE GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION
To Adopt the 2018 Regional Plan Annual Implementation Report**

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs requires every Regional Commission in the state to regularly maintain their Regional Plan in accordance with the state's Standards and Procedures for Regional Planning and Schedule for Regional Planning; and

WHEREAS, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission has completed technical work on an annual report of progress in accordance with the Regional Planning Requirements provided by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs; and

WHEREAS, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission held a required public hearing prior to submission of the Annual Implementation Report to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for review; and

WHEREAS, the 2018 Annual Implementation Report has been subsequently accepted by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on the 14th day of February 2019, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission Council, meeting in regular session, hereby adopts the 2018 Regional Plan Annual Implementation Report, for transmittal to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

Chairman: Robert A.B. Reichert
Robert A.B. Reichert

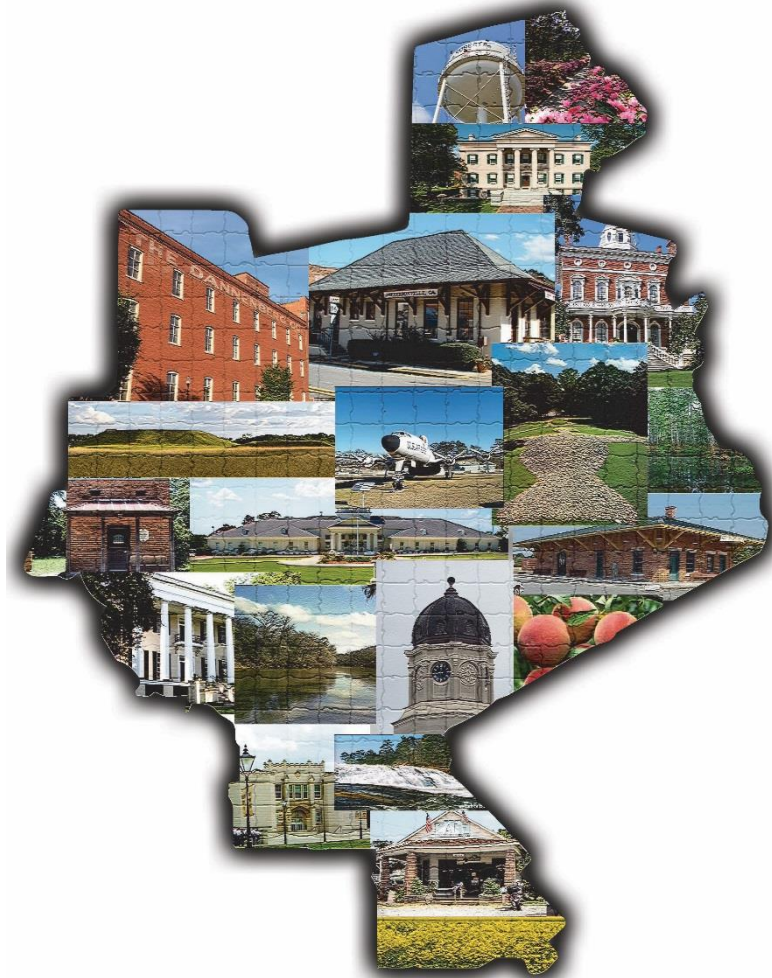
Attest: Laura M. Mathis
Laura M. Mathis

Date: 2/14/19

2016-2036

Plan for . . .

A THRIVING MIDDLE GEORGIA



2018 ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

 **M**iddle Georgia Regional Commission

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

The Middle Georgia Regional Commission, through the Regional Agenda process, is given the responsibility and authority to set achievement levels for local governments of the region. In doing so, MGRC recognizes that all local governments of the region are different, and that some standards may be quite easily attainable for larger, well-funded governments, but more difficult to meet for other cities and counties. For this reason, MGRC has set Essential Standards, as well as Excellence Standards for the local governments of Middle Georgia. Essential Standards are differentiated from Excellence Standards, which may require increased planning, coordination, and financial commitment.

The Middle Georgia Regional Commission is dedicated to ensuring that every local government is able to meet all Essential (minimum) Standards of the Regional Agenda. Regional Commission staff will assist local governments with any tasks necessary to attain the Essential Standards at minimal or no cost. As of June 30, 2018, twenty-four of the thirty local governments have achieved either the Essential or Excellence Standards. Throughout 2019, Middle Georgia Regional Commission will provide technical assistance to the remaining seven local governments to achieve the Essential Standard.

2018 Report of Regional Performance Standard Attainment

Jurisdiction	Standards Met	Notes
Baldwin County	Essential Standards	
City of Milledgeville	Community of Excellence	
Crawford County	Community of Excellence	**PlanFirst Designee
City of Roberta		Delinquent on RLGf
Houston County	Essential Standards	
City of Centerville	Essential Standards	
City of Perry	Community of Excellence	**PlanFirst Designee
City of Warner Robins		Delinquent on RLGf/Hotel-Motel Tax Report
Jones County	Community of Excellence	**PlanFirst Designee
City of Gray	Essential Standards	
Macon-Bibb County	Community of Excellence	
Monroe County	Essential Standards	
City of Culloden		Local government lacks updated website
City of Forsyth	Community of Excellence	**PlanFirst Designee
Peach County	Essential Standards	
City of Byron	Community of Excellence	**PlanFirst Designee
City of Fort Valley	Essential Standards	
Pulaski County	Essential Standards	
City of Hawkinsville	Essential Standards	
Putnam County	Essential Standards	
City of Eatonton	Community of Excellence	
Twiggs County	Essential Standards	
Town of Danville		Delinquent on RLGf
City of Jeffersonville	Essential Standards	
Wilkinson County	Essential Standards	
City of Allentown	Essential Standards	
City of Gordon		Delinquent on RLGf
City of Irwinton	Essential Standards	
Town of Ivey		Local government lacks updated website
City of McIntyre	Essential Standards	
Town of Toombsboro		Local government lacks updated website

RLGF: Report of Local Government Finance

MGRC Assistance to Local Governments not Currently Meeting Essential Standards:

The 2017 changes to the Regional Planning Requirements (Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia Chapter 110-12-6) eliminated penalties associated with communities that do not reach the Essential Standards set forth in the Regional Plan. However, MGRC still recognizes a responsibility to assist local governments however possible in the attainment of these standards. MGRC is currently undertaking the following activities to assist local governments in attainment of the Essential Standards:

- MGRC staff transmits bi-weekly messages to all local governments that are delinquent on Department of Community Affairs (DCA) reports, including the Report of Local Government Finance (RLGF) and Hotel-Motel Tax Report. MGRC also serves as a liaison between local communities and the DCA Office of Research and Surveys, as necessary.
- Websites for the City of Culloden and Town of Toombsboro are currently in development by MGRC staff. These will be the first official websites that either local government has ever had.
- MGRC staff has communicated with the Town of Ivey regarding web design services and remains available to assist in website development.

REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Middle Georgia Regional Implementation Program contains action items for the Middle Georgia Regional Commission and its regional partners for the purpose of promulgating the opportunities and vision developed by stakeholders for the Regional Plan. The following report details accomplishments of the Regional Implementation Program through June 30, 2018. Projects are either listed as **complete**, **underway**, **cancelled**, or **ongoing** (items that represent a continuous process for MGRC rather than a one-time project).

Planning and Coordination Activities						
Economic Development (ED)						
#	Activity	Project Timeframe	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources	Responsible Parties	Project Status
1	Provide technical assistance to local governments, authorities, and chambers for economic development and industrial recruitment.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, EDA, GDEcD	MGRC	Ongoing – MGRC has undertaken projects requiring EDA funding with Forsyth and Macon-Bibb County. MGRC also assisted Twiggs County with a OneGeorgia grant.
2	Pursue funding avenues to aid in providing infrastructure to industrial parks/sites.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, DCA, USDA, CGJDA	MGRC	Ongoing
3	Research, prepare and administer grants/loans to support economic development.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing

#	Activity	Project Timeframe	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources	Responsible Parties	Project Status
4	Provide assistance to the 21 st Century Partnership and its efforts to support Robins Air Force Base activities, expansion efforts, and new missions.	2017-2021	\$30,000	21st Century Partnership, MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing
5	Continue implementation of plans to remediate encroachment issues near RAFB.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, DOD, CGJDA, Local Governments	MGRC, CGJDA, DNR	Ongoing
6	Develop and aid in implementation of projects/activities identified in the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, EDA	MGRC	Ongoing
7	Conduct economic impact analysis to determine cost-benefit for economic development projects.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing
8	Provide technical assistance for the creation of local Opportunity Zones, Enterprise Zones, and Redevelopment Plans.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, DCA	MGRC	Ongoing – MGRC has recently provided technical assistance to Eatonton and Forsyth with Opportunity Zones and Irwinton with an Urban Redevelopment Plan.

#	Activity	Project Timeframe	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources	Responsible Parties	Project Status
9	Assist in a joint economic development initiative to market the region.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, Local Governments	MGRC, MGEA	Ongoing – includes work with I-75 Corridor Council and 75 Central Corridor Coalition.
10	Promote, encourage and engage in economic development initiatives of joint development authorities.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC	MGRC, CGJDA, FLRDA, MGRDA	Ongoing
11	Promote Middle Georgia tourism industry.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, GDEcD, Local Governments	MGRC	Ongoing
12	Promote and provide technical assistance with the Foreign Trade Zone and EB-5 Foreign Investor Program in eligible areas of Middle Georgia.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing
13	Implement the Digital Economy Plan for the Middle Georgia region.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, GTA, OEA, Local Governments	MGRC	Ongoing
14	Facilitate the ongoing operation of Makerspaces in Middle Georgia.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, GTA, OEA, Local Governments	MGRC	Underway – MGRC has supported work directly through a grant from Department of Defense, Office of Economic Adjustment.
15	Prepare grant applications for remediation of brownfield sites.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, EPA	MGRC, Local Governments	Ongoing
16	Assist with development of downtown development or redevelopment plans, and special tax districts.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, Local Governments	MGRC	Ongoing
17	Develop plans for retention of top talent within the region to prevent "brain drain."	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, Local Governments	MGRC	Ongoing
18	Build on the findings of the Middle Georgia... Growing Strong project to identify new opportunities to grow regional economic diversification.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, OEA	MGRC, MGEA	Underway – MGRC is currently expanding on findings of the OEA Phase I grant with Middle Georgia Asset Advancement Program.
19	Provide assistance with the promotion of the film industry in Middle Georgia.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, GDEcD	MGRC	Ongoing

Housing (H)

#	Activity	Project Timeframe	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources	Responsible Parties	Project Status
1	Assist local governments with preparing Community Home Investment Program (CHIP) grant applications.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, DCA, Local Governments	MGRC, Local Governments, Housing Authorities	Ongoing
2	Perform Housing Assessments, focusing on both urban and rural areas, and data collection, as requested.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, DCA, Local Governments	MGRC, Local Governments	Ongoing – MGRC has recently completed Assessments in Perry and Centerville.
3	Promote, encourage, and participate in housing-related workshops, conferences, and symposiums.	2017-2012	TBD	MGRC	MGRC, Local Governments, Housing Authorities	Ongoing
4	Provide technical assistance to local Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) communities.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, DCA	MGRC, DCA	Ongoing – MGRC recently assisted Byron with successful GICH designation and is currently assisting Centerville.
5	Assist local governments with the preparation of housing-focused Urban Redevelopment Plans.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, Local Governments	MGRC, Local Governments	Ongoing – MGRC has provided specific updates to Macon-Bibb County URP over the past several years to improve competitiveness for low-income housing tax credits.
6	Assist local governments with the creation and management of Land Bank Authorities.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, Local Governments	MGRC, Local Governments	Ongoing – MGRC has recently worked with Perry and Houston County. Wilkinson County is interested in pursuing in 2018-2019.
7	Provide technical assistance to local governments in reviewing and updating zoning codes to remove barriers to appropriate housing development.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, Local Governments	MGRC, Local Governments	Ongoing

#	Activity	Project Timeframe	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources	Responsible Parties	Project Status
8	Prioritize lending opportunities for housing developments focused on low- or mixed-income, elderly, or residents with disabilities.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, GSBL	MGRC, GSBL	Ongoing – GSBL no longer exists as a funding or implementing entity.
9	Partner with local governments, housing authorities, social service agencies, non-profits, etc. to promote housing options for those most in need.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing
10	Consider town centers as housing destinations for potential "pioneer" populations, such as baby boomers and college students.	2017-2019	TBD	MGRC, DCA	MGRC, Local Governments, Housing Authorities	Ongoing
11	Promote affordable housing options.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, DCA	MGRC, Local Governments	Ongoing
12	Promote and provide for safe, clean, and affordable housing choices.	2017-2021	TBD	Housing Authorities, Local Governments	Housing Authorities, Local Governments	Ongoing

Community Facilities & Services (CF)

#	Activity	Project Timeframe	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources	Responsible Parties	Project Status
1	Assist local efforts to upgrade or develop new public safety facilities and services.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, FEMA, DOJ, USDA, DCA, Local Governments	MGRC	Ongoing – MGRC regularly writes grant applications to assist fire and police services.
2	Assist local efforts to upgrade or develop new recreational facilities and services.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, DNR, Local Governments	MGRC	Ongoing – MGRC has assisted with numerous foundation grants to improve recreational facilities.

#	Activity	Project Timeframe	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources	Responsible Parties	Project Status
3	Assist local efforts to upgrade or develop new community facilities, such as Senior Centers, Head Start, Workforce Development, Boys and Girls Clubs, Libraries, etc.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, DCA, USDA, Local Governments	MGRC	Ongoing
4	Assist local governments in efforts to upgrade or develop new government administration facilities.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, USDA, Local Governments	MGRC	Ongoing – MGRC prepared RFPs to assist Crawford County and the City of Forsyth.
5	Assist local governments in efforts to upgrade and/or extend water/sewer infrastructure.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, DCA, USDA, GEFA, Local Governments	MGRC	Ongoing
6	Create, maintain, promote, and host web pages for local governments, development authorities, and other regional entities.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, Local Governments	MGRC	Ongoing
7	Create, maintain, and promote internet-based map services	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, Local Governments	MGRC	Ongoing
8	Create road and structure point data layers to support E-911 mapping services.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, GEMA, Local Governments	MGRC	Ongoing
9	Develop risk assessment reports and assist in the local hazard mitigation and pre-disaster mitigation planning processes.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, GEMA, Local Governments	MGRC	Ongoing – plans were recently completed in Putnam County and Baldwin County. Crawford County’s plan is under review with GEMA. Plans now under development in Twiggs, Peach, and Wilkinson Counties.

#	Activity	Project Timeframe	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources	Responsible Parties	Project Status
10	Explore the feasibility of acquiring highly accurate elevation (LiDAR) data and region-wide ortho-aerial photography.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, USGS, NOAA, FEMA, Local Governments	MGRC, GIO	Ongoing
11	Provide tax parcel maintenance service.	2017-2021	TBD	Local Governments	MGRC	Ongoing – MGRC provided tax parcel maintenance for seven counties in FY 2017.
12	Assist local governments in efforts to upgrade and/or extend natural gas infrastructure.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, USDA, Local Governments	MGRC	Ongoing
13	Assist local governments with improvements to stormwater management and drainage infrastructure.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, DCA, USDA, EPD, Local Governments	MGRC	Ongoing
14	Assist with land development ordinances or implementation of impact fees to reduce potential losses from new service provision.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, Local Governments	MGRC	Ongoing – recently completed work with Warner Robins and Twiggs County related to subdivision and zoning ordinances, respectively.
15	Assist local governments with development and preparation of Solid Waste Management Plans, as requested.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, Local Governments	MGRC	Ongoing – update currently underway in Twiggs County.
16	Develop strategies for enhancing social media and communications capabilities for MGRC and local governments.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing – currently working with Byron on this project.

Natural & Cultural Resources (NR)

#	Activity	Project Timeframe	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources	Responsible Parties	Project Status
1	Prepare update to the Regional Resources Plan.	2018	\$25,000	MGRC, DCA	MGRC	Underway – preliminary planning has begun. Majority of update likely to occur in 2019.
2	Assist Local governments with preparing and administering Land and Water Conservation Fund grants.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, DNR	MGRC, Local Governments	Ongoing – recent, successful grants are complete in Crawford County and Jones County. Awards are pending for Centerville and Hawkinsville.
3	Conduct and comment on Section 106 undertakings involving historic resources.	2017-2021	\$5,000 Annually	MGRC, HPD	MGRC	Ongoing
4	Conduct historic resources inventories for local governments.	2017-2021	\$10,000 Annually	MGRC, HPD, Local Governments	MGRC	Ongoing
5	Provide outreach, training, and technical assistance on Historic Preservation to local governments and interested parties within the region.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, HPD	MGRC	Ongoing
6	Assist local governments with activities related to the Certified Local Government program; assist in the preparation and adoption of local preservation ordinances.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, HPD	MGRC	Ongoing

#	Activity	Project Timeframe	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources	Responsible Parties	Project Status
7	Provide technical assistance to local Historic Preservation Commission, Historical Societies, and other organizations.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, HPD	MGRC	Ongoing
8	Assist communities with state and federal historic preservation initiatives and programs including the Main Street Program and the Preserve America Institute.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, HPD, DCA	MGRC, Local Governments	Ongoing
9	Provide technical assistance to the Ocmulgee Water Trail Partnership, the Lower Oconee Water Trail group, and other blueway-focused organizations.	2017-2021	\$10,000 Annually	MGRC, GDOT	MGRC, OWTP, LOWT	Ongoing
10	Provide technical assistance to the Central Georgia Rail to Trail Association for the development of the rail trail between Macon-Bibb and Milledgeville.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing
11	Provide assistance to local governments and other community organizations in promoting small farms and small communities through the "Georgia Grown" and "Celebrating Rural Georgia" programs.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, DCA, Georgia Department of Agriculture	MGRC, Local Governments, Community Organizations, Community Gardens	Ongoing

Transportation (T)

#	Activity	Project Timeframe	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources	Responsible Parties	Project Status
1	Provide assistance to local governments with Transit Development Plans.	2017-2021	\$20,000 Annually	MGRC, GDOT	MGRC, Local Governments	Ongoing – recent plan updates have included Jones and Peach Counties. Update currently underway for Monroe County.
2	Serve on Macon Area Transportation Study Technical Coordinating and Policy Committees.	2017-2021	\$5,000 Annually	MGRC	MGRC, MATS	Ongoing
3	Serve on Warner Robins Area Transportation Study Technical Coordinating and Policy Committees.	2017-2021	\$5,000 Annually	MGRC	MGRC, WRATS	Ongoing
4	Assist in updates of the WRATS socio-economic database using a variety of data sources.	2017-2021	\$12,000 Annually	WRATS	MGRC	Ongoing
5	Incorporate policies and strategies in local comprehensive plans that link land use and transportation improvements.	2017-2019	TBD	MGRC, DCA	MGRC, Local Governments	Ongoing
6	Maintain and update the Middle Georgia Regional Commission Bicycle and Pedestrian website.	2017-2021	\$5,000 Annually	MGRC, GDOT	MGRC	Ongoing
7	<i>Facilitate annual meeting of Middle Georgia Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.</i>	<i>2017-2021</i>	<i>\$1,000 Annually</i>	<i>MGRC, GDOT</i>	<i>MGRC</i>	<i>Cancelled – Project is no longer supported under MGRC's contract with GDOT.</i>
8	Update WRATS Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.	2017	\$30,000	MGRC, GDOT, WRATS	MGRC, WRATS	Underway

#	Activity	Project Timeframe	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources	Responsible Parties	Project Status
9	Prepare Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans for interested communities.	2017-2021	\$15,000 Annually	MGRC, GDOT	MGRC, Local Governments, Bike-Ped Advisory Committees	Ongoing
10	Continue phased construction of Oconee River Greenway and the Fishing Creek Community Trail in Milledgeville and Baldwin County.	2017-2021	\$5 Million	FHWA, DNR, Local Governments	Oconee River Greenway Authority, Local Governments	Ongoing
11	Continue phased construction of the Wellston Trail in Warner Robins.	2018-2019	\$500,000	FHWA, DNR, Local Governments	Warner Robins, GDOT	Ongoing
12	Perform Safe Routes to School walk safety audits or travel plans for elementary and middle schools.	2017-2021	\$12,000 Annually	GDOT, MGRC	MGRC, Local School Systems	Ongoing
13	Provide technical assistance to bicycle and pedestrian stakeholder groups, including CGRTA, OWTP, LOWT, Wilkinson County Bike Friendly Committee, etc.	2017-2021	\$10,000 Annually	GDOT, MGRC	MGRC, Local Stakeholders	Ongoing
14	Facilitate Complete Streets and other trainings for local communities.	2017-2021	\$5,000 Annually	GDOT, MGRC	MGRC, Local Stakeholders	Ongoing
15	Facilitate the Middle Georgia Regional Mobility Manager program.	2017-2021	\$100,000 Annually	GDOT, MGRC	MGRC, Local Governments	Ongoing

#	Activity	Project Timeframe	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources	Responsible Parties	Project Status
16	Pursue expanded transit service and options for special population groups, including senior citizens (through 5311 programs), veterans, adult students, and workforce program participants.	2017-2021	TBD	GDOT, MGRC	GDOT, MGRC, Local Governments	Underway- Pilot project for Dialysis patients expanded; DHS Coordinated Transportation for Senior Citizens to be available in 2019.
17	Promote passenger rail and bus service between Macon-Bibb and Atlanta; inclusion as a priority in the State of Georgia Rail Plan.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, Local Governments	MGRC, Local Governments, Georgians for Passenger Rail	Ongoing
18	Assist local governments with efforts to beautify transportation corridors, particularly community gateway entrances, including wayfinding and placemaking.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing
19	Support local governments in finding innovative solutions for transportation investments.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing
20	Provide assistance to local governments, MPOs, and other entities in understanding funding opportunities presented by passage of the FAST Act and the Transportation Funding Act of 2015.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC	MGRC, Local Governments, MATS, WRATS	Ongoing

#	Activity	Project Timeframe	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources	Responsible Parties	Project Status
21	Assist local governments with identifying and prioritizing bridges, culverts, and unimproved roads for future investment.	2017-2021	\$25,000 Annually	GDOT, MGRC	MGRC, Local Governments	Ongoing
22	Administer Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS) Coordinated Transportation Program in the Middle Georgia region.	2017-2021	\$70,000 Annually	MGRC, DHS	MGRC, Third-Party Operators	Ongoing
23	Promulgate the Middle Georgia Freight and Logistics Study, and provide technical assistance for the creation of an inland port, container yard, or multi-modal industrial park in Middle Georgia.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, OEA, Local Governments	MGRC, MGEA, GPA	Ongoing – MGRC is currently working with consultants to prepare a master plan for an inland port within the region.
24	Identify opportunities for improving the east-west connectivity across the Ocmulgee River for more efficient flow of goods, services, and people.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, Local Governments	MGRC, Local Governments	Ongoing
25	Explore opportunities to take advantage of the region's existing airfields, such as public-private partnerships and expansion needs.	2017-2021	TBD	OEA, MGRC	MGRC, Airport Authorities, RAFB	Ongoing – MGRC is working with a consultant and the Middle Georgia Regional Airport on a strategic plan for future growth to be developed under the OEA grant.

Land Use (LU)

#	Activity	Project Timeframe	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources	Responsible Parties	Project Status
1	<i>Assist local governments with development and preparation of Comprehensive Plans.</i>	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, DCA	MGRC	<i>Completed – MGRC has assisted each local government with Comprehensive Plan preparation since adoption of the Regional Plan.</i>
2	Assist local governments in the preparation/ modification and adoption of local land use ordinances, zoning ordinances, and/or development regulations.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, DCA	MGRC	Ongoing – recently completed work with Warner Robins and Twiggs County related to subdivision and zoning ordinances, respectively.
3	Administer and manage the Developments of Regional Impact (DRI) program in the Middle Georgia region.	2017-2021	\$40,000	MGRC, DCA	MGRC	Ongoing – three reviews completed in 2017.
4	Promote growth and development in areas that can be efficiently served by existing infrastructure.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing
5	Encourage the placement of new schools near existing infrastructure.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing
6	Provide Geographic Information Systems (GIS) digital mapping and Global Positioning System (GPS) data collection services to local governments.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC	MGRC, GIO	Ongoing – MGRC is currently working with three local governments on cemetery mapping projects.

Education & Workforce Development (EW)

#	Activity	Project Timeframe	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources	Responsible Parties	Project Status
1	Undertake and support workforce development and implementation initiatives.	2017-2021	TBD	GDEcD	MGRC, MGC	Ongoing
2	Coordinate and promote on-the-job training and apprenticeship opportunities.	2017-2021	TBD	GDEcD	MGRC, MGC	Ongoing
3	Provide technical assistance to job seekers.	2017-2021	TBD	GDEcD	MGRC, MGC	Ongoing
4	Provide employer-specialized recruiting services to regional industries.	2017-2021	TBD	GDEcD	MGRC, MGC	Ongoing
5	Coordinate applicant certification services for job seekers.	2017-2021	TBD	GDEcD	MGRC, MGC	Ongoing
6	Promote awareness of state-level criminal justice reform among job seekers.	2017-2021	TBD	GDEcD	MGRC, MGC	Ongoing
7	Promote collaboration between workforce development agencies throughout the region.	2017-2021	TBD	GDEcD	MGRC, MGC	Ongoing
8	Encourage the development of targeted, innovative workforce development programs in public K-12 schools.	2017-2021	TBD	Local School Districts	Local School Districts, MGRC, MGC	Ongoing
9	Promote awareness of transitional support, on-the-job training, and veterans' preference opportunities for veterans seeking employment.	2017-2021	TBD	GDEcD	MGRC, MGC	Ongoing – Veterans Education Career Transition Resource (VECTR) Center has provided an outlet for this service. MGRC is supporting efforts to equivocate experience with degree certificates through an OEA-funded contract with Central Georgia Technical College.

Aging Services (A)

#	Activity	Project Timeframe	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources	Responsible Parties	Project Status
1	Operate as fully functioning Aging and Disability Resource Connection and Gateway Access System.	2017-2021	TBD	DHS, MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing – Gateway Access program is now “No Wrong Door” access.
2	Administer Community Care Services Program - a Medicaid Waiver Service that helps elderly and/or individuals with disabilities remain in their homes and communities and prevents seniors from being prematurely institutionalized.	2017-2021	TBD	DHS, MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing – MGRC is now contracted by the Department of Community Health to provide eligibility screening for all long-term care Medicaid Waivers.
3	Operate GeorgiaCares Program, which assists Medicare beneficiaries, their families, and caregivers with health insurance information, benefits counseling, education recognition, and reporting of health insurance-related fraud.	2017-2021	TBD	DHS, MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing
4	Provide assistance to seniors in need through Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act grant funds.	2017-2021	TBD	DHS, MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing – program is helping individuals access Medicaid and Low-Income Subsidy applications which may reduce the premium costs for Medicare Part B and Medicare Prescription plans.

#	Activity	Project Timeframe	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources	Responsible Parties	Project Status
5	Administer the National Family Caregiver Support Program.	2017-2021	TBD	DHS, MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing
6	Maintain, update, and secure new resources for inclusion in the statewide Enhanced Services Program (ESP) database.	2017-2021	TBD	DHS, MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing – program is now called the EmpowerLine database.
7	Conduct wellness-related activities through the Wellness Program, providing education, health screenings, nutrition information, exercise, disease management and prevention, and safe usage of medication to seniors and persons with disabilities.	2017-2021	TBD	DHS, MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing
8	Administer Chronic Disease Self-Management Education (CDSME) program.	2017-2021	TBD	DHS, MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing
9	Implement the Tomando Control de su Salud program (CDSME program in Spanish) in Middle Georgia.	2017-2021	TBD	DHS, MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing
10	Administer the Matter of Balance fall prevention program.	2017-2021	TBD	DHS, MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing
11	Administer in-home case management program for non-Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services clients.	2017-2021	TBD	DHS, MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing

#	Activity	Project Timeframe	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources	Responsible Parties	Project Status
12	Market the Area Agency on Aging in all counties in the Middle Georgia region through community education programs and health fairs.	2017-2021	TBD	DHS, MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing
13	Plan, sponsor, and conduct a region-wide annual event in support and recognition of the U.S. Administration on Aging's Older American month activities.	2017-2021	TBD	Donations, Vendor Support	MGRC	Ongoing
14	<i>Update the Area Agency on Aging Plan for the Middle Georgia region.</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>DHS, MGRC</i>	<i>MGRC</i>	<i>Complete – AAA completed update of regional plan in March 2018.</i>
15	Provide programmatic and fiscal training, technical assistance, and monitoring to Area Agency on Aging subcontractors.	2017-2021	TBD	DHS, MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing
16	Create and maintain an Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan and serve as lead when notified by Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Services, or by a localized emergency team in the Middle Georgia counties, to assist seniors and/or persons with disabilities during an actual emergency.	2017-2021	TBD	DHS, MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing

#	Activity	Project Timeframe	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources	Responsible Parties	Project Status
17	Administer the Elder Abuse Prevention Program by providing public education and outreach to identify and prevent elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.	2017-2021	TBD	DHS, MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing
18	<i>Conduct Reverse Mortgage Counseling activities in accordance with AAA's contract with the National Council on Aging, based on the availability of funding.</i>	<i>2017-2021</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>National Council on Aging, MGRC</i>	<i>MGRC</i>	<i>Cancelled – MGRC is no longer providing this service.</i>
19	Function as Local Contact Agency for nursing home residents seeking to transition to the community. Offer Options Counseling to assist residents in locating community resources.	2017-2021	TBD	DHS, MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing
20	Administer the Money Follows the Person (MFP) funds for the Department of Community Health. These funds enable funding to follow a person from a nursing home back to their home and/or community.	2017-2021	TBD	DCH, DHS, MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing
21	Encourage local governments to incorporate universal design concepts and account for their aging populations in their local comprehensive plans.	2017-2021	TBD	DCA, MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing

#	Activity	Project Timeframe	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources	Responsible Parties	Project Status
22	Provide local governments with information regarding grant funding opportunities for senior housing.	2017-2021	TBD	DCA, MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing
23	Develop and implement the AAA Sustainability Business Plan, a private-pay service within the Area Agency on Aging.	2017-2021	TBD	DHS, MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing

Intergovernmental Coordination (IC)

#	Activity	Project Timeframe	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources	Responsible Parties	Project Status
1	Provide technical assistance and training opportunities for the Middle Georgia Economic Alliance.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC	MGRC, MGEA	Ongoing
2	Provide technical assistance and staff support to the Central Georgia Joint Development Authority.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC	MGRC, CGJDA	Ongoing
3	Provide technical assistance and staff support to the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition and take actions to improve air quality.	2017-2021	TBD	EPA, GDOT, EPD, MGCAC, MGRC	MGRC, MGCAC, Local Governments	Ongoing
4	Facilitate the Middle Georgia Regional Leadership Champions program.	2017-2021	\$66,000	MGRC, OEA	MGRC, UGA	Ongoing – MGRC currently working with the 3 rd cohort of MGRLC participants.

#	Activity	Project Timeframe	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources	Responsible Parties	Project Status
5	Assist local governments with coordinating TMDL and Watershed Improvement Plans.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing – recently completed for Sandy Run Creek and Ocmulgee River in Peach, Houston, and Bleckley Counties.
6	<i>Support the activities of the Middle Ocmulgee and Upper Oconee Water Planning Councils.</i>	<i>2017-2021</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>MGRC, EPD</i>	<i>MGRC, Local Governments</i>	<i>Complete – plan updates adopted in 2017.</i>
7	Assist local governments in supporting the Ocmulgee National Park and Preserve Initiative.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, DCA, DNR, Local Governments	MGRC	Ongoing
8	Coordinate with other Regional Commissions and local governments in determining US Bike Routes through Middle Georgia.	2017-2019	\$30,000	MGRC, GDOT	MGRC	Ongoing
9	Assist GDOT in implementing the state's Complete Streets Policy throughout the region.	2017-2021	\$20,000	MGRC, GDOT	MGRC	Ongoing
10	Coordinate implementation of action items from 2004 Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) and update and revise JLUS as needed.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC, DOD	MGRC, Local Governments	Ongoing – MGRC has initiated discussions with local governments and RAFB regarding an update to the 2004 JLUS.
11	Encourage local governments to regularly update Service Delivery Strategy agreements and provide technical assistance.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC	MGRC, Local Governments	Ongoing

#	Activity	Project Timeframe	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources	Responsible Parties	Project Status
12	Promote and provide technical assistance for P4 partnerships between Robins Air Force Base and the surrounding communities.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC	MGRC	Underway – P4 Path Forward Summit held October 31, 2017 and May 31, 2018. New partnership agreement executed for VECTR Center and RAFB Housing.
13	Support efforts to enhance and develop the I-75 Corridor through the Middle Georgia region.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC	MGRC, I-75 Corridor Council, Local Governments	Ongoing

Review Activities

#	Activity	Project Timeframe	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources	Responsible Parties	Project Status
1	Conduct Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs (Executive Order 12372) to ensure consistency of proposed projects with regional and local planning documents.	2017-2021	\$12,000	MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing
2	Review and comment on long-range transportation plans for consistency with the Regional Plan.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing
3	Review and comment on developments in close proximity to resources identified in the Regional Resource Plan.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing
4	Review all Developments of Regional Impact submitted by Regional Commissions that adjoin Middle Georgia.	2017-2021	\$40,000 annually	MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing – three reviews completed in 2017.
5	Review statewide plans and programs for local and regional application.	2017-2021	TBD	MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing

#	Activity	Project Timeframe	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources	Responsible Parties	Project Status
6	Review local comprehensive plans and service delivery strategies.	2017-2021	TBD	DCA, MGRC	MGRC	Ongoing

Key of Abbreviations

AAA	Middle Georgia Area Agency on Aging
CEDS	Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
CGJDA	Central Georgia Joint Development Authority
CGRTA	Central Georgia Rail to Trail Association
DCA	Georgia Department of Community Affairs
DCH	Georgia Department of Community Health
DHS	Georgia Department of Human Services
DNR	Georgia Department of Natural Resources
DOD	US Department of Defense
DOJ	US Department of Justice
DOL	Georgia Department of Labor
EDA	US Economic Development Administration
EPA	US Environmental Protection Agency
EPD	Environmental Protection Division, DNR
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FLRDA	Fall Line Regional Development Authority
GDEcD	Georgia Department of Economic Development
GDOT	Georgia Department of Transportation
GEFA	Georgia Environmental Finance Authority
GEMA	Georgia Emergency Management Agency
GICH	Georgia Initiative for Community Housing
GIO	Georgia Geospatial Information Office
GPA	Georgia Ports Authority
GSBL	Georgia Small Business Lender
GTA	Georgia Technology Authority
HPD	Historic Preservation Division, DNR
JLUS	Joint Land Use Study
LOWT	Lower Oconee Water Trail
MATS	Macon Area Transportation Study
MGC	Middle Georgia Consortium
MGCAC	Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition
MGEA	Middle Georgia Economic Alliance
MGRC	Middle Georgia Regional Commission
MGRDA	Middle Georgia Regional Development Authority
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OEA	Office of Economic Adjustment, DOD
OWTP	Ocmulgee Water Trail Partnership
RAFB	Robins Air Force Base
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
UGA	University of Georgia
USDA	US Department of Agriculture
USGS	United States Geological Survey
VECTR	Veterans Education Career Transition Resource Center
WRATS	Warner Robins Area Transportation Study

Middle Georgia Regional Work Program (2018-2022)



Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing
Leverage state and federal assets for economic development projects, specifically in areas that are eligible for additional need-based assistance.	Appropriate funding opportunities should be pursued where possible to support economic development initiatives, both locally and regionally.	Provide technical assistance to local governments, authorities, and chambers for economic development and industrial recruitment.	MGRC, EDA, GDEcD			Staff Time
		Pursue funding avenues to aid in providing infrastructure to industrial parks/sites.	MGRC, DCA, USDA, CGJDA			Staff Time
		Research, prepare and administer grants/loans to support economic development.	MGRC			Staff Time
	Local communities should work with state and federal partners in economic development to better meet their needs	Develop and aid in implementation of projects/activities identified in the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region.	MGRC, EDA			Staff Time
		Build on the findings of the Middle Georgia... Growing Strong project to identify new opportunities to grow regional economic diversification.	MGRC, OEA, MGEA	YR 1-2 \$1.9 Million		
Implement local incentives to assist new and existing businesses.	Long-term planning should be developed to ensure the availability of resources for economic development.	Conduct economic impact analysis to determine cost-benefit for economic development projects.	MGRC			Staff Time
	Local communities should work with state and federal partners in economic development to better meet their needs	Provide technical assistance for the creation of local Opportunity Zones, Enterprise Zones, and Redevelopment Plans.	MGRC, DCA			Staff Time
Work with Middle Georgia Economic Alliance and other local partners to support and market region to potential economic investors.	Local governments should coordinate marketing strategies for tourism and industry recruitment	Assist in a joint economic development initiative to market the region.	MGRC, MGEA, Local Governments			Staff Time
		Promote, encourage and engage in economic development initiatives of joint development authorities.	MGRC, CGJDA, FLRDA, MGRDA			Staff Time
Redevelop blighted or vacant buildings and brownfield sites to help strengthen local economies.	Downtown revitalization plans should be promoted and encouraged as a means for promoting job creation and entrepreneurship.	Prepare grant applications for remediation of brownfield sites.	MGRC, EPA, Local Governments			Staff Time
		Assist with development of downtown development or redevelopment plans, and special tax districts.	MGRC, Local Governments			Staff Time

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing
Invest in the region's technological infrastructure to attract makers, entrepreneurs, and young professionals.	Local communities should work with state and federal partners in economic development to better meet their needs	Implement the Digital Economy Plan for the Middle Georgia region.	MGRC, GTA, OEA, Local Governments			Staff Time
		Facilitate the ongoing operation of Makerspaces in Middle Georgia.	MGRC, GTA, OEA, Local Governments			Staff Time
	Long-term planning should be developed to ensure the availability of resources for economic development.	Develop plans for retention of top talent within the region to prevent "brain drain."	MGRC, Local Governments			Staff Time
Address needs of RAFB and aerospace assets to attract new development and expansion of current industries.	Appropriate businesses should be identified and targeted for industry recruitment and expansion efforts, based on the strategic assets of the community.	Provide assistance to the 21 st Century Partnership and its efforts to support Robins Air Force Base activities, expansion efforts, and new missions.	21st Century Partnership, MGRC			Ongoing \$30,000 Annual
		Continue implementation of plans to remediate encroachment issues near RAFB.	MGRC, DOD, CGJDA, DNR, Local Governments			Staff Time
Use natural and cultural resources, especially the Ocmulgee National Monument, to help grow tourism and economic prosperity in region.	Appropriate businesses should be identified and targeted for industry recruitment and expansion efforts, based on the strategic assets of the community.	Promote Middle Georgia tourism industry.	MGRC, GDEcD, Local Governments			Staff Time
		Provide assistance with the promotion of the film industry in Middle Georgia.	MGRC, GDEcD			Staff Time
Use EB-5 designation to encourage foreign investment.	Appropriate funding opportunities should be pursued where possible to support economic development initiatives, both locally and regionally.	Promote and provide technical assistance with the Foreign Trade Zone and EB-5 Foreign Investor Program in eligible areas of Middle Georgia.	MGRC			Staff Time
Assist local government participation in the programs designed to promote affordable and accessible housing options.	Promote and encourage development that provides a variety of residential options, including affordable housing opportunities.	Provide technical assistance to local Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) communities.	MGRC, DCA, UGA			Staff Time
		Promote affordable housing options.	MGRC, DCA, Housing Authorities Local Governments			Staff Time
		Promote and provide for safe, clean, and affordable housing choices.	Housing Authorities, Local Governments			Staff Time
	Address substandard and dilapidated housing in Middle Georgia communities.	Assist local governments with preparing Community Home Investment Program (CHIP) grant applications.	MGRC, DCA, Housing Authorities Local Governments			Staff Time

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing
Create urban redevelopment plans and strengthen local code enforcement activities to alleviate substandard housing conditions and blight.	Address substandard and dilapidated housing in Middle Georgia communities.	Perform Housing Assessments, focusing on both urban and rural areas, and data collection, as requested.	MGRC, DCA, Local Governments			Ongoing Contract amounts TBD
		Assist local governments with the preparation of housing-focused Urban Redevelopment Plans.	MGRC, Local Governments			Staff Time
		Assist local governments with the creation and management of Land Bank Authorities.	MGRC, Local Governments			Staff Time
		Provide technical assistance to local governments in reviewing and updating zoning codes to remove barriers to appropriate housing development.	MGRC, Local Governments			Staff Time
Support local public and non-profit agencies to meet housing needs and provide homebuyer education services	Promote and encourage development that provides a variety of residential options, including affordable housing opportunities.	Promote, encourage, and participate in housing-related workshops, conferences, and symposiums.	MGRC, Local Governments, Housing Authorities			Staff Time
		Prioritize lending opportunities for housing developments focused on low- or mixed-income, elderly, or residents with disabilities.	MGRC			Staff Time
		Partner with local governments, housing authorities, social service agencies, non-profits, etc. to promote housing options for those most in need.	MGRC			Staff Time
Leverage availability of vacant storefronts in downtown areas for new housing developments.	Promote and encourage development that provides a variety of residential options, including affordable housing opportunities.	Consider town centers as housing destinations for potential "pioneer" populations, such as baby boomers and college students.	MGRC, DCA, Local Governments, Housing Authorities			Staff Time
Assist local governments that lack technological or Geographic Information Systems (GIS) capabilities to improve efficiency of their services.	Local governments should evaluate options for lowering the cost of service delivery and improving efficiency.	Create, maintain, promote, and host web pages for local governments, development authorities, and other regional entities.	MGRC, Local Governments			Staff Time
		Create, maintain, and promote internet-based map services	MGRC, Local Governments			Staff Time
		Create road and structure point data layers to support E-911 mapping services.	MGRC, GEMA, Local Governments			Staff Time
		Explore the feasibility of acquiring highly accurate elevation (LiDAR) data and region-wide ortho-aerial photography.	MGRC, USGS, NOAA, FEMA, GIO, Local Governments			Staff Time
		Provide tax parcel maintenance service.	MGRC, Local Governments			Staff Time
		Develop strategies for enhancing social media and communications capabilities for MGRC and local governments	MGRC			Staff Time
Develop plans for local infrastructure	Local governments should evaluate options	Assist with land development ordinances or implementation of impact fees to reduce potential losses from new service provision.	MGRC, Local Governments			Staff Time

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing
maintenance and improvements, including planning for capital to support continued growth.	for lowering the cost of service delivery and improving efficiency.	Assist local governments with development and preparation of Solid Waste Management Plans, as requested.	MGRC, Local Governments			Staff Time
		Develop risk assessment reports and assist in the local hazard mitigation and pre-disaster mitigation planning processes.	MGRC, GEMA, Local Governments			Staff Time
Apply for state and federal grant and loan funding for improvements to community facilities throughout the region, specifically in areas of high need.	Local governments should monitor infrastructure to make repairs or upgrades as necessary and follow best management practices.	Assist local governments in efforts to upgrade and/or extend water/sewer infrastructure.	MGRC, DCA, USDA, GEFA, Local Governments			Staff Time
		Assist local governments with improvements to stormwater management and drainage infrastructure.	MGRC, DCA, USDA, EPD, Local Governments			Staff Time
	Pursue funding sources for maintenance and new construction of community facilities.	Assist local efforts to upgrade or develop new community facilities, such as Senior Centers, Head Start, Workforce Development, Boys and Girls Clubs, Libraries, etc.	MGRC, DCA, USDA, Local Governments			Staff Time
		Assist local governments in efforts to upgrade or develop new government administration facilities.	MGRC, USDA, Local Governments			Staff Time
	Develop and preserve recreational programs.	Assist local efforts to upgrade or develop new recreational facilities and services.	MGRC, DNR, Local Governments			Staff Time
	Local communities should focus on lowering ISO ratings and supporting law enforcement agencies.	Assist local efforts to upgrade or develop new public safety facilities and services.	MGRC, FEMA, DOJ, USDA, DCA, Local Governments			Staff Time
	Natural gas service should be considered as an important asset for economic development.	Assist local governments in efforts to upgrade and/or extend natural gas infrastructure.	MGRC, USDA, Local Governments			Staff Time
Collaborate with historic societies, historic preservation commissions, and similar groups to protect areas where culturally-important resources are at risk	Promote development practices that do not negatively impact natural, cultural, and historic resources.	Conduct and comment on Section 106 undertakings involving historic resources.	MGRC, HPD			Ongoing \$5,000 Annual
		Provide outreach, training, and technical assistance on Historic Preservation to local governments and other interested parties.	MGRC, HPD			Staff Time
	Capitalize on the natural, cultural, and historic resources that are present within the region, utilizing their presence to tell the region's story.	Conduct historic resources inventories for local governments	MGRC, HPD			Staff Time
		Provide technical assistance to local Historic Preservation Commission, Historical Societies, and other organizations.	MGRC, HPD, Local Governments			Staff Time
		Assist local governments with activities related to the Certified Local Government program; assist in the preparation and adoption of local preservation ordinances.	MGRC, HPD			Staff Time
	Promote and support existing Main Street communities and encourage new cities.	Assist communities with state and federal historic preservation initiatives and programs including the Main Street Program and the Preserve America Institute.	MGRC, HPD, DCA			Staff Time

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing
Extend and enhance regional trail system, including Ocmulgee Heritage Trail, Lower Oconee Water Trail, Ocmulgee Water Trail, and Central Georgia Rail Trail to improve green connectivity, economic activity, and recreation opportunities.	Promote additional avenues of access to natural, cultural, and historic resources for recreation, education, and tourism, as a driver of economic activity	Provide technical assistance to the Ocmulgee Water Trail Partnership, the Lower Oconee Water Trail group, and other blueway-focused organizations.	MGRC, HPD, DCA, Local Governments			Staff Time
		Provide technical assistance to the Central Georgia Rail to Trail Association for the development of the rail trail between Macon-Bibb and Milledgeville.	MGRC, OWTP, LOWT, GDOT			Staff Time
Agritourism can promote the economy and the preservation of agricultural lands	Enhance existing natural, cultural, and historic resources with appropriate development.	Provide assistance to local governments and other community organizations in promoting small farms and small communities through the "Georgia Grown" and "Celebrating Rural Georgia" programs.	MGRC, DCA, Georgia Dept of Agriculture, Local Governments, Community Organizations			Staff Time
Ensure safe and secure parks, campgrounds, river access, and boat ramps, particularly in where they can be economic drivers.	Enhance existing natural, cultural, and historic resources with appropriate development.	Assist Local governments with preparing and administering Land and Water Conservation Fund grants.	MGRC, DNR, Local Governments			Staff Time
Update and promulgate the Regional Resources Plan to encourage tourism and help preserve resources.	Promote the protection and utilization of the region's natural, cultural, and historic resources.	Prepare update to the Regional Resources Plan.	MGRC, DCA	YR 2-3 \$25,000		
Enhance mobility management programs for residents who are elderly, disabled, or need of reliable transit services.	Encourage street connectivity and improved access and mobility for all persons and using forms of transportation	Provide assistance to local governments with Transit Development Plans.	MGRC, GDOT, Local Governments			Ongoing \$20,000 Annual
		Facilitate the Middle Georgia Regional Mobility Manager program	MGRC, GDOT, Local Governments			Ongoing \$75,000 Annual
		Pursue expanded transit service and options for special population groups, including senior citizens (through 5311 programs), veterans, adult students, and workforce program participants.	MGRC, GDOT, Local Governments			Staff Time
		Administer Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS) Coordinated Transportation Program in the Middle Georgia region.	MGRC, DHS, Third-Party Operators			Ongoing \$70,000 Annual

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing	
Develop and implement local bicycle and pedestrian plans, with an emphasis on complete streets, particularly in downtown areas and near educational facilities	Promote alternative transportation choices, such as walking, biking, carpooling, and taking public transportation.	Maintain and update the Middle Georgia Regional Commission Bicycle and Pedestrian website.	MGRC, GDOT			Ongoing \$5,000 Annual	
		Update WRATS Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.	MGRC, GDOT, WRATS	YR 1-2 \$30,000			
		Prepare Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans for interested communities.	MGRC, Local Governments, GDOT, Bike-Ped Advisory Committees			Ongoing \$15,000 Annual	
		Perform Safe Routes to School walk safety audits or travel plans for elementary and middle schools.	GDOT, MGRC, Local Schools			Ongoing \$12,000 Annual	
		Facilitate Complete Streets and other trainings for local communities.	GDOT, MGRC, Local Stakeholders			Ongoing \$5,000 Annual	
	Promote the logical connectivity of the regional transportation network	Continue phased construction of Oconee River Greenway and the Fishing Creek Community Trail in Milledgeville and Baldwin County.	FHWA, DNR, Oconee River Greenway Authority, Local Governments,	YR 1-5 \$5 Million			
		Continue phased construction of the Wellston Trail in Warner Robins.	FHWA, DNR, GDOT, Local Governments	YR 1-2 \$500,000			
		Provide technical assistance to bicycle and pedestrian stakeholder groups, including CGRTA, OWTP, LOWT, Wilkinson County Bike Friendly Committee, etc.	GDOT, MGRC, Local Stakeholders			Ongoing \$10,000 Annual	
	Investment in maintenance and improvement of regional transportation infrastructure.	Coordinate with the Georgia Department of Transportation, Georgia Ports Authority, State Road and Tollway Authority, and other state agencies, as appropriate, on funding improvements for the transportation network.	Serve on Macon Area Transportation Study Technical Coordinating and Policy Committees.	MGRC, MATS			Staff Time
			Serve on Warner Robins Area Transportation Study Technical Coordinating and Policy Committees.	MGRC, WRATS			Staff Time
Assist in updates of the WRATS socio-economic database using a variety of data sources.			MGRC, WRATS			Ongoing \$12,000 Annual	
Provide assistance to local governments, MPOs, and other entities in understanding funding opportunities under the FAST Act and the Transportation Funding Act of 2015.			MGRC, Local Governments, MATS, WRATS			Staff Time	
Improve the condition of the region's road network, with attention to the condition of high-priority bridges, roads, and culverts.		Support local governments in finding innovative solutions for transportation investments.	MGRC			Staff Time	
		Assist local governments with identifying and prioritizing bridges, culverts, and unimproved roads for future investment.	GDOT, MGRC, Local Stakeholders			Staff Time	
Address areas where rapid, development has strained the transportation grid.	Coordinate land use planning activities with transportation network improvements.	Incorporate policies and strategies in local comprehensive plans that link land use and transportation improvements.	MGRC, DCA, GDOT, Local Governments,			Staff Time	

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing
Pursue development of an inland port, container yard, or intermodal hub to facilitate freight movement.	Promote the planning for, construction of, and movement on regional and inter-regional freight routes.	Promulgate the Middle Georgia Freight and Logistics Study and provide technical assistance for the creation of an inland port, container yard, or multi-modal industrial park in Middle Georgia.	MGRC, OEA, GPA, MGEA, Local Governments	YR 1-2 \$100,000		
		Identify opportunities for improving the east-west connectivity across the Ocmulgee River for more efficient flow of goods, services, and people.	MGRC, Local Governments			Staff Time
Development of a multi-modal transportation hub with passenger rail and bus service.	Communicate the importance and feasibility of passenger rail service.	Promote passenger rail and bus service between Macon-Bibb and Atlanta; inclusion as a priority in the State of Georgia Rail Plan.	MGRC, Local Governments, Georgians for Passenger Rail			Staff Time
Beautification and enhancement of key transportation corridors.	Improve the condition of the region's road network, with attention to the condition of high-priority bridges, roads, and culverts.	Assist local governments with efforts to beautify transportation corridors, particularly community gateway entrances, including wayfinding and placemaking.	MGRC			Staff Time
Explore joint use of the runway at Robins Air Force Base and other opportunities for partnerships related to aerospace industries.	Coordinate with the Georgia Department of Transportation, Georgia Ports Authority, State Road and Tollway Authority, and other state agencies, as appropriate, on funding improvements for the transportation network.	Explore opportunities to take advantage of the region's existing airfields, such as public-private partnerships and expansion needs.	MGRC, OEA, Airport Authorities, RAFB, Local Governments			Staff Time
Pursue a reduction in sprawl through infill development, adaptive reuse of existing structures, and open space protection measures in places of rapid growth.	Smart Growth principles should be promoted throughout the region, especially in urban and suburban communities. This includes promotion of infill development and greyfield or brownfield redevelopment.	Assist local governments in the preparation/modification and adoption of local land use ordinances, zoning ordinances, and/or development regulations.	MGRC, DCA			Staff Time
		Promote growth and development in areas that can be efficiently served by existing infrastructure.	MGRC			Staff Time
		Encourage the placement of new schools near existing infrastructure.	MGRC			Staff Time
Undertake inter-jurisdictional land use planning to promote cohesive development and efficient movement of people, goods, and services.	Local governments should coordinate their land use planning across jurisdictional boundaries.	Administer and manage the Developments of Regional Impact (DRI) program in the Middle Georgia region.	MGRC, DCA			Staff Time
		Provide Geographic Information Systems (GIS) digital mapping and Global Positioning System (GPS) data collection services to local governments	MGRC, GIO			Staff Time

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing
Promote dialogue between businesses and educational institutions to ensure that students receive necessary skills for success.	Promote collaboration between school systems, private schools, technical colleges, colleges, and universities and local industry.	Provide employer- specialized recruiting services to regional industries.	MGRC, MGC, GDEcD, TCSG			Staff Time
		Coordinate applicant certification services for job seekers.	MGRC, MGC, GDEcD, TCSG			Staff Time
		Encourage the development of targeted, innovative workforce development programs in public K-12 schools.	MGRC, MGC, GDEcD, TCSG, Local School Districts			Staff Time
Grow collaboration between workforce development agencies.	Provide tools to develop the workforce for the region's existing industries.	Provide technical assistance to job seekers.	MGRC, MGC, GDEcD, TCSG			Staff Time
		Promote collaboration between workforce development agencies throughout the region.	MGRC, MGC, GDEcD, TCSG			Staff Time
Expand registered apprenticeship programs, work-based learning, and on-the job training opportunities.	Promote collaboration between school systems, private schools, technical colleges, colleges, and universities and local industry.	Undertake and support workforce development and implementation initiatives.	MGRC, MGC, GDEcD, TCSG			Staff Time
		Coordinate and promote on-the-job training and apprenticeship opportunities.	MGRC, MGC, GDEcD, TCSG			Staff Time
Expand job training and transitional support for those leaving military service.	Provide tools to develop the workforce for the region's existing industries.	Promote awareness of transitional support, on-the-job training, and veterans' preference opportunities for veterans seeking employment.	MGRC, MGC, GDEcD, TCSG			Staff Time
Provide job training for the incarcerated and formerly-incarcerated.	Provide tools to develop the workforce for the region's existing industries.	Promote awareness of state-level criminal justice reform among job seekers.	MGRC, MGC, GDEcD, TCSG			Staff Time
Publicize and promote counseling and advocacy services available to seniors.	Encourage person-centered approach to service provision.	Operate GeorgiaCares Program, which assists Medicare beneficiaries, their families, and caregivers with health insurance information, benefits counseling, education recognition, and reporting of health insurance-related fraud.	DHS, MGRC			Staff Time
		Conduct wellness-related activities through the Wellness Program, providing education, health screenings, nutrition information, exercise, disease management and prevention, and safe usage of medication to seniors and persons with disabilities.	DHS, MGRC			Staff Time
	Promote and encourage more effective ways to communicate with the senior population.	Market the Area Agency on Aging in all counties in the Middle Georgia region through community education programs and health fairs.	DHS, MGRC			Staff Time
		Plan, sponsor, and conduct a region-wide annual event in support and recognition of the U.S. Administration on Aging's Older American month activities.	MGRC, Vendors			Staff Time

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing	
Provide assistance tailored to older residents to help them age in place, while contributing to the local economy.	Provide resources to help seniors age in place.	Operate as fully functioning Aging and Disability Resource Connection and No Wrong Door System.	DHS, MGRC			Staff Time	
		Administer Community Care Services Program - a Medicaid Waiver Service that helps elderly and/or individuals with disabilities remain in their homes and communities and prevents seniors from being prematurely institutionalized.	DHS, MGRC			Staff Time	
		Provide assistance to seniors in need through Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act grant funds.	DHS, MGRC			Staff Time	
		Administer in-home case management program for non-Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services clients.	DHS, MGRC			Staff Time	
		Function as Local Contact Agency for nursing home residents seeking to transition to the community. Offer Options Counseling to assist residents in locating community resources.	DHS, MGRC			Staff Time	
		Administer the Money Follows the Person (MFP) funds for the Department of Community Health. These funds enable funding to follow a person from a nursing home back to their home and/or community.	DCH, DHS, MGRC			Staff Time	
	Encourage person-centered approach to service provision.	Administer Chronic Disease Self-Management Education (CDSME) program.	DHS, MGRC			Staff Time	
		Implement the Tomando Control de su Salud program (CDSME program in Spanish) in Middle Georgia.	DHS, MGRC			Staff Time	
		Administer the Matter of Balance fall prevention program.	DHS, MGRC			Staff Time	
		Administer the Elder Abuse Prevention Program by providing public education and outreach to identify and prevent elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.	DHS, MGRC			Staff Time	
	Focus on long-term sustainability of aging services programs.	Administer the National Family Caregiver Support Program.	DHS, MGRC			Staff Time	
		Develop and implement the AAA Sustainability Business Plan, a private-pay service within the Area Agency on Aging.	DHS, MGRC			Staff Time	
	Expand regional network of community-based services with coordination between public, private, and non-profit organizations.	Focus on long-term sustainability of aging services programs.	Maintain, update, and secure new resources for inclusion in the statewide Enhanced Services Program (ESP) database.	DHS, MGRC			Staff Time
			Provide programmatic and fiscal training, technical assistance, and monitoring to Area Agency on Aging subcontractors.	DHS, MGRC			Staff Time
Encourage person-centered approach to service provision.		Create and maintain Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan to serve as lead as notified by Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Services, or by a localized emergency team in the Middle Georgia counties, to assist seniors and/or persons with disabilities.	DHS, MGRC			Staff Time	

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing
Assist local governments with innovation to meet the changing needs of the senior population.	Remain cognizant of the quickly growing senior population during planning efforts.	Encourage local governments to incorporate universal design concepts and account for their aging populations in their local comprehensive plans.	DCA, MGRC			Staff Time
		Provide local governments with information regarding grant funding opportunities for senior housing.	DCA, MGRC			Staff Time
Increase cooperation and support of economic growth and prosperity, regardless of the exact location where growth and development occur.	Promote and encourage ongoing relationship building between local and regional leaders.	Facilitate the Middle Georgia Regional Leadership Champions program.	MGRC, UGA, OEA			Ongoing \$70,000 Annual
	Promote and encourage cooperation and collaboration between jurisdictions in developing solutions for shared regional issues.	Provide technical assistance and training opportunities for the Middle Georgia Economic Alliance.	MGRC, MGEA			Staff Time
		Provide technical assistance and staff support to the Central Georgia Joint Development Authority.	MGRC, CGJDA			Staff Time
		Coordinate implementation of action items from 2004 Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) and update and revise JLUS as needed.	MGRC, OEA, RAFB, Local Governments			Staff Time
		Promote and provide technical assistance for P4 partnerships between Robins Air Force Base and the surrounding communities.	MGRC, 21 st Century Partnership			Staff Time
	Encourage mutual aid and sharing of services between jurisdictions, for mutual benefit.	Support efforts to enhance and develop the I-75 Corridor throughout the Middle Georgia region.	MGRC, I-75 Corridor Council, Local Governments			Staff Time
Coordinate planning related to the region's shared natural and cultural resources in support of tourism and economic development.	Promote and encourage cooperation and collaboration between jurisdictions in developing solutions for shared regional issues.	Assist local governments in supporting the Ocmulgee National Park and Preserve Initiative.	MGRC, DCA, DNR, Local Governments			Staff Time
		Coordinate with other Regional Commissions and local governments in determining US Bike Routes through Middle Georgia.	MGRC, GDOT			Staff Time
		Assist GDOT in implementing the state's Complete Streets Policy throughout the region.	MGRC, GDOT			Staff Time
	Coordinate communication between affected jurisdictions and public entities on decisions likely to impact them.	Provide technical assistance and staff support to the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition and take actions to improve air quality.	EPA, GDOT, EPD, MGCAC, MGRC, Local Governments			Staff Time
		Assist local governments with coordinating TMDL and Watershed Improvement Plans.	MGRC, EPD			Staff Time
Continue renewal and revision of service delivery strategies to identify areas where cost savings or increases in efficiency may be realized.	Continue placing emphasis on collaboration in local and regional planning.	Encourage local governments to regularly update Service Delivery Strategy agreements and provide technical assistance.	MGRC, Local Governments			Staff Time

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing
<p align="center">Facilitate communication and dialogue among regional leaders to help create a regional approach to solving problems.</p>	<p>Coordinate communication between affected jurisdictions and public entities on decisions likely to impact them.</p>	<p>Conduct Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs (Executive Order 12372) to ensure consistency of proposed projects with regional and local planning documents.</p>	<p align="center">MGRC</p>			<p align="center">Staff Time</p>
		<p>Review and comment on long-range transportation plans for consistency with the Regional Plan.</p>	<p align="center">MGRC</p>			<p align="center">Staff Time</p>
		<p>Review and comment on developments in close proximity to resources identified in the Regional Resource Plan.</p>	<p align="center">MGRC</p>			<p align="center">Staff Time</p>
		<p>Review all Developments of Regional Impact submitted by Regional Commissions that adjoin Middle Georgia.</p>	<p align="center">MGRC</p>			<p align="center">Staff Time</p>
		<p>Review statewide plans and programs for local and regional application.</p>	<p align="center">MGRC</p>			<p align="center">Staff Time</p>
		<p>Review local comprehensive plans and service delivery strategies.</p>	<p align="center">DCA, MGRC</p>			<p align="center">Staff Time</p>

ATTACHMENT A

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Attachment A includes the list of issues and opportunities that were identified in the 2016 Middle Georgia Regional Plan. Issues or opportunities that appear within the regional work program document are highlighted below. These represent several cross-cutting priorities that have significance in several different areas of work. Issues or opportunities were typically reworded slightly to fit within the updated work program.

REGIONAL ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Part of the foundation of a regional plan is the identification of key issues and challenges that may be facing an area, while taking advantage of the opportunities that they present. The following lists detail a number of areas of potential interest to citizens and policymakers throughout the Middle Georgia Region. Accompanying the lists of issues are lists of potential opportunities that the region has, some of which have a chance to improve the economic prosperity and quality of life within the region.

The following lists were first drafted by staff at the Middle Georgia Regional Commission (MGRC). In a series of stakeholder meetings held at the MGRC and in each of the region's 11 counties, the preliminary list of issues and opportunities was revised to this final version. Later portions of the Regional Agenda that reference issues and opportunities refer to this finalized listing.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Issues

1. Persistent high unemployment and poverty exist throughout the region, consistently in excess of state and national averages.
2. The region lacks economic diversification, with a particular over-reliance on Robins Air Force Base and defense related spending.
3. Many counties, especially the rural and suburban counties, lack industrial development, and have tax bases that are heavily dependent on residential properties.
4. Rural counties are suffering economically from declines in the agricultural and mining sectors of the economy.
5. Major urban corridors experience high rates of commercial vacancies.
6. A number of former industrial sites are contaminated, which prevents their redevelopment.
7. A large number of blighted and dilapidated commercial structures exist throughout the region.
8. There are a limited number of GRAD and pad-ready sites throughout the region, particularly in rural counties without the resources to invest in economic development.
9. Limited capital resources increase the difficulty of investing in economic development.
10. An aging and sometimes declining populace, especially in rural communities, stresses the availability of labor, particularly as well-educated youth leave these communities.

Opportunities

1. Strategic plans offer an opportunity to pursue economic diversification within Middle Georgia, particularly as related to the identification of appropriate industries and sectors for the region.
2. Local incentives can be implemented to assist new and existing businesses.
3. State and federal assets exist that can be leveraged for economic development projects, specifically in areas that are eligible for additional need-based assistance.
4. The Middle Georgia Economic Alliance exists to support and market the whole region to potential economic investors.
5. The Central Georgia Joint Development Authority exists to assist regional development needs, particularly efforts to address encroachment around Robins Air Force Base.
6. Blighted and vacant commercial buildings, particularly in urban corridors and downtown areas, can be redeveloped to help strengthen local economies.
7. Brownfield sites and other areas that have experienced urban decay are available for reinvestment.
8. Many large regional economic stakeholders have an interest in engaging with, and participating in community revitalization efforts.

9. Investment opportunities exist to strengthen the region's technological infrastructure in order to attract entrepreneurs, "makers," and other young professionals.
10. The region's assets can support and grow the warehouse and distribution industry.
11. The region's existing aerospace assets can help to attract new development and expansion of current industries.
12. Natural and cultural resources of the region, especially the Ocmulgee National Monument, can serve as assets to help grow ecotourism and economic development in the region.
13. The region's designation as an EB-5 center can encourage additional foreign investment.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN HOUSING

Issues

1. Many low-income individuals are significantly burdened by housing costs.
2. The regional housing stock lacks diversity, particularly outside of urban areas.
3. A significant number of substandard and dilapidated homes exist throughout the region.
4. Many communities lack knowledge of their housing stock and lack the enforcement powers or mechanisms to abate derelict properties.
5. Many small downtown areas lack housing opportunities in the urban core.
6. A large number of manufactured homes exist in the region, many of which bring challenges for property maintenance, causing a loss of aesthetic appeal and safety.
7. A significant number of homeless individuals are present in the region, with an insufficient number of shelters available to meet their needs.
8. A limited number of shelters exist outside of Macon-Bibb County for victims of domestic abuse.

Opportunities

1. Space is available for new mixed-income housing developments to be built and developed throughout the region, specifically projects with rent-controlled units for low-income individuals.
2. Zoning policies can be revised to allow affordable housing developments in close proximity to places of employment.
3. Infill development and small-lot development of single-family dwellings can be allowed, particularly in suburban and rural areas, as affordable alternatives to manufactured housing.
4. Numerous vacant storefronts exist in the downtown area that can be converted into loft developments.
5. Baby boomers seeking access to services, such as medical and shopping, and looking to reduce the need for daily driving, could serve as a "pioneer" population for downtown living and provide an initial market for shops and businesses to return to historic town centers.
6. Strengthened code enforcement activities can assist with alleviating blight.
7. The creation of urban redevelopment plans can provide guidelines for abating substandard housing and promulgating redevelopment efforts in blighted areas.
8. Housing assessments can be utilized as a method for understanding local housing stock.
9. Local governments can participate in the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing and other programs designed to promote affordable and accessible housing options.
10. Additional homebuyer education services and other resources can be made available to provide information about affordable housing alternatives.
11. Local public and non-profit agencies can be supported in their missions to meet the housing needs of the disabled, chronically ill, and homeless.
12. Options for expanding housing alternatives for elderly residents can be considered.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Issues

1. The costs of providing public services typically exceed revenue gained from new development.
2. Shrinking local government budgets jeopardize public service provision, particularly in those communities with diminishing tax bases.
3. Many water and wastewater systems are in need of significant repair, but lack the financial capacity for those necessary improvements or repairs, and/or hold a significant amount of debt related to their water and sewer systems.
4. Water and wastewater capacity gaps are anticipated in some parts of the region over the next 20-30 years, particularly in growing communities, and those dependent on groundwater aquifers.
5. Many parts of the region are served by aging septic systems that could pose a threat to water and soil quality if not properly maintained.
6. Rural communities are not always adequately serviced by public facilities. Many areas lack access to fire protection and may have their water supply at risk in times of drought.
7. Some places in the region, particularly urban areas, suffer from high crime rates and perceptions that travel to or through those places is unsafe.
8. Rapid growth increases the difficulty of providing public safety services over large areas.
9. Continued growth and development is adding to stormwater runoff, erosion, and sedimentation.
10. Many communities have limited recreational facilities and programs.
11. Local government services may be too centralized to serve all citizens, particularly in rural and less-populated communities.
12. Limited natural gas capacity limits opportunities for economic development activities.
13. Many local governments lack the technological or geographic information systems capabilities to improve efficiency of services.

Opportunities

1. State and federal grant and loan funding is available to be leveraged for improvements to community facilities throughout the region, specifically in areas of high need.
2. Local governments can set aside funds for the maintenance of existing facilities and for regular system improvements.
3. By encouraging infill developments and discouraging new greenfield developments, local governments can decrease the cost of service provision.
4. Potential cost-saving opportunities can be identified through the consolidation of community services and/or the establishment of mutual aid agreements between jurisdictions.
5. Areas with high crime rates present opportunities to encourage investment in local law enforcement services and the development of innovative policing techniques.
6. Ordinances, regulations, and public education efforts can help abate stormwater runoff, erosion, and sedimentation in problem areas.
7. Opportunities exist for the development of public-private partnerships with community action groups to help facilitate service provision at a lower cost to local governments.
8. Local governments can consider the implementation of impact fees and related capital improvement elements as an alternative source of funding, especially in rapidly growing areas.
9. The region's stock of vacant and dilapidated structures can be rehabilitated into potential locations for new community facilities.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Issues

1. A significant number of bodies of water throughout the region are on the 303(d) list of impaired waters, or are not meeting their designated uses.
2. The region has a significant amount of wetlands, watersheds, and aquifers in need of protection.
3. A number of environmentally sensitive lands need to be preserved, particularly public hunting grounds and wildlife refuges along the Ocmulgee River.
4. Open space is being lost throughout the region, especially in areas of rapid, sprawling development.
5. Small farms are closing or being consolidated into corporate ownership.
6. The region has a number of historic structures that need to be protected and preserved, especially as part of redevelopment efforts in traditional neighborhoods.
7. Many communities have not comprehensively identified local historic resources.
8. Some communities lack the necessary codes and ordinances to help protect local resources.
9. Community stakeholders are unaware of available funding opportunities to preserve and restore historic resources.
10. The Regional Resources Plan needs to be updated and promulgated throughout Middle Georgia, and its culturally-important resources need continued preservation.
11. Air quality in Middle Georgia, while improving, is at risk of causing the region to enter non-attainment status.

Opportunities

1. The proposed expansion of the Ocmulgee National Monument to a National Park and Preserve, presents an opportunity to protect culturally important lands, environmentally sensitive areas, and potential hunting grounds.
2. Safe and secure river access, including campgrounds, parks, and boat ramps, can serve as economic drivers for rural communities, especially along the Flint, Ocmulgee, and Oconee rivers.
3. Funding, including grants and tax credits, can be pursued for historic revitalization.
4. Agritourism can promote the economy and the preservation of agricultural lands.
5. State programs, such as the Department of Agriculture's "Georgia Grown" and the Department of Community Affairs' "Celebrating Rural Georgia" programs, offer access to resources for the identification of specialty markets and the development of marketing strategies.
6. The region possesses several scenic byways and several more corridors where scenic byways could be established in the future.
7. The Ocmulgee Heritage Trail, the Lower Oconee Water Trail, and other land and water trails throughout Middle Georgia can be extended and enhanced.
8. The Central Georgia Rail Trail will improve green connectivity, recreation opportunities, and economic activity in Middle Georgia.
9. Local governments can promote water conservation and improve water quality throughout the region, specifically in areas where water supply gaps are anticipated, or where waterbodies are not supporting designated uses.
10. The regional water plans for the Middle Ocmulgee and Upper Oconee rivers can provide a valuable framework to ensure the long-term viability of the regional water system.
11. The work of the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition can be supported in an effort to improve air quality in the region, specifically in urban counties.
12. Design guidelines can be implemented to guide the appearance of new construction within the region and develop a sense of place that differentiates Middle Georgia from other areas.

13. Local governments can collaborate with historic preservation commissions throughout the region, and encourage their development in areas where culturally-important resources are at risk.
14. Updating and promulgating the Regional Resources Plan and encouraging heritage tourism and ecotourism can help to better preserve and utilize these resources.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN TRANSPORTATION

Issues

1. A number of highways through the region will exceed acceptable levels of service by 2030.
2. Many roadways and bridges are in need of repair or upgrade.
3. Many areas still have a significant number of unpaved roads.
4. A number of counties lack consistent and convenient public transit service, and few resources are available for system expansions.
5. Rapid, sprawling development has placed a strain on the transportation system, leading to inefficiency and traffic.
6. The region lacks bicycle and pedestrian facilities throughout most areas, even within some urbanized areas.
7. The region has major issues with east-west connectivity across the Ocmulgee River, which hinders the flow of goods and services and inhibits development.

Opportunities

1. The region's transportation assets present an opportunity for the development of an inland port, container yard, or multi-modal industrial park within the region to facilitate the movement of freight throughout the state and southeast.
2. The region can consider possible funding options for transportation projects throughout the region, including, but not limited to, grant funding, SPLOST, or a potential transportation sales tax, as authorized by the Transportation Funding Act of 2015.
3. Regional transportation infrastructure can benefit from investment in maintenance and improvement, particularly on unpaved roads.
4. The Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition can continue work to promote alternative fuels and transportation options, both to improve the region's air quality, as well as increase transportation efficiency.
5. The development and implementation of local bicycle and pedestrian plans have the potential to aid transportation in Middle Georgia, particularly in downtown areas and near educational facilities.
6. Local governments can utilize complete streets policies in conjunction with bicycle and pedestrian plans to build upon their work.
7. Mobility management programs for the elderly and disabled residents of Middle Georgia can assist with the transportation needs of the growing elderly population.
8. The development of a multi-modal transportation hub with passenger rail and bus service could enhance connections between Middle Georgia, Atlanta, and other parts of the state.
9. The beautification and enhancement of key transportation corridors can assist with wayfinding and place-making throughout the region.
10. The region can discuss the possibility of joint use of the runway at Robins Air Force Base for both military and civilian uses, including, but not limited to, passenger air transportation; freight transportation; and maintenance, repair, and overhaul activities on civilian and military aircraft.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN LAND USE

Issues

1. Rapid, sprawling growth continues to occur in several parts of the region, leading to unplanned changes in traditional land use.
2. Many corridors have developed without a sense of place and are now characterized by traffic, blight, and unsightly development.
3. Most growth has been welcomed wherever it organically occurs, and few planning and zoning regulations have been used to restrict development to certain areas.
4. Some communities lack any zoning ordinances.
5. No public land conservation programs have been aimed at preserving farmland or open space.
6. Uneven development has led to parts of the region that are very prosperous, while other areas are pockets of concentrated poverty and disinvestment.

Opportunities

1. The pursuit of infill development opportunities and adaptive reuse of existing structures throughout the region can assist in reducing sprawl, especially in traditional urban centers.
2. Local governments can consider the implementation of local farmland and open space protection ordinances in suburban areas and places of rapid growth.
3. Mixed-use developments and increased accessibility between residences, commercial services, and places of employment can reduce traffic and unsightly development.
4. Inter-jurisdictional land use planning can help ensure cohesive development patterns that promote the efficient movement of people, goods, and services, and organizations exist in the region that may be able to facilitate this planning.
5. Numerous historic districts exist that may be candidates for revitalization or redevelopment that follows traditional neighborhood design, particularly in conjunction with special tax districts.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Issues

1. Many industries are experiencing a skills gap where not enough workers are present in the region with the skills necessary to do the work of the company.
2. Youth unemployment is significantly higher than other age demographics due to a lack of skills among both younger workers, as well as older workers who cannot advance beyond entry-level jobs.
3. The impending retirement of many older workers poses another threat to the supply of skilled workers. In some industries as much as 40-55 percent of the workforce will be preparing to retire in the next three to five years.
4. Persistently high levels of poverty negatively impact student performance and increase the difficulty of receiving effective job skills training.
5. Many schools have graduation rates below the state average, and many counties fall below the state average in literacy.
6. It is difficult for formerly incarcerated individuals to assimilate back into the workforce.

Opportunities

1. Coordination with technical colleges and universities can help to provide job skills training to low-skill employees.

2. College and Career Academies can be established at local high schools to help assist students with transitions into higher education or the workforce.
3. Schools districts with low graduation rates present opportunities to target specific innovative programs for improvement.
4. The expansion of registered apprenticeship programs, as well as work-based learning and on-the-job training opportunities can help increase the skills of the local workforce.
5. Expanded job training and transitional support for members of the armed forces who are leaving military service can assist these individuals throughout the region.
6. Dialogue between regional businesses and industries and educational institutions, both K-12 and post-secondary, can help ensure that students are receiving the necessary skills for success.
7. Regional collaboration can be expanded between workforce development agencies.
8. Criminal justice reform could lead to new training opportunities for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals.
9. Older workers could be utilized to help train people entering the workforce or changing careers.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN AGING SERVICES

Issues

1. The senior population is expected to grow rapidly, which places more demands upon resources and other programs.
2. Many seniors lack access to transportation which would connect them to basic resources and vital social engagements.
3. Many facilities throughout Middle Georgia lack accessibility for the older adult community.
4. There are few affordable senior housing options throughout the region.
5. Scams are regularly directed towards the senior community.
6. Some senior caregivers are overburdened and do not have the proper resources to cope with their responsibilities.
7. Seniors need additional access to adequate reactive and preventative healthcare, proper nutrition, and exercise.
8. The senior community is changing and evolving at a more rapid rate than current programing.
9. It is difficult to communicate information to seniors regarding programs and resources.

Opportunities

1. The economic impact of the senior community can be considered in new development projects to better meet their needs.
2. Current resources geared toward aiding older adults can be expanded.
3. Regional and local work can be undertaken to increase the volume, accessibility, and availability of public transportation.
4. Policies can be developed and enforced to ensure that the design of public facilities conforms to the needs of the senior community.
5. The regional network of community-based services can be expanded with coordination between public, private, and non-profit organizations.
6. The provision of assistance tailored to the needs of older residents can help them age in place, while also benefitting the local economy.
7. Funding can be pursued for the development of senior housing.
8. Counseling and advocacy services available to seniors can be further publicized and promoted.
9. Local governments can innovate to meet the changing needs of the senior population.

Issues

1. The region has traditionally lacked an identity or vision that is widely known, accepted, and promulgated, due to differences in local interests.
2. Competition among local governments for industry prospects and grant funding fosters an adversarial spirit rather than a collaborative one among the cities and counties of the region—sometimes at risk of detriment to all.
3. Transportation and land development have generally not been coordinated throughout the region, leading to conflicting plans and agendas.

Opportunities

1. Increased cooperation for support of economic growth and prosperity at a regional level can benefit each community, regardless of the exact location where growth and development occur.
2. Local governments can consider expanding coordination of planning related to the region's shared natural and cultural resources and economic development activities.
3. The continued renewal and revision of service delivery strategies can help identify areas where significant cost savings, or increases in efficiency may be realized.
4. Using the region's shared bargaining power, particularly in terms of local government contracting, can help the financial situation of many local governments.
5. Facilitating communication and open dialogue among regional leaders can help create a regional approach to solving regional problems.
6. The Regional Commission can support the continuation of the Middle Georgia Regional Leadership Champions program to equip regional leaders with the skillsets necessary to engage in regionally important issues and promote the importance of collaboration across city and county lines.
7. Regional organizations like the Middle Georgia Regional Commission, the Middle Georgia Economic Alliance, the Central Georgia Joint Development Authority, and the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition can be leveraged to build relationships and trust between regional leaders and policymakers.

ATTACHMENT B

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

Attachment B includes the minutes from the June 2018 MGRC Council Meeting at which a public hearing was held on the Middle Georgia Regional Plan Annual Implementation Report.

MINUTES

Middle Georgia Regional Commission
Council Meeting
Thursday, June 14, 2018, 6:00 p.m.
175 Emery Highway, Suite C, Macon, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT

BALDWIN COUNTY

Lee Slade
Richard Mullins
Denese Shinholster
Johnny Westmoreland
Derek Williams

CRAWFORD COUNTY

Charles Westberry
Paul Chapman
Jay Andrews

HOUSTON COUNTY

John Harley
Clifford Holmes
Georgie Slappey

JONES COUNTY

Jimmy Roberts
Francis Adams
Ed Barbee
Frank Duke

MACON-BIBB COUNTY

Robert Reichert
Dominique Johnson
Al Tillman

MONROE COUNTY

Eric Wilson
Dick Bazemore
Edd Norris
Greg Tapley

PEACH COUNTY

Martin Moseley
James Khoury
James Richardson

PULASKI COUNTY

Butch Hall

PUTNAM COUNTY

Billy Webster

TWIGGS COUNTY

Shannon Hart

WILKINSON COUNTY

Marty Dominy
Mark Dupree
Charles Brack
Emma Bacon

MIDDLE GEORGIA

James Vaughn
Charles Sims

GUESTS PRESENT:

Andrew Ross- Field Representative for Senator Johnny Isakson

Tonya Mole- Field Representative for DCA

Cloyce Pittman- Former Mayor, City of Allentown

STAFF PRESENT:

Keri Asbell – MDSQ Options Counselor

Matt Beal – GIS Analyst

Greg Boike – Director of Public Administration

Kevin Brown – Attorney

Sandra Carson – ADRC Resource Specialist

Jen Doran – Office Manager

Sara Dusenberry - Government Services Specialist

Matt Garvin – Director of Finance

Michelle Grembowski – Director of Technology Services

Julie Hall - Director of Area Agency on Aging

Terrilyn Hannah – Director of Workforce Development

Andrea Jones – Career Development Specialist

Brent Lanford – Deputy Director

Kimberly Lowe – Sr. Government Services Specialist

Binyu Lu – Intern

Laura Mathis – Executive Director

April McGee – Multimedia Technology Specialist

Gwen Presley – Administrative Assistant

Howard Scott – One-Stop/Rapid Response Specialist

Kim Stanton – Executive Assistant

Kayleigh Sullivan – Sr. Government Services Specialist

Crystal Vaughn – Accountant

Shayla Young – Career Development Specialist

CALL TO ORDER

Council Chairman Robert Reichert called the June 14, 2018, meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

ROLL CALL

Executive Assistant Kim Stanton indicated that a quorum was present with 23 voting and 12 non-voting members present.

OPENING CEREMONIES

a. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Houston County Council Member Clifford Holmes gave the invocation and the Council followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

b. Welcome

Council Chairman Robert Reichert welcomed everyone to the June 14, 2018, Council meeting.

c. Introduction of New Members/Guests

Council Chairman Robert Reichert acknowledged the following guests at the Regional Commission Council Meeting:

Andrew Ross- Field Representative for Senator Johnny Isakson
Tonya Mole- Field Representative for DCA
Cloyce Pittman-Former Mayor, City of Allentown

Laura Mathis introduced new staff members, Shayla Young, Career Development Specialist and Binyu Lu, Intern.

STANDARD ORDER OF BUSINESS

a. Approval of Minutes of May 10, 2018, Council meeting

There were no corrections to the minutes of the May 10, 2018, Council meeting. They were unanimously approved on a motion by Mark Dupree and second by Greg Tapley.

b. Old Business

None

c. New Business

i. Resolution in Honor of Robert Ray

Council Chairman Robert Reichert reported that since the May meeting, council member Robert Ray had passed away. Mr. Ray faithfully served the Regional Commission as one of Crawford County's representatives on the Council from 2007 to the time of his passing on May 29, 2019. A resolution honoring Robert Ray was prepared and read into the minutes.

WHEREAS, Robert Franklin Ray, a native of Crawford County, was a lifelong public servant beginning with his election to the Crawford County Board of Commissioners at age 22, followed by two terms on the Crawford County Board of Education; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Ray's passion for farming expanded beyond Crawford County through his role as the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Assistant Commissioner for Marketing and as manager of the State Farmers Market in Macon; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ray went on to serve 24 years in the Georgia State Legislature where he represented Crawford County, as well as portions of Bibb, Houston, Lamar, Monroe, Peach, and Upson counties shepherding important legislation to improve the lives of Georgians; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life, Mr. Ray faithfully served his community through various civic and business organizations, having garnered— with humility— numerous awards and recognitions along the way; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ray was first appointed to the Middle Georgia Regional Commission Council in January 2007, providing guidance and leadership to its staff and member governments until his passing on May 29, 2018;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Middle Georgia Regional Commission expresses its deepest condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Ray on the occasion of his death; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Middle Georgia Regional Commission recognizes the impact and significant contributions of Mr. Ray and his distinguished career in public service to not only the citizens of Crawford County and Middle Georgia, but to the State of Georgia as a whole.

The resolution honoring Robert Ray was unanimously approved on a motion by Eric Wilson and second by Charlie Westberry.

ii. Public Hearing for Submission of Regional Plan Annual Report

Greg Boike reported that on October 1, 2017, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) updated the rules pertaining to Regional Planning Requirements (Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia Chapter 110-12-6). The updated rules are designed to provide a helpful framework for the preparation and implementation of regional plans. Middle Georgia will be responsible for completing its next regularly-scheduled plan update (due June 20, 2021) in accordance with these requirements.

For the public hearing, Mr. Boike reviewed the elements of the Report of Accomplishments, the Regional Agenda and the determination of each local government's status on the performance standards. He stated that the Annual Report is available for comments throughout the month of June. He stated that no action is required by the council. The public hearing was closed.

iii. Local Assistance Requests

The following Local Assistance Requests have been received since the May meeting. Staff time is available to assist with each of these requests.

Community: Crawford County
Project Description: Assistance with applying for a DOT BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant.

Community: City of Hawkinsville
Project Description: Assistance with applying for the Rural Zone Tax Designation.

Community: Jones County
Project Description: Assistance with applying for a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant.

Community: Putnam County
Project Description: Assistance with updating the Putnam County website.

Community: Twiggs County
Project Description: Assistance with updating the county's Solid Waste Management Plan.

The local assistance requests were unanimously approved on a motion by Mark Dupree and second by Al Tillman.

iv. Contract Award for Inland Port Master Planning

Greg Boike reported that as part of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission's (MGRC) project funded by the Department of Defense, Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA), MGRC proposed work on the creation of a master plan for an inland port facility in Middle Georgia. The master plan would evaluate potential sites throughout the region and identify the sites that would be best suited to support the logistics sector. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued for these services.

The Middle Georgia Regional Commission solicited bids throughout the months of April and May, receiving five proposals by the deadline of May 18, 2018. These proposals were evaluated by Middle Georgia Regional Commission staff. MGRC staff recommends award of the contract to Thomas & Hutton Engineering Co. of Savannah, Georgia, as the highest-scoring respondent to the RFP. The firm has extensive experience working with the Georgia Ports Authority, and several

local development authorities in the middle Georgia region. This proposal also meets all cost constraints of the OEA grant.

Approval to award the contract for Inland Port Master Planning Services to Thomas & Hutton was unanimously approved on a motion by Paul Chapman and second by Charles Brack.

v. Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with Georgia Tech

Greg Boike reported that as part of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission's project funded by the Department of Defense, Office of Economic Adjustment, MGRC proposed to undertake a study of the fiscal impact of the aerospace and defense industries in the middle Georgia region. The initial scope of work called for the project to be competitively procured for a private contractor using MGRC's formal RFP process.

After consultation with staff from the Georgia Department of Economic Development, it was determined that the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) was well suited to undertake this study given previous experience studying economic impact throughout the state. They recommended that consulting with Georgia Tech could lead to greater consistency among statewide planning efforts.

Approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement with Georgia Tech for the completion of a fiscal impact analysis was unanimously approved on a motion by Eric Wilson and second by Paul Chapman.

vi. Resolution for Assistive Technology

Julie Hall reported that the Division of Aging Services has offered Middle Georgia Regional Commission a grant to support Disability Connections' Assistive Technology Lab. Disability Connections located in Macon-Bibb County is the region's designated Center for Independent Living. Assistive Technology consists of various tools, appliances and devices that assist seniors and the disabled with normal life activities.

WHEREAS, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission desires to provide an Assistive Technology Demonstration Lab; and

WHEREAS, said corporation desires to enter a contractual arrangement with the Georgia Department of Human Services for the provision of said services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Middle Georgia Regional Commission agrees to enter a written contract with the Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Services, for the provision of an Assistive Technology Demonstration Lab for the period beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019.

The resolution to accept the Assistive Technology Grant was unanimously approved on a motion by Billy Webster and second by Lee Slade.

vii. Contract for WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker, Youth Program

Terrilyn Hannah reported that since July 1, 2013, Middle Georgia Regional Commission has served as the grant recipient and fiscal agent for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program in Macon-Bibb County. The Macon-Bibb Workforce Development Board is appointed by Macon-Bibb County Mayor Robert Reichert and has specific policy and programmatic duties outlined in the federal law and state regulations, which cannot be overturned by the Regional Commission as the fiscal agent.

The Macon-Bibb Workforce Development Board desires to procure multiple subrecipients (providers) to deliver workforce development services, including, but not limited to, career services and case management, for Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth programs under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014. The Board intends to be as inclusive as possible in this solicitation. The goal is to receive a wide variety of high quality, innovative proposals that meet the workforce development needs of the local Macon-Bibb workforce development area and regional community at large.

Approval of the contracts for WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker, Youth Program subject to the approval of the Macon-Bibb County Workforce Development Board was unanimously approved on a motion by Mark Dupree and second by Charlie Westberry.

viii. Recommendation of the Budget, Audit and Personnel Committee

Dick Bazemore reported that the Budget, Audit and Personnel Committee met on May 31, 2018, to consider several items. He also thanked Ed Barbee, John Harley, Shannon Hart, Dominique Johnson, Martin Moseley, Robert Reichert, James Vaughn, and Charlie Westberry for their hard work and attention to detail.

a. Continuing Education Program

Georgia law requires that regional commissions have a continuing education program for staff. A draft of the program which states that the commissions support of professional development and continuing education for staff to the extent resources are available was distributed in advance of the meeting. The Budget, Audit and Personnel Committee recommends approval of the Continuing Education Program.

Council Chairman Robert Reichert stated that because this is a recommendation from the Committee, no second is required for a vote. The Council voted unanimously to approve the Continuing Education Program.

b. Amendments to the Personnel Policy

The Committee considered amendments to Article IV Section 12 of the Personnel Policy. The amendment makes the implementation of salary adjustments to occur at the beginning of a pay period rather than the first of the month. A copy of the amendment was distributed. The Budget, Audit and Personnel Committee recommends adoption of the Personnel Policy Amendments, as presented, to be effective upon adoption.

Council Chairman Robert Reichert stated that because this is a recommendation from the Committee, no second is required for a vote. The Council voted unanimously to approve the Amendments to the Personnel Policy.

c. Amendments to the Travel Policy

The Committee considered amendments to the Travel Policy to substantially comply with the state travel policy. The new Travel Policy also addresses the use of fleet and personal vehicles. A copy of the draft policy was included in the meeting packet. The Budget, Audit and Personnel Committee recommends adoption of the Travel Policy Amendments, as presented, to be effective upon adoption.

Council Chairman Robert Reichert stated that because this is a recommendation from the Committee, no second is required for a vote. The Council voted unanimously to approve the Amendments to the Travel Policy.

d. Flexible Benefits Plan

The Committee considered adoption of the Flexible Benefits Plan which was distributed before the meeting. The plan outlines how employee contributions are made, how health savings accounts are managed, and what expenses are pre or post tax benefits. The Budget, Audit and Personnel Committee recommends adoption of the Flexible Benefits Plan, as presented, to be effective upon adoption.

Council Chairman Robert Reichert stated that because this is a recommendation from the Committee, no second is required for a vote. The Council voted unanimously to approve the Flexible Benefits Plan.

e. FY 2018 Budget Amendment #2

The Committee considered Amendment #2 to the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget. This is the final amendment for the year, which adjusts line items to be closer to projected year end numbers. A line item detail budget was included in the package. For revenues, several projects are shifting from FY 2018 to 2019 resulting in an overall decrease of \$651,944 with Budget Amendment #2. Operating expenses are down \$777,214 due to vacancies throughout the year, health insurance savings due to the wellness program and a shift of contract expenses from 2018 to 2019. The proposed Budget Amendment #2 increases funds available for unrestricted fund balance to \$253,147 and restricted fund balance to \$108,600.

After much discussion, the Budget, Audit and Personnel Committee recommends adoption of Amendment #2 to the FY 2018 Budget as presented. No amendments were needed to the Work Program based on Budget Amendment #2.

Council Chairman Robert Reichert stated that because this is a recommendation from the Committee, no second is required for a vote. The Council voted unanimously to approve the FY 2018 Budget Amendment #2.

f. Audit Services for FY 2018 – 2020

The Budget, Audit and Personnel Committee considered the Audit Services FY 2018 – 2020. In 2014, the Regional Commission solicited proposals for audit services in 2015-2017 and selected McNair, McLemore and Middlebrooks. The contract had the option for a second three-year term, if desired. The Committee recommends selection of McNair, McLemore, Middlebrooks & Co, LLC for audit services for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019 and 2020 at a cost of \$17,000 per year.

Council Chairman Robert Reichert stated that because this is a recommendation from the Committee, no second is required for a vote. The Council voted unanimously to approve McNair, McLemore, Middlebrooks & Co, LLC for Audit Services FY 2018 – 2020.

g. FY 2019 Dues Structure

The Budget, Audit and Personnel Committee recommends approval of the local governments dues for 2019 at \$1.30 per capita, using the most recent update to the population projects from the US Census. This is the same dues rate from 2018.

Council Chairman Robert Reichert stated that because this is a recommendation from the Committee, no second is required for a vote. The Council voted unanimously to approve the 2019 Dues Structure.

h. FY 2019 Employee Benefits Renewal and Wellness Program

Each year, the Regional Commission works with the benefits consultant Northwestern Benefits to solicit proposals for employee insurance coverages. A memo outlining the benefits and costs was included in the meeting package. Based on this year's proposals, the Budget, Audit and Personnel Committee recommends the following:

- Health Insurance - Humana with the wellness program and medical deductible benefit as outlined in the memo.
- Dental Insurance - TruAssure
- Life Insurance - Lincoln
- Vision Insurance – Eyemed
- Voluntary Workplace Benefits - Colonial

Council Chairman Robert Reichert stated that because this is a recommendation from the Committee, no second is required for a vote. The Council voted unanimously to approve the Benefits Renewal and Wellness Program.

i. FY 2019 Budget

The Committee reviewed and considered the FY 2019 budget. A copy was distributed in the package. The FY 2019 budget is a balanced budget that totals \$11,720,662. This initial budget reflects known contracts and includes the change to the Department of Community Health CCSP program that was mentioned at a previous council meeting. Regarding expenditures, the budget includes merit increases for staff and increase in the required pension plan contribution and other benefits. There are capital expenditures which are equipment and technology upgrades totaling \$42,676. The Committee recommends adoption of the FY 2019 budget as presented.

Council Chairman Robert Reichert stated that because this is a recommendation from the Committee, no second is required for a vote. The Council voted unanimously to approve the FY 2019 Budget.

j. FY 2019 Initial Work Program

The Committee considered the 2019 Work Program, which was distributed in the package. The Budget, Audit and Personnel Committee recommends adoption of the FY 2019 Work Program as presented.

Council Chairman Robert Reichert stated that because this is a recommendation from the Committee, no second is required for a vote. The Council voted unanimously to approve the 2019 Initial Work Program.

k. Determination of Performance of Middle Georgia Regional Commission

As required by state law, the Committee reviewed the performance standards established in 1993. The Committee determined that for 2018, the Regional Commission effectively performed according to the Performance Standards. The Budget, Audit and Personnel Committee recommends that the Council find that the Regional Commission met or exceeded the performance standards for 2018.

Council Chairman Robert Reichert stated that because this is a recommendation from the Committee, no second is required for a vote. The Council voted unanimously to approve the Performance of the Regional Commission.

l. Performance Review of Executive Director

Dick Bazemore reported that in addition to the performance of the organization, the Committee also reviewed the performance of Executive Director Laura Mathis utilizing established criteria. After discussion, the Committee determined that Ms. Mathis had satisfactorily performed her duties in 2018 and recommends a merit increase resulting in Grade 38 Step 6 beginning July 1, 2018.

Council Chairman Robert Reichert stated that because this is a recommendation from the Committee, no second is required for a vote. The Council voted unanimously to approve the Performance Review of the Executive Director.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

a. Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) Report

Michelle Grembowski gave a brief description of the 2020 Census Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) process. LUCA is the only mechanism for reviewing and updating the address listing that the Census Bureau will use for distribution of the Census forms. Ms. Grembowski stated that the LUCA process is underway and that 24 LUCA packages have been received to date. She stated that initial assessment of packages received have been completed.

b. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Mathis stated that for 2018, with the guidance and leadership from Council, it was determined that the Regional Commission met its performance standards and provided quality service to member governments and the citizens of Middle Georgia. On behalf of the entire team, Ms. Mathis would like to thank the Council for their volunteer service and, in particular, thanked the Budget, Audit & Personnel Committee for their hard work on the budget.

Ms. Mathis stated that MGRC received an award from United Way as one of the Top 100 Most Generous Workplaces in Middle Georgia. The MGRC exceeded their goal and Ms. Mathis recognized Matt Beal and Keri Asbell for volunteering for the United Way Campaign for the MGRC.

Ms. Mathis stated that Kimberly Lowe led a campaign to collect school supplies for the Back to School Drive for the Bibb County school district. The contribution from staff received recognition as a Bronze Sponsor.

Ms. Mathis stated that the MGRC hosted the Senior Day Expo that was held on May 31 and recognized staff for their hard work.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. There is no Council meeting in July.
- b. Next MGRC meeting August 9, 2018, guest speaker will be Abby Cox, Georgia Director of Aging Services.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the June Council meeting was adjourned until August 9, 2018.