

HEART OF GEORGIA ALTAMAHA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Regional Plan Annual Report

2020



Appling • Bleckley • Candler • Dodge • Emanuel • Evans • Jeff Davis •
Laurens • Montgomery • Tattnall • Telfair • Toombs • Treutlen •
Wayne • Wheeler • Wilcox

Local Government Performance Standards Update

The following list shows the current status of HOGARC's local governments in terms of compliance with the Regional Plan's Minimum Performance Standards.

Local Government	Minimum Performance Standards Not Met	Specific Action Steps taken to Assist Government
Appling	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Baxley	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Graham	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Surrency	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Bleckley	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Cochran	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Candler	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Metter	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Pulaski	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Dodge	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Chauncey	Maintain Current Qualified Local Government Status by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs	Local government was notified of non-compliance status through the Plan Implementation Assessment meeting process and follow-up correspondence. RC staff offered guidance and procedures to reinstate QLG status.
Chester	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Eastman	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Milan	Maintain Current Qualified Local Government Status by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs	Local government was notified of non-compliance status through the Plan Implementation Assessment meeting process and follow-up correspondence. RC staff offered guidance and procedures to reinstate QLG status.
Rhine	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Emanuel	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Adrian	Maintain Current Qualified Local Government Status by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs	Local government was notified of non-compliance status through the Plan Implementation Assessment meeting process and follow-up correspondence.

Local Government	Minimum Performance Standards Not Met	Specific Action Steps taken to Assist Government
		RC staff offered guidance and procedures to reinstate QLG status.
Garfield	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Nunez	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Oak Park	Maintain Current Qualified Local Government Status by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs	Local government was notified of non-compliance status through the Plan Implementation Assessment meeting process and follow-up correspondence. RC staff offered guidance and procedures to reinstate QLG status.
Stillmore	Maintain Current Qualified Local Government Status by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs	Local government was notified of non-compliance status through the Plan Implementation Assessment meeting process and follow-up correspondence. RC staff offered guidance and procedures to reinstate QLG status.
Summertown	Maintain Current Qualified Local Government Status by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs	Local government was notified of non-compliance status through the Plan Implementation Assessment meeting process and follow-up correspondence. RC staff offered guidance and procedures to reinstate QLG status.
Swainsboro	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Twin City	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Evans	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Bellville	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Claxton	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Daisy	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Hagan	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Jeff Davis	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Denton	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Hazlehurst	Maintain Current Qualified Local Government Status by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs	Local government was notified of non-compliance status through correspondence, at which time RC staff offered guidance and procedures to reinstate QLG status.
Johnson	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Kite	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Wrightsville	All Minimum Performance Standards met	

Local Government	Minimum Performance Standards Not Met	Specific Action Steps taken to Assist Government
Laurens	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Cadwell	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Dexter	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Dublin	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Dudley	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
East Dublin	Maintain Current Qualified Local Government Status by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs	Local government was notified of non-compliance status through the Plan Implementation Assessment meeting process and follow-up correspondence. RC staff offered guidance and procedures to reinstate QLG status.
Montrose	Maintain Current Qualified Local Government Status by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs	Local government was notified of non-compliance status through the Plan Implementation Assessment meeting process and follow-up correspondence. RC staff offered guidance and procedures to reinstate QLG status.
Rentz	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Montgomery	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Ailey	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Alston	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Higgston	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Mount Vernon	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Tarrytown	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Uvalda	Maintain Current Qualified Local Government Status by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs	Local government was notified of non-compliance status through the Plan Implementation Assessment meeting process and follow-up correspondence. RC staff offered guidance and procedures to reinstate QLG status.
Tattnall	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Cobbtown	Maintain Current Qualified Local Government Status by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs	Local government was notified of non-compliance status through the Plan Implementation Assessment meeting process and follow-up correspondence. RC staff offered guidance and procedures to reinstate QLG status.
Collins	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Glennville	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Manassas	All Minimum Performance Standards met	

Local Government	Minimum Performance Standards Not Met	Specific Action Steps taken to Assist Government
Reidsville	Maintain Current Qualified Local Government Status by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs	Local government was notified of non-compliance status through the Plan Implementation Assessment meeting process and follow-up correspondence. RC staff offered guidance and procedures to reinstate QLG status.
Telfair	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Jacksonville	Maintain Current Qualified Local Government Status by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs	Local government was notified of non-compliance status through the Plan Implementation Assessment meeting process and follow-up correspondence. RC staff offered guidance and procedures to reinstate QLG status.
Lumber City	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
McRae-Helena	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Scotland	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Toombs	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Lyons	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Santa Claus	Maintain Current Qualified Local Government Status by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs	Local government was notified of non-compliance status through the Plan Implementation Assessment meeting process and follow-up correspondence. RC staff offered guidance and procedures to reinstate QLG status.
Vidalia	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Treutlen	Maintain Current Qualified Local Government Status by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs	Local government was notified of non-compliance status through the Plan Implementation Assessment meeting process and follow-up correspondence. RC staff offered guidance and procedures to reinstate QLG status.
Soperton	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Wayne	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Jesup	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Odum	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Screven	Maintain Current Qualified Local Government Status by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs	Local government was notified of non-compliance status through the Plan Implementation Assessment meeting process and follow-up correspondence. RC staff offered guidance and procedures to reinstate QLG status.

Local Government	Minimum Performance Standards Not Met	Specific Action Steps taken to Assist Government
Wheeler	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Alamo	Maintain Current Qualified Local Government Status by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs	Local government was notified of non-compliance status through the Plan Implementation Assessment meeting process and follow-up correspondence. RC staff offered guidance and procedures to reinstate QLG status.
Glenwood	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Wilcox	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Abbeville	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Pineview	Maintain Current Qualified Local Government Status by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs	Local government was notified of non-compliance status through the Plan Implementation Assessment meeting process and follow-up correspondence. RC staff offered guidance and procedures to reinstate QLG status.
Pitts	All Minimum Performance Standards met	
Rochelle	All Minimum Performance Standards met	

Annual Regional Work Program

Update 2020

Heart of Georgia Altamaha

Regional Commission

Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission Regional Work Program (RWP)

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Status
Modernize Region's transportation network	Provide planning and technical assistance to local governments and economic developers to increase safety, community appeal, and provide access to all users	Complete Streets policies adopted by 4 local governments	GDOT, Georgia BIKES			\$4,000				On track to begin effort in 2021.
		Draft model design guidelines to increase infrastructure requirements in new developments	GDOT				\$5,000			On track to begin effort in 2022.
		Complete Land & Water Conservation fund applications for 5 local governments to create pedestrian facilities	GA DNR		\$5,000					RC Staff completed 4 LWCF applications in 2019. Additional applications are on track for 2021.
		Facilitate zoning ordinance trainings for local governments to emphasize sidewalk development requirements of new subdivisions	DCA, Carl Vinson Institute			\$2,000		\$2,000		Regional Commission Staff helped organize a regional Zoning 101 training in McRae-Helena, November 20 th , 2019. Staff will continue to organize trainings in the future.

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Status
Preserve environmentally sensitive areas	Identify and reduce the number of impaired streams in the HOGARC Region	Develop watershed management plans for two(2) impaired streams of the region	GDNR		\$20,000		\$20,000			On track to apply for grant funding for the next GDNR cycle.
		Host a water quality monitoring workshop for area volunteers	GDNR-EPD, Altamaha Riverkeeper		\$1,000		\$1,000			RC staff will begin efforts to organize a workshop in late 2020 or early 2021, depending on the status of gatherings related to COVID-19 virus and the public health emergency.
	Ensure each county is aware of their capacity needs for solid waste and have a plan in place for disposal	Update 6 solid waste management plans	Local Governments	\$20,000	\$20,000			\$20,000		RC staff are currently working to update 3 solid waste management plans in 2020.
Increase downtown revitalization efforts	Utilize historic city centers for a rural renaissance and infill development	Draft or otherwise assist with 3 Rural Zone program applications for eligible local governments	GDCA	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000				RC staff prepared a rural zone application in 2019 for the City of Cochran. Additional applications are expected for the August 2020 deadline.

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Status
Increase Regional tourism cooperation/marketing	Develop tourism opportunities centered around the rural character of the region	Facilitate quarterly tourism meetings with local officials and chamber of commerce directors	Chamber of Commerce, Georgia Tourism	Staff Time	Staff Time	Staff Time	Staff Time	Staff Time		RC staff is currently planning to facilitate a meeting between these groups in late 2020.
		Conduct quarterly updates to the gohoga.org regional bicycle and pedestrian website	Local governments, Georgia Tourism, GDOT	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	RC staff has updated and maintained the gohoga.org website in 2019 and 2020. Continued efforts to update the website are ongoing.
		Provide technical assistance (graphic design, website promotion, etc.) for regional tourism partnerships	GA Tourism	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000		No organization has requested RC assistance regarding this action. Staff capabilities remain ready to assist.

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Status
Increase connectivity and adequate access to alternative forms of transportation	Provide planning and technical assistance to local governments which are improving and developing the built environment in favor of alternative modes of travel	Update the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan					\$15,000			Action is on track to update plan in 2022.
		Provide two training opportunities to local governments on Complete Streets topics each year	GDOT, Georgia BIKES	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000		Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the RC postponed scheduled trainings until FY 21.
		Conduct a safety Walk Audit for one school system each year	GA Safe Routes to School, GDOT	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000		RC staff have worked with the Georgia Safe Routes to School coordinators to promote walk audits in multiple cities.
		Survey and develop a regional GIS database of all sidewalks, trails, and pedestrian crossings				\$15,000				Action is on track to take place in 2021.
		Develop local level Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans	GDOT	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000		RC staff are currently drafting a plan for Appling County and its municipalities.

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Status
Expand public transit throughout the Region	Promote and provide planning/technical assistance to local governments operating or considering to operate a rural transit program	Develop a Transit Development Plan for one County per year	GDOT, Local governments	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000		RC staff are currently drafting a plan for Treutlen County Board of Commissioners.
		Develop promotional material for existing 5311 (Rural Transit) Programs	GDOT, Local governments	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000		RC staff have not had requests for assistance regarding the action. Further promotion of capabilities will be conducted in late 2020.
	Improve access to critical services for clients of human service provider organizations	Complete 5 Year Transit operator contracts for 5310 funding	DHS				\$10,000			Action is on track to take place in 2022.
Maintain/ upgrade/expand public infrastructure	Provide technical assistance and planning to identify infrastructure needs of each local government	Facilitate regional discussions of a TSPLOST 2 referendum	GDOT	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000			Discussions began in 2019. RC staff prepared meeting schedules and built a GIS project submittal database for local governments to seamlessly submit projects for consideration. Discussions are ongoing until officially placed on a ballot.
		Complete Community Development Block Grant applications for 6 local governments each year	Local governments	Staff Time	Staff Time	Staff Time	Staff Time	Staff Time		RC staff worked with 10 local governments to apply for CDBG funding in 2020.
		Facilitate public works trainings in Region	GDOT, Contractors, Public works officials		Staff Time		Staff Time			Action is on track to take place in 2021.

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Status
Ensure the population has the skills and training necessary to attract and retain businesses and industries	Ensure each member of the Region's workforce is provided an opportunity to achieve advanced training and skills to be a successful employee	Implement WIOA Program(s) and maintain one-stops in each county	JTU, GTCS, WIOA Board	\$6.3 mil	\$6.3 mil	\$6.3 mil	\$6.3 mil	\$6.3 mil	\$6.3 mil	Action is in progress.
		Facilitate at minimum 12 job fairs each year	JTU	Staff Time	Staff Time	Staff Time	Staff Time	Staff Time		JTU facilitated 21 job fairs in 2019.
		Update the comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to advance regional economic development	EDA				\$5,000			Action is on track to begin in 2022.

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Status	
Broadband internet technology infrastructure/ access Regionwide	Provide planning, coordinating and technical assistance to member local governments, development authorities, electrical cooperatives, telephone cooperatives, and other broadband/ISP providers to develop viable, local projects	Host a Broadband summit to explain need for adopting DCA's Broadband model ordinance	GDCA, GTA, EMCs, Telephone companies	Staff Time						Action was postponed until late 2020.	
		Assist local governments with meeting state requirements for Broadband Ready designation	GDCA	Staff Time	Staff Time	Staff Time				3 Joint Comprehensive Plan updates (16 Local Governments) occurring in 2020 will include broadband elements. 4 Joint Comprehensive Plans (20 local governments) were updated in 2019 to include broadband elements.	
		Compile a regional list of Community Anchor Institutions	Local governments, Development Authorities	Staff Time	Staff Time						Action is on track to begin in late 2020.
		Facilitate elected officials training to increase awareness of Broadband	GTA, DCA	Staff Time	Staff Time	Staff Time					Action is on track to begin in 2021.
Establish a Regional economic development organization(s)	Increase exposure to regional leadership programming and support of HOGA Region	Create an annual Regional Leadership Development Program	DCA, Carl Vinson Institute	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000		Action is on track to begin in either 2021 or 2022.	
		Create a regional development organization comprised of the Region's economic development professionals or otherwise facilitate quarterly meetings of Region's development authorities	Local development authorities, GDECD	Staff Time	Staff Time	Staff Time	Staff Time	Staff Time			RC staff participated in a regional economic development forum held in Hazlehurst in October 2019. Additional meetings were discussed and are on track for late 2020 or early 2021.

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Status
Revitalize declining neighborhoods	Develop, implement, and sustain viable neighborhood revitalization projects to reduce blighted areas	Host Zoning 101 trainings in Region for local government staff and planning board members	Carl Vinson Institute		\$2,000		\$2,000			Regional Commission Staff helped organize a regional Zoning 101 training in McRae-Helena, November 20 th , 2019. Staff will continue to organize trainings in the future.
		Present contract for zoning administration services to 6 local governments	Carl Vinson Institute		\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000			The RC signed a contract for zoning administration for the City of Twin City in 2019.
		Develop one Urban Redevelopment Plan each year	Local Governments	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000		RC staff drafted one urban redevelopment plan for the City of Cochran in 2019.

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Status
Safe and affordable housing for all income levels	Facilitate community housing discussions to increase housing options	Provide technical assistance to local governments applying for housing grants		\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000		RC staff have not received any technical assistance requests; however, continue to market availability to the local governments.
		Draft model design standards for mobile home parks to include mandatory storm shelters	DCA, GEMA			\$5,000				Action is on track to take place in 2021.
		Draft model building standard for mandatory safe room provision in single family dwellings	DCA, GEMA			\$5,000				Action is on track to take place in 2021.
		Provide technical assistance to local governments adopting "Tiny House" ordinances	DCA, Local governments	Staff Time	Staff Time					No requests have been received regarding "Tiny Houses." Additional promotion for Tiny House ordinances is on track to take place in 2021.

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Status
Increase building codes inspection programs in Region	Develop a regional network of building inspectors and code enforcement officers	Compile a list of the Region's building inspectors/ departments	Local governments		Staff Time					The action is on track to take place in 2021.
		Facilitate a building inspections conference to identify service area gaps and develop a report of findings for review by RC council	Local governments			\$5,000				The action is on track to take place in 2021.
Provide resources to residents for aging in place	Promote senior centers as a focal point of the community and involve members of the public in center activities	Conduct a sustainable Tai Chi program in 90% (15) of the Region's senior centers	HOGARC AAA, Local Governments	\$5,000	\$5,000					RC staff held Tai Chi programs at 14 senior centers in 2019 and the first quarter of 2020.
		Develop community gardens at three senior centers	HOGARC AAA, Local Governments, UGA Extension Service	Staff Time	Staff Time	Staff Time				Community gardens have been established at 2 senior centers. Plans are currently on hold for the Emanuel County senior center garden until the COVID-19 pandemic expires.
	Advocate for gleaning to alleviate senior hunger	Create a gleaning group to pick produce and distribute to seniors	HOGARC AAA, Local Governments, UGA Extension Service	Staff Time	Staff Time	Staff Time				A gleaning group has been established as part of the Coalition for a Healthy Appling County. RC staff regularly coordinate efforts for the group.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission (HOGARC) prepared a new Regional Plan in 2019 as required by the Georgia Planning Act of 1989 and new Georgia Department of Community Affairs' Regional Planning Requirements; and

WHEREAS, this required Regional Plan consists of inventory, analysis, and preliminary identification of needs and delineation of implementation strategies to realize the identified regional vision and to address selected needs, including a HOGARC Regional Work Program; and

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

WHEREAS, the Regional Plan, entitled *Regional Plan 2040*, was first approved by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), and was then adopted by the Regional Council of the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission in May, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Commission prepared a new Regional Plan Update in 2020 in accordance with the DCA Regional Planning Requirements; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 HOGARC Regional Work Program Update included coordination with local governments, chambers of commerce, and many others in the Region, and resulted in a new HOGARC Work Program and other corresponding minor changes to the *Regional Plan 2040*.

WHEREAS, Georgia Department of Community Affairs has officially approved the 2020 HOGARC Regional Work Program Update and notified the HOGARC by formal letter dated July 13th, 2020; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Regional Council of the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission hereby approves and adopts this 2020 HOGARC Regional Work Program Update to its Regional Plan and authorizes its adoption resolution submittal to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

SO RESOLVED at the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission Council Meeting this 25th day of February, 2021.



Raymond Mullis, Chair



Attest
Brett Manning, Executive Director