

A RESOLUTION

**ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2019 REGIONAL PLAN  
IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT**

**WHEREAS**, THE 1989 Georgia General Assembly enacted House Bill 215, the Georgia Planning Act, requiring preparation of a regional comprehensive plan in accordance with the Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures promulgated by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs; and

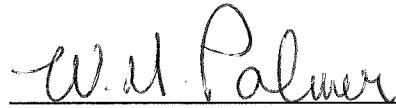
**WHEREAS**, the Fiscal Year 2019 Regional Plan Implementation Program Annual Report was prepared in accordance with the Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission, that the Fiscal Year 2019 Regional Plan Implementation Program Annual Report, as approved by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, is hereby adopted.

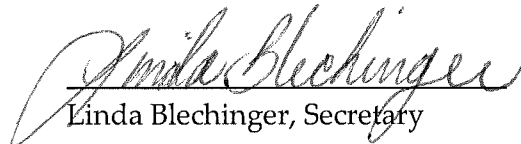
**ADOPTED** this 15<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2019



\_\_\_\_\_  
Billy Pittard, Chair



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Bill Palmer, Vice-Chair



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Linda Blechinger, Secretary

ATTEST:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Burke Walker, Executive Director

# Northeast Georgia Regional Plan

Annual Implementation Report  
Fiscal Year 2019

Northeast Georgia Regional Commission  
June 2019



## Fiscal Year 2019 Northeast Georgia Regional Plan Report of Accomplishments 2018-2022

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing	Implementation Status	
<b>Development of web presence that would be a one stop access point for information, data, and news in order to more effectively market, promote, and increase the entire region's visibility to potential visitors and investors.</b>	Promote a Northeast Georgia web presence	Create and manage a Northeast Georgia promotional website.	JDANEGA, Chambers of Commerce, Local Governments, GDEcD	Year 2-3 \$10,000-\$25,000			Scheduled for initiation in FY20	
		Create feasibility study for potential impacts of a Northeast Georgia promotional and social media presence and/or smart phone App.	JDANEGA, Chambers of Commerce, Local Governments, GDEcD	Year 4-5 \$15,000-\$20,000			Scheduled for initiation in FY22	
		Catalog and capitalize upon existing tourism and economic development-related promotional efforts in Georgia and the Southeast (ex. Georgia Power's Select Georgia Maps, GDEcD's travel regions, Georgia Agritourism Association).	JDANEGA, Chambers of Commerce, Local Governments, GDEcD, EDA	Year 1-3 \$5,000-\$10,000			Underway; FY20 completion	
			Conduct audit of and recommend improvements to local and regional online materials (ex: JDANEG website and ED Pros Trails Connectivity Project).	GDCA, GDEcD, EDA			\$5,000 Annually	Not yet initiated
			Create and manage an inventory of vacant land, vacant buildings/spaces, Opportunity Zones (OZs), Revitalization Area Strategy (RAS) designations, Camera-Ready Communities, and other economic incentives and opportunities.	JDANEGA, Chambers of Commerce, Local Governments, GDEcD	Year 2-3 \$5,000-\$10,000			Scheduled for initiation in FY20
			Create and manage a list of funding and other opportunities for local entrepreneurs and artists.	Chambers of Commerce, Local Governments, Artist Communities	Year 1-2 Staff Time		\$5,000 Annually	Complete
			Create section of the NEGRC website to feature local government resources.	Chambers of Commerce, Local Governments	Year 1-2 Staff Time		\$1,000 Annually	Underway; FY20 completion
		Comprehensive and accessible regional tourism database.	Create, manage, and promote a publicly accessible inventory of historic landmarks, festivals and events, tours, and other visitor attractions.	JDANEGA, Chambers of Commerce, Local Governments	Year 4-5 \$10,000			Scheduled for initiation in FY22
			Survey local, regional, and state stakeholders about whether to reconvene regular or as-needed meetings of the dormant regional tourism group.	JDANEGA, Chambers of Commerce, Local Governments, GDEcD			Staff Time	Not yet initiated

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing	Implementation Status
<b>Resources to support and encourage local entrepreneurial development.</b>	Support entrepreneurial development.	Develop a catalog of all regional entities that are involved in entrepreneurship and develop a plan for enhanced, easy access to existing regional entrepreneurship resources, including educational institutions	Chambers of Commerce, Local Governments	Year 3-5 \$10,000			Scheduled for initiation in FY21
		Conduct evaluation of the climate and capacity for entrepreneurial and small business development across the region, defining local strengths and weaknesses, funding gaps, and industry best practices	Chambers of Commerce, Local Governments	Year 1-2 \$25,000			Underway; FY20 completion
		Create feasibility study for regional business incubation facilities, and the potential role of local educational institutions in supporting the effort	JDANEGA, Chambers of Commerce, Local Governments	Year 4-5 Staff Time			Scheduled for initiation in FY22
<b>Greater alignment of workforce skills with current and emerging jobs.</b>	Connect employers with skilled and dedicated employees	Produce region-wide report on link between educational preparation/attainment and existing/future employment opportunities.	WIB, Local Governments, Technical Colleges			Staff Time	Scheduled for long-term implementation
		Develop educational program (materials and workshop) to educate local governments about diverse housing types for people of all incomes.	Local Governments			Staff Time	Scheduled for long-term implementation
<b>Connections to employment by method other than automobile are extremely limited</b>	Identify housing needs around job centers to support communities in attracting and retaining workers and identify workforce housing programs so workers can live near jobs.	Create report on employer-assisted housing (EAH) initiatives. EAH programs can include: Counseling for employees about housing choices and financing; Direct financial help to employees for rent, closing costs, or mortgage payments; A real estate investment by an employer; An Individual Development Account (IDA) or other savings program for employees interested in purchasing a home; Use of government matching funds and tax credits as incentives for private investment	Local Governments, Federal Government	Year 3-4 Staff Time			Scheduled for initiation in FY21

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing	Implementation Status
		Develop region-wide Housing + Transportation Affordability analysis and recommendations.	Local Governments, Employers, Developers	Year 1-3 \$20,000/Study			Underway; FY20 completion
		Publish model guidelines and/or best management practices to assist communities in assessing housing needs and identifying appropriate housing types based on factors such as community demographics, future jobs and housing affordability goals.	Local Governments, GDCA	Year 2-4 \$17,500/Study			Scheduled for initiation in FY20
	Develop, implement, and sustain viable housing projects that meet market demands and needs.	Publish best management practices guide to mixed-use and pedestrian-oriented community design and amenities alternatives to single-family housing, including apartments, condos, and townhouses to meet the needs of both older and younger residents in the region.	Local Governments		Staff Time		Scheduled for long-term implementation
		Host regional housing collaborative forum, such as a housing roundtable, to promote information sharing and identification of partnership opportunities.	Local Governments, GDCA	Year 3-5 \$50,000			Scheduled for initiation in FY21
<b>Few transportation choices region wide</b>	Provide communities with bicyclist- and pedestrian-friendly "Complete Streets" best practices to increase community appeal, safety, and provide access to all users	Develop Complete Streets design guidelines for various settings (neighborhood- and community-level).	Bike advocacy groups, Local Governments	Year 1-3 \$20,000/Study			Underway; FY20 completion
		Create document of case studies and/or best practices for multi-purpose infrastructure improvements to maximize positive impacts of public investment (such as multi-use trails within utility easements).	Local Governments	Year 3-5 Staff Time			Scheduled for initiation in FY21
		Complete a study to identify and establish protection and maintenance standards for regionally significant multi-modal transportation corridors.	Local Governments	Year 2-5 \$10,000/Study			Scheduled for initiation in FY20

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing	Implementation Status
<b>Aging physical infrastructure replacement.</b>	Address aging infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and water and wastewater systems.	Develop guide to maximizing longevity and flexibility of infrastructure improvements for local governments.	Local Governments	Year 4-5 \$25,000/Study			Scheduled for initiation in FY22
		Develop best-practices document for capital improvements programming. Examples could include an Asset Management Program that: Conducts ongoing condition assessment that: Evaluates the existing condition of all assets Establishes Level of Service (LOS) Establishes a system of ranking and prioritization to identify the asset most likely to experience failure and identify alternatives for renewing the asset (e.g., rehabilitation versus replacement) Performs life cycle costing Identifies long term funding needs and strategies	Local Governments, UGA Vinson Institute	Year 4-5 \$25,000/Study			Scheduled for initiation in FY22
		Publish how-to guide to conducting comprehensive infrastructure inventories and assessments for local governments.	Local Governments	Year 2-4 \$5,000/Community			Scheduled for initiation in FY20
		Conduct feasibility study to analyze potential for publishing measures, benchmarks, and/or asset assessment processes to evaluate transportation system improvements and project prioritization.	Local Governments	Year 1-3 \$15,000/Community			Underway; FY20 completion

## Local Government Performance Standards, Fiscal Year 2019

The State of Georgia requires Regional Commissions to provide annual updates on the status of each local government that has not achieved the minimum performance standards laid out in the respective Commissions' regional plans.

The minimum standards per the [Northeast Georgia Regional Plan](#) are:

- Update the local Comprehensive plan, including the Future Development Map and/or Future Land Use Map, at regular intervals, as required by the State of Georgia
- Utilize the Future Development Map and/or Future Land Use Map to steer new development to appropriate areas of the community
- Update the Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) and Capital Improvements Element (CIE), where applicable, as required by the State of Georgia
- Submit potential Developments of Regional Impact (DRIs) to the Regional Commission per the Development Thresholds established by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs
- Comply with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Part V Environmental Planning Criteria by adopting appropriate ordinances for Groundwater Recharge Areas, Wetlands Protection, and River Corridor Protection, where applicable
- Update the local pre-disaster mitigation plan per the standards established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- Share updated Tax Assessor's data tables and land parcels with the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission annually, where applicable

As of June 2019, the following local governments do not meet the minimum standards:

**Arnoldsville, Crawford, Lexington, Maxeys, Oglethorpe County** (Comprehensive Planning standard not met)

The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC) is working with the affected local governments to incorporate required changes to the submitted comprehensive plan draft, gain Department of Community Affairs (DCA) approval, and pass resolutions adopting the plans.

**Elbert County** (Comprehensive Planning standard not met)

NEGRC is currently assisting the county with development of its comprehensive plan.

**Greensboro** (Comprehensive Planning standard not met)

NEGRC is currently assisting the city with development of its comprehensive plan.

**Auburn, Barrow County, Bethlehem, Braselton (portion within Barrow Co.), Carl, Statham, Winder** (SDS standard not met)

NEGRC enquired as to the status of SDS renewal/extension and offered to provide information. The affected local governments are in the process of negotiating, and will then formalize the SDS.

## Regional Hearing Records

**NORTHEAST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION**  
**Regional Hearing for Regional Plan Annual Implementation Report**

**Meeting Agenda**

June 25, 2019 at 10:00a.m.  
Northeast Georgia Regional Commission  
305 Research Dr. Athens, GA 30601

- I. Purpose of Regional Hearing
- II. Contents of Annual Implementation Report
- III. Review and Adoption Process
- IV. Questions and Comments
- V. Adjournment

## **Press Release**

**For Immediate Release — June 13, 2019**

### **REGIONAL PLAN ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM REPORT**

The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC) announces a regional hearing for the annual report on the 12-county regional plan. The purpose of the regional hearing is to inform interested parties about the contents of the report and the process by which it will be adopted.

The regional hearing will take place at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 25, 2019 at the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (305 Research Dr., Athens). Please contact John Devine, AICP, NEGRC Principal Planner, at [jdevine@negrc.org](mailto:jdevine@negrc.org) or (706) 369-5650 with any questions.

The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC) serves Athens-Clarke, Barrow, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Jasper, Madison, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, and Walton counties.

6/13/2019

THE HERALD JOURNAL, Greensboro, Ga., Thursday, June 20, 2019

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*Press release sent to the twelve legal organs of Northeast GA*