



Northwest Georgia Prospers!
Regional Plan 2019-2023
Annual Report 2020





Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
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Front Cover Photos, clockwise from top right: Last Stop Gift Shop, Rome; New Echota Historic Site, Calhoun; Amphitheater, Rockmart; Downtown Dalton; Sloppy Floyd State Park, Summerville; Downtown Blue Ridge, photo credit City of Blue Ridge; Appalachian Regional Port, Eton; Chattooga Co. Courthouse; Center: Gordon County Administration Building; Praters Mill, Whitfield Co.

A RESOLUTION

TO ADOPT THE NORTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION REGIONAL PLAN
ANNUAL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION REPORT FOR 2020

WHEREAS, The Northwest Georgia Regional Commission has prepared an Annual Plan Implementation Report for 2020 on the Regional Plan, as required by the Minimum Standards and Procedures for Regional Planning of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs; and

WHEREAS, The Georgia Department of Community Affairs has reviewed and approved the Annual Plan Implementation Report.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

That the Annual Plan Implementation Report for 2020 on the Regional Plan is hereby adopted by the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Council.

SO RESOLVED, THIS 17th Day of September, 2020.



Ted Rumley,

Chairperson

Northwest Georgia Regional Commission

2020 Annual Report on the Implementation Program

Northwest Georgia Regional Plan 2019-2023

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2020 Annual Report on the Implementation Program

Northwest Georgia Regional Plan 2019-2023

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This is the 2020 annual report on the implementation program of the 2019 Regional Plan for Northwest Georgia, prepared according to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs Regional Planning Rules. It includes an annual Report of Accomplishments for FY 2019-2020, a report on the Local Government Minimum and Excellence Standards, and additions or deletions to the current work program.

The Northwest Georgia Regional Commission develops a long term plan for the region which identifies regional goals, needs, and an implementation program including a five year work program. The Regional Plan aligns with the Regionally Important Resource Plan and local Comprehensive Plans, as well as state plans and those of surrounding Regional Commissions (Georgia Mountains Regional Commission, Atlanta Regional Commission, and Three Rivers Regional Commission).

In Fall 2018, the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Council began the update process for the Regional Plan. The NWGRC Council served as the Steering Committee, which prepared the Regional Plan with input from the Technical Advisory Committee of Council members and NWGRC staff, invited stakeholders, and members of the public through a public planning process. In Spring 2019, the What Northwest Georgia Needs Most? Regional Survey garnered 1,860 responses



NWGRC Council Meeting, Regional Plan Update February 2019

and helped identify priorities for the region. The Regional Plan is prepared according to the Department of Community Affairs' 2017 Regional Planning Requirements. The Regional Plan includes Regional Goals and Policies; Regional Development Maps including the Regional Land Use Map, Conservation and Development Map, Areas Requiring Special Attention Map; Regional Needs and Opportunities; and the Implementation Program including Performance (Minimum and Excellence) Standards, Regional Work Program (2019-2023), and the Report of Accomplishments on the previous five-year program.

1.2 REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS (2019-2020)

The Report of Accomplishments (2018-2022) presents an annual status update on each project listed in the 2019-2023 Regional Work Program. Each project must be listed as either Ongoing, Completed, Dropped or Postponed. If the project is shown as Dropped or Postponed, a reason must be given to show the circumstances and changes that occurred. If the project is shown as Completed, the date completed is also shown. If a project is shown as Ongoing, it means it is currently in progress by the Regional Commission or another agency.

**Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
Report of Accomplishments (2019-2023)**

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing	Status
Economic Development							
Ensure infrastructure is in place across region to meet needs of existing and new business and industry.	Implement regional and local plans and strategies for infrastructure improvements needed to support job creation/retention and private investment	Assist 10-15 communities as identified annually to improve or expand infrastructure to support economic development through grant writing, planning, and document/plan updates	NWGRC	2020-2023 \$10,000/ YR			Ongoing
		Update the Northwest Georgia Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)	NWGRC	2022 \$10,000			Ongoing (Not yet begun)
Focus on improvement of skills for jobs in Northwest Georgia (specific training and skill development for the jobs and industries in our region).	Improve local and regional partnerships between industry/ business, workforce development providers, and educational institutions both K-12 and post-secondary, and community leadership.	Develop and implement education, training and employment opportunities for unemployed/ underemployed individuals in Northwest Georgia; provide leadership training and work ready skills for ages 14-21 by funding and monitoring approved training providers and technical colleges, and providing layoff support services, under direction of Workforce Development Board.	WIOA, Local Governments			\$7M/ yr annual program budget	Ongoing
		Review and update 2014 Northwest Georgia Advanced Manufacturing Strategic Plan; identify 5-6 top priorities for region and	NWGRC	2020 \$5,000			Ongoing

**Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
Report of Accomplishments (2019-2023)**

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing	Status
		prepare a plan of action to address those priorities					
Improve competitiveness of Northwest Georgia communities to attract and retain business and industry	Provide planning and funding assistance to increase economic competitiveness in coordination with state and federal agencies	Assist Gilmer Co., Rossville, Floyd Co., Polk Co. (designated federal Opportunity Zones) to develop a prospectus, market/ promote available sites and buildings, and determine public infrastructure investments needed	NWGRC, Appalachian Regional Commission, DCA	2020-2021 \$7,500 Est.			Dropped (project was not awarded but individual assistance is being provided)
		Provide loan packaging to assist 5-10 businesses each year to expand operations or add jobs, including assessment of need, preparation of loan packages and financial planning in partnership with SBDC, SBA, EDA and lending institutions	NWGRC, North Georgia CDC, Lenders, Businesses	2020-2023 \$95,000			Ongoing
Healthy Communities							
There is a lack of access to healthy food options; high poverty rates contribute to unhealthy lifestyles- cheap food, lack of health insurance	Expand agritourism and agribusiness opportunities; invest in local food systems	Implement 2013 North Georgia Local Food Assessment: Assist 1-3 communities/ year with planning, project development and grant writing to support local food systems	NWGRC, local govts and growers	2020-2023 \$5,000			Ongoing

**Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
Report of Accomplishments (2019-2023)**

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing	Status
		Work with Center for Rural Prosperity & Innovation to develop project parameters, identify local agritourism, growers and producers, and farmers markets interested in participating in a Highway 27 agritourism trail, and provide grant writing assistance for the project (similar to Hwy 41 Georgia Grown Trail or North Georgia Farm Trail)	NWGRC, ARC, Center for Rural Prosperity & Innovation	2020-2021 \$5,000 (est)			Ongoing (database being compiled of local farms, growers, and resources)
There is a need for additional resources and services for low-income, disabled, homeless individuals and those with mental health and substance abuse needs.	Work with local governments and community organizations to improve services to low-income, disabled, homeless individuals and those with mental health and substance abuse needs.	Provide planning and grant writing assistance for 1-3 local governments/ year to address needs regarding services for homeless, low income and disabled persons as identified in comprehensive plan or other local or regional plans.	NWGRC	2020-2023 \$5,000/ YR			Ongoing (some assistance in Winter 2019/ Spring 2020 to Polk County)
		Provide planning and grant writing assistance for 1-3 local governments/ year to address needs regarding services for mental health and substance abuse as identified in comprehensive plan or other local or regional plans	NWGRC	2020-2023 \$5,000/ YR			Ongoing

**Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
Report of Accomplishments (2019-2023)**

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing	Status
Housing							
There is a lack of safe, affordable housing and a lack of mid to high range housing investment in downtowns	Incentivize redevelopment of blighted or vacant areas for residential use; provide assistance for range of local government housing needs	Work with housing agencies, state agencies to hold 1-2 Housing Resource Workshops between 2020-2023 to provide resources and training for local governments and agencies on regional housing issues and needs	NWGRC, DCA, UGA, GICH, GA Conservancy, GA Power	2020- 2023 \$3,000			Ongoing
		Conduct a regional inventory of housing needs and prepare recommendations to address identified needs	NWGRC	2020-2021 \$5,000/ YR			Ongoing
		Assist 1-2 communities/ YR to apply for GA Initiatives for Community Housing (GICH), to prepare housing inventories and to implement GICH action plans	NWGRC, local governments	2020-2023 \$7,500/ YR			Ongoing (Currently assisting LaFayette-Rossville)
		Survey local governments to determine interest in “circuit-riding” or shared assistance program for code enforcement, zoning and related assistance	NWGRC	2020-2021 \$1,000/			Ongoing (Not yet begun)
		If enough communities express interest, develop local government pilot program for “circuit-riding” or shared assistance with code enforcement, zoning and related assistance	NWGRC, GICH, USDA, DCA, local governments	2022-2023 \$5,000			Ongoing (Not yet begun)

**Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
Report of Accomplishments (2019-2023)**

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing	Status
Natural and Historic Resources							
More people need to connect with Northwest Georgia's natural resources so they will enjoy and protect its diversity and beauty	Identify, protect, preserve and promote identified Regionally Important Resources	Update the Regional Resource Plan per Section 110-12-4-, 02(4) of Rules of Georgia Department of Community Affairs including recommended actions to address critical resources and improve access to natural resources	NWGRC	2019-2020 \$15,000			Ongoing (plan to complete in 2020)
		Implement RIR plan: Develop publicly accessible GIS database and maps highlighting region's historic, cultural and natural assets	NWGRC	2021-2023 \$7,500/ YR			Ongoing (Not yet begun)
	Promote trails, greenways and blueways; Improve safety, visibility, and access to trails and blueways and add access points	Provide planning and grant writing assistance to 1-3 communities/ year to improve safety and accessibility of trailheads/ put-ins on Pinhoti Trail, Etowah River, Appalachian Trail, and other river and trail corridors in region	NWGRC, local governments, DNR and grant agencies	2019-2023 \$7,500/ YR			Ongoing
Preserve irreplaceable historic and cultural resources through inventory, citizen engagement, planning and funding assistance	Identify and preserve historic and cultural resources	Prepare 1-2 National Register preliminary determinations and nominations for regionally significant historical assets each year (Grant Farm, LaFayette, Tunnel Hill, Cohutta/ St Andrews Chapel, Dallas Historic District, Cedartown Historic District, Bremen, others)	NWGRC, HPD	2019-2023 \$15,000/ YR			Ongoing (currently Prater's Mill, Dallas, Buchanan, Bremen, Cedartown)

**Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
Report of Accomplishments (2019-2023)**

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing	Status
		Digitize NWGRC historic resource documents including National Register listings, historic resource surveys	NWGRC, Bandy Heritage Center	2020-2023 \$6,000			Ongoing (Not yet begun)
		Assist 1-2 local governments/ YR to prevent loss of HPD Certified Local Government (CLG) status through technical assistance or grant writing to update ordinances, surveys, etc.	NWGRC, HPD, local govts	2019-2023 \$10,000/ YR			Ongoing (Currently assisting Cedartown)
Maintain surface and groundwater quality throughout the region to meet federal and state regulations	Apply for funding to improve water quality, manage stormwater, restore streambanks, and protect water resources in the region	Serve as stakeholder with McCaysville and Fannin County on 319h grant project for Toccoa River watershed	NWGRC, McCaysville, Fannin County, Limestone Valley RC&D	2020-2021 \$1,000			Ongoing (Not yet begun)
		Apply for funding to prepare Dozier Creek Watershed Management Plan	NWGRC	2021-2023 \$5,000			Ongoing (Not yet begun)
		Apply for funds to implement the 2019 Woodward Creek Watershed Management Plan	NWGRC, Floyd County	2020-2023 \$5,000			Ongoing (Not yet begun)
		Administer finances and grant funds and provide staff support for monthly and annual meetings of the North Georgia Water Resources Partnership, a regional organization of utility providers which advises the Coosa-North Georgia Water Council and assists the Council to	NWGRC	2019-2023 \$5,000/yr			Ongoing (annual meeting postponed to October 2020)

**Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
Report of Accomplishments (2019-2023)**

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing	Status
		implement the CNG Water Plan					
		Assist the North Georgia Water Resources Partnership, Coosa-North Georgia Water Council, or local governments and utilities to apply for state and federal funding to implement Regional Water Plans and related studies including the Grid Transmission Study and Redundancy and Emergency Interconnectivity Study	NWGRC	2020-2023 \$7,500/yr			Ongoing (FY2020 Seed Grant awarded to assess 303d listed streams)
		Apply for funds to work with GA EPD to develop a tool to prioritize delisting impaired streams in the Coosa-North Georgia Region and recommended implementation measures to delist these streams	Coosa-North Georgia Water Council, N GA Water Resources Partnership, NWGRC, GAEPD	2020-2023 \$5,000			Ongoing (SFY 2020 grant funds awarded)
Land Use							
Develop a coordinated long-term land use vision for Northwest Georgia that respects local land use plans and that balances conservation with development needs	Assist local governments to comply with current Georgia Zoning Procedures Law (O.C.G.A. 36-66-1, et seq.; 36-67-1, et seq.; and, 36-67A-1, et seq. as amended) and provide necessary technical assistance.	Assist 2-5 local governments each year with review and update of zoning ordinance and/or map	NWGRC, local governments	2020-2023 \$20,000/yr			Ongoing (Currently assisting Polk Co., Ellijay, Nelson, Pickens Co.)
		Work with training providers including UGA CVIOP, DCA, GAZA and GPA to provide at least one annual planning and zoning	NWGRC, local governments, Training providers (GAZA, GPA, DCA, UGA CVIOP)	2020-2023 \$1,000/ yr			Ongoing

**Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
Report of Accomplishments (2019-2023)**

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing	Status
		training in the region, and local training as requested					
Planning and Local Government Assistance							
Develop a coordinated long-term land use vision for Northwest Georgia that respects local land use plans	Assist local governments to prepare and implement Comprehensive Plans and service delivery strategies in accordance with the Georgia Planning Act and Service Delivery Strategy Act, to implement projects and initiatives in the comprehensive plan, and to apply for PlanFirst designation.	Assist 2-3 local governments/ year to prepare scheduled updates to local comprehensive plans	NWGRC, local governments	2020-2023 \$60,000/yr			Ongoing (currently assisting Chattooga and Catoosa Counties and municipalities)
		Assist 1-2 communities each year with PlanFirst applications	NWGRC, local governments	2020-2023 \$5,000/ yr			Ongoing (Bartow Co. currently)
		Meet with approx.15 governments each year to discuss implementation of the local comprehensive plan and regional plan, reporting requirements and other topics related to planning and implementation; assist with amendments as needed to reflect emerging priorities	NWGRC, local governments	2020-2023 \$7,500/yr			Ongoing (Gilmer Co. and Pickens Co. and municipalities)
		Provide assistance as requested to 1-3 communities/ year to review and update Service Delivery Strategy agreements either on the 10-year Comprehensive Plan update schedule or as service changes demand	NWGRC, local governments	2020-2023 \$3,500/ yr			Ongoing (Chattooga and Catoosa Counties and municipalities)

**Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
Report of Accomplishments (2019-2023)**

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing	Status
	Update the Regional Plan according to Georgia Department of Community Affairs' Standards and Procedures for Regional Planning	Update the <i>Northwest Georgia Regional Plan, 2019-2023</i> annually.	NWGRC	2023 \$7,500			Ongoing
Provide resources to assist local governments to meet demands of growth, reinvestment, needs of rural areas	Provide outreach, training and technical assistance on planning and development needs of local governments	Digitize legacy Developments of Regional Impact	NWGRC	2020-2023 \$1,000/ yr			Ongoing
		Prepare 20-30 local plan reviews, transportation plan review, environmental reviews, and Section 106 reviews, other coordinated reviews each year	NWGRC	2020-2023 \$5,000/ yr			Ongoing
		Develop marketing, branding, media, training and outreach materials for Regional Commission services and assistance; provide same assistance to 1-5 smaller local governments each year	NWGRC, local governments	2020-2023 \$5,000/ yr			Ongoing
Transportation							
Provide safe, efficient movement of people and goods through Northwest Georgia to enhance economic growth;	Improve coordination between local governments, GDOT, MPOs and federal agencies to implement regionally significant transportation projects	Participate in meetings of federal and state transportation agencies, Atlanta MPO, Chattanooga/Hamilton County/North Georgia TPO, Rome-Floyd County MPO, Greater Dalton MPO, Cartersville-Bartow County MPO; provide quarterly planning and coordination	NWGRC, GDOT, MPOs			Ongoing \$20,000/yr	Ongoing (currently meeting virtually or postponing due to Covid19)

**Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
Report of Accomplishments (2019-2023)**

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing	Status
		between these agencies and the NWGRC Council and non-MPO governments on regionally significant projects					
		Participate in GDOT Transit Plan update and GDOT 2050 Statewide Strategic Transportation Plan/ Statewide Transportation Plan and updates by attending public and stakeholder meetings, reviewing draft plan documents and preparing comments, both as NWGRC and as members of GAMPO and GA Transit Association	GDOT, NWGRC	2019-2020 \$5,000/ yr			Ongoing (curtailed due to COVID19)
		Participate in FHWA Nat'l Economic Partnership Grant freight and truck parking study and THRIVE transportation initiatives, representing NWGRC Counties of Dade, Walker, Catoosa, Whitfield, Murray	NWGRC	2019-2022 \$5,000/yr			Ongoing
Improve connectivity of bike and pedestrian pathways throughout the region	Implement bike & pedestrian safety plans, GA Bicycle/ Pedestrian Safety Action Plans, Safe Routes to School, implement Complete Streets design	Incorporate all local bike/ ped plans into a regional database; identify favorable connection corridors between bike/ ped infrastructure	NWGRC, GDOT, local govts and Bike!Walk!NWGA	2020-2021 \$10,000			Ongoing (in progress for Spring 2020)
		Assist local governments to prepare for regional TSPLOST/ TIA referendum: Reconvene TIA roundtable; hold regular meetings; assist	NWGRC, GDOT, local govts, legislative delegation	2020-2023 \$5,000			Ongoing

**Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
Report of Accomplishments (2019-2023)**

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing	Status
		with development of priorities, project list and data; Citizen Review Panels					
		Staff and administer and update website for Bike! Walk! Northwest Georgia to implement the Regional Bike and Pedestrian Safety Plan and local plans.	NWGRC, GDOT, local govts and Bike!Walk!NWGA	2020-2023 \$5,000/ yr			Ongoing (in progress for Spring 2020)
		Participate in 1-2 Safe Routes to School Resource Center walk safety audits per year and assist 1-2 schools and local governments/ year to implement audit recommendations and GDOT Complete Streets policies through planning, training, and grant writing assistance	NWGRC, GDOT, Safe Routes Resource Center	2020-2023 \$5,000/ yr			Ongoing (virtually Spring 2020)
	Develop more trails and trails systems that connect to parks, neighborhoods, retail centers, libraries, workplaces and downtowns	Assist Floyd County, Cave Spring, Cedartown and Polk County with planning and grant writing to implement the Cave Spring to Cedartown Trail Study	NWGRC, Floyd County, Cave Spring, Cedartown and Polk County, funding agencies	2020-2023 \$5,000			Ongoing
		Assist Catoosa, Dade, and Walker Counties and Cities with planning and grant writing to implement the 2015 NW GA Feasibility Study for Bikeway & Pedestrian Multi-Use Trails	NWGRC, Catoosa, Dade, and Walker Counties and Cities, funding agencies, Chick-Chatt Greenway Association, THRIVE2055	2019-2023 \$7,500			Ongoing

**Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
Report of Accomplishments (2019-2023)**

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing	Status
Broadband							
Improve broadband and telecommunication services	Partner with the Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative, local governments, providers, and other agencies and initiatives, and participate in the Georgia Broadband Ready Program.	Assist 1-5 communities/ year to apply for Broadband Ready designation	NWGRC, DCA, local governments, providers	2019-2023 Staff Time			Ongoing (assistance to Dade, Gordon, Fannin Counties and municipalities)
		Assist 1-3 local governments/ year to amend their comprehensive plans to include a Broadband Element	NWGRC, local governments	2019-2020 Staff Time			Ongoing (assistance to Dade, Gordon, Fannin Counties and municipalities)
		Implement key priorities of the 2014 Northwest Georgia Digital Economy Plan through the Regional Broadband Committee and GA Broadband Deployment Initiative, through grant writing and planning assistance	NWGRC, DCA, local governments, providers	2019-2023 Staff Time			Ongoing
		Regional Broadband Committee of NWGRC Council and NWGRC staff: With GA Broadband Deployment Initiative and providers, assist 5-10 local governments/ year to identify and prioritize service and speed demand, identify gaps in infrastructure and costs to address those gaps, and to develop local and/or regional plans of action or	NWGRC, DCA, local governments, providers	2020-2021 \$7,500/ yr			Ongoing

**Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
Report of Accomplishments (2019-2023)**

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing	Status
		feasibility study to address priority gaps in service					
		Provide planning and grant-writing assistance to 1-10 local governments/year to implement local broadband action plans or feasibility assessments	NWGRC, local governments, providers	2020-2021 \$7,500/ yr			Ongoing
	Assess needs regarding 5G, provide assistance and resources	Attend 2-3 workshops and trainings/ year, and provide training, planning and zoning, ordinance update and historic preservation assistance to 1-5 local governments per year concerning regulation and review of 5-G technologies; provide information to NWGRC Regional Council on quarterly basis	NWGRC, DCA, local governments, providers, GMA, ACCG	2020-2021 \$5,000/ yr			Ongoing (attended broadband sessions at 2019 Fall DCA Conference & 2019 GARC conference, and 2020 USDA ReConnect workshop)

1.3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT STANDARDS UPDATE

To encourage implementation of the Regional Plan, realize the Regional Vision and address the Regional Issues and Opportunities, the NWGRC set Minimum and Excellence thresholds for local governments as required by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Regional Planning Requirements. The Minimum Standard includes essential activities for consistency with the Regional Plan, while the Excellence Standard includes desirable activities for consistency with the Regional Plan.

1.3.1 Minimum Standard

The Minimum Standard requirements are the same for all local governments in the region, as follows:

Number	Minimum Standard Requirement
Min1	The local government has a comprehensive plan that complies with the <i>Rules of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, Chapter 110-12-1, Minimum Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning</i> and has been officially adopted by the local governing authority.
Min2	The local government has a Service Delivery Strategy (O.C.G.A. 36-70-22) that is verified by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and has been officially adopted by the local governing authority.
Min3	The municipal/county clerk meets the mandated orientation training as specified in State law (O.C.G.A. sections 36-1-24 and 36-45-20).
Min4	Newly elected municipal/county officials participate in training sponsored by the Georgia Municipal Association or the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia.
Min5	The local government uses the Guiding Principles contained in the Northwest Georgia Regional Plan as guidance for making decisions consistent with achieving the Regional Vision or addressing the Regional Priorities and Strategies.
Min6	The local government uses the General Policies and Protection Measures in the <i>Northwest Georgia Regionally Important Resource Plan</i> when making decisions that affect Regionally Important Resources.
Min7	The local government complies with the <i>Rules of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, Chapter 110-12-3, for Developments of Regional Impact</i> .
Min8	A hazard mitigation plan approved by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency has been officially adopted by the local governing authority.
Min9	The local government has the ability to send and receive electronic communications.
Min10	The local government meets state financial reporting requirements.
Min11	The local government meets E-Verify requirements through Department of Audits.

Due to COVID19, DCA and the Department of Audits and Accounts (DOAA) are offering a combined, one-time 90-day extension for local government audits and Reports of Local Government Finance. This extension is applicable to FY2019 submissions, and is available for those local governments with reporting due dates of March 31, 2020-June 30,2020 (FYE dates of September 30-December 31, 2019). This includes 35 cities and counties in Northwest Georgia: City of Adairsville, Bartow County, City of Blue Ridge, Catoosa County, City of Cedartown, City of Chatsworth, Chattooga County, City of Chickamauga, Town of Cohutta, City of Dalton, City of Ellijay, City of Eton, City of Euharlee, City of Fairmount, Fannin County, Floyd County, City of Fort Oglethorpe, Gilmer County, City of Jasper, City of Kingston, City of

LaFayette, Lyerly Town, Murray County, Pickens County, City of Plainville, Town of Ranger, City of Ringgold, City of Rome, City of Rossville, City of Trenton, City of Tunnel Hill, City of Varnell, Walker County, City of White, Whitfield County. State records indicated smaller communities including Aragon, Braswell, Plainville, Ranger, White, and Taylorsville, and Bremen, may have previous year reports due as well. Since the other minimum planning standards are met NWGRC feels these communities substantially meet the minimum standards.

1.3.2 Excellence Standard

The Excellence Standard is based on a “point system” whereby a local government is asked to consider a menu of best practices to achieve a threshold of points. Each recommended Excellence Standard activity is assigned a value of 1, 2, or 3 points based on its complexity of accomplishment and/or its consistency with the Regional Plan. The NWGRC recognizes that local governments in the region have different needs and capacities. Consequently, the Excellence Standard threshold is established at three different levels: basic (Tier 1), intermediate (Tier 2), and advanced (Tier 3), as follows:

Tiers / Levels	Excellence Standard Thresholds
Tier 1 (Basic Level) – Municipalities with a population of less than 3,000; counties with a population of less than 30,000	Tier 1 local governments must achieve 75 total points, with at least 7 points coming from each of the seven categories.
Tier 2 (Intermediate Level) - Municipalities with a population of 3,000 to 9,999; counties with a population 30,000 to 69,999.	Tier 2 local governments must achieve 150 total points, with at least 13 points coming from each of the seven categories.
Tier 3 (Advanced Level) - Municipalities with a population of 10,000 or greater; counties with a population of 70,000 or greater	Tier 3 local governments must achieve 225 total points, with at least 20 points coming from each of the seven categories.

Each recommended Excellence Standard activity a local government implements will count toward achieving the appropriate Excellence Standard threshold indicated above. Any local government that attains the appropriate threshold may be awarded recognition as a “Regional Steward” for its accomplishments and will be eligible for special incentives identified by the Department of Community Affairs.

Several communities including Paulding, Bartow, Gilmer, and Floyd Counties have reviewed the Excellence Standards but no community has yet been recognized as a Regional Steward.

1.4 REGIONAL WORK PROGRAM REVISIONS

Assistance with SBA existing loans and new emergency funding related to COVID 19 has been in great demand. Additionally, severe weather impacts from April 12, 2020 and related assistance requests are now in progress. Overall, COVID-19 responses in March- April 2020 have caused dramatic changes in operations for local governments, our Regional Commission and have affected projects in progress, but have not caused changes to the work program. We have added two projects to the work program (#3) and deleted one project.

**Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
Regional Work Program (2019-2023)**

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing
Economic Development						
Ensure infrastructure is in place across region to meet needs of existing and new business and industry.	Implement regional and local plans and strategies for infrastructure improvements needed to support job creation/retention and private investment	1. Assist 10-15 communities as identified annually to improve or expand infrastructure to support economic development through grant writing, planning, and document/plan updates	NWGRC	2020-2023 \$10,000/ YR		
		2. Update the Northwest Georgia Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)	NWGRC	2022 \$10,000		
		3. <u>Apply for Cares Act Supplemental Assistance for EDD Partnership Planning Grant Funds</u>	<u>NWGRC</u>	<u>2020 Amount TBD</u>		
Focus on improvement of skills for jobs in Northwest Georgia (specific training and skill development for the jobs and industries in our region).	Improve local and regional partnerships between industry/ business, workforce development providers, and educational institutions both K-12 and post-secondary, and community leadership.	4. Develop and implement education, training and employment opportunities for unemployed/ underemployed individuals in Northwest Georgia; provide leadership training and work ready skills for ages 14-21 by funding and monitoring approved training providers and technical colleges, and providing layoff support services, under direction of Workforce Development Board.	WIOA, Local Governments			\$7M/ yr annual program budget

**Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
Regional Work Program (2019-2023)**

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing
		5. Review and update 2014 Northwest Georgia Advanced Manufacturing Strategic Plan; identify 5-6 top priorities for region and prepare a plan of action to address those priorities	NWGRC	2020 \$5,000		
Improve competitiveness of Northwest Georgia communities to attract and retain business and industry	Provide planning and funding assistance to increase economic competitiveness in coordination with state and federal agencies	Assist Gilmer Co., Rossville, Floyd Co., Polk Co. (designated federal Opportunity Zones) to develop a prospectus, market/ promote available sites and buildings, and determine public infrastructure investments needed	NWGRC, Appalachian Regional Commission, DCA	2020-2021 \$7,500 Est.		
		6. Provide loan packaging to assist 5-10 businesses each year to expand operations or add jobs, including assessment of need, preparation of loan packages and financial planning in partnership with SBDC, SBA, EDA and lending institutions, and with COVID-19-related loan assistance	NWGRC, North Georgia CDC, Lenders, Businesses	2020-2023 \$95,000		
Healthy Communities						
There is a lack of access to healthy food options; high poverty rates contribute to	Expand agritourism and agribusiness opportunities; invest in local food systems	7. Implement 2013 North Georgia Local Food Assessment: Assist 1-3 communities/ year with planning, project development	NWGRC, local govts and growers	2020-2023 \$5,000		

**Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
Regional Work Program (2019-2023)**

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing
unhealthy lifestyles- cheap food, lack of health insurance		and grant writing to support local food systems				
		8. Work with Center for Rural Prosperity & Innovation to develop project parameters, identify local agritourism, growers and producers, and farmers markets interested in participating in a Highway 27 agritourism trail, and provide grant writing assistance for the project (similar to Hwy 41 Georgia Grown Trail or North Georgia Farm Trail)	NWGRC, ARC, Center for Rural Prosperity & Innovation	2020-2021 \$5,000 (est)		
There is a need for additional resources and services for low- income, disabled, homeless individuals and those with mental health and substance abuse needs.	Work with local governments and community organizations to improve services to low-income, disabled, homeless individuals and those with mental health and substance abuse needs.	9. Provide planning and grant writing assistance for 1-3 local governments/ year to address needs regarding services for homeless, low income and disabled persons as identified in comprehensive plan or other local or regional plans.	NWGRC	2020-2023 \$5,000/ YR		
		10. Provide planning and grant writing assistance for 1-3 local governments/ year to address needs regarding services for mental health and substance abuse as identified in comprehensive plan or other local or regional plans	NWGRC	2020-2023 \$5,000/ YR		

**Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
Regional Work Program (2019-2023)**

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing
Housing						
There is a lack of safe, affordable housing and a lack of mid to high range housing investment in downtowns	Incentivize redevelopment of blighted or vacant areas for residential use; provide assistance for range of local government housing needs	11. Work with housing agencies, state agencies to hold 1-2 Housing Resource Workshops between 2020-2023 to provide resources and training for local governments and agencies on regional housing issues and needs	NWGRC, DCA, UGA, GICH, GA Conservancy, GA Power	2020- 2023 \$3,000		
		12. Conduct a regional inventory of housing needs and prepare recommendations to address identified needs	NWGRC	2020-2021 \$5,000/ YR		
		13. Assist 1-2 communities/ YR to apply for GA Initiatives for Community Housing (GICH), to prepare housing inventories and to implement GICH action plans	NWGRC, local governments	2020-2023 \$7,500/ YR		
		14. Survey local governments to determine interest in “circuit-riding” or shared assistance program for code enforcement, zoning and related assistance	NWGRC	2020-2021 \$1,000/		
		15. If enough communities express interest, develop local government pilot program for “circuit-riding” or shared assistance with code enforcement, zoning and related assistance	NWGRC, GICH, USDA, DCA, local governments	2022-2023 \$5,000		

**Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
Regional Work Program (2019-2023)**

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing
Natural and Historic Resources						
More people need to connect with Northwest Georgia's natural resources so they will enjoy and protect its diversity and beauty	Identify, protect, preserve and promote identified Regionally Important Resources	16. Update the Regional Resource Plan per Section 110-12-4-, 02(4) of Rules of Georgia Department of Community Affairs including recommended actions to address critical resources and improve access to natural resources	NWGRC	2019-2020 \$15,000		
		17. Implement RIR plan: Develop publicly accessible GIS database and maps highlighting region's historic, cultural and natural assets	NWGRC	2021-2023 \$7,500/ YR		
	Promote trails, greenways and blueways; Improve safety, visibility, and access to trails and blueways and add access points	18. Provide planning and grant writing assistance to 1-3 communities/ year to improve safety and accessibility of trailheads/ put-ins on Pinhoti Trail, Etowah River, Appalachian Trail, and other river and trail corridors in region	NWGRC, local governments, DNR and grant agencies	2019-2023 \$7,500/ YR		
Preserve irreplaceable historic and cultural resources through inventory, citizen engagement, planning and funding assistance	Identify and preserve historic and cultural resources	19. Prepare 1-2 National Register preliminary determinations and nominations for regionally significant historical assets each year (Grant Farm, LaFayette, Tunnel Hill, Cohutta/ St Andrews Chapel, Dallas Historic District,	NWGRC, HPD	2019-2023 \$15,000/ YR		

**Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
Regional Work Program (2019-2023)**

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing
		Cedartown Historic District, Bremen, others)				
		20. Digitize NWGRC historic resource documents including National Register listings, historic resource surveys	NWGRC, Bandy Heritage Center	2020-2023 \$6,000		
		21. Assist 1-2 local governments/ YR to prevent loss of HPD Certified Local Government (CLG) status through technical assistance or grant writing to update ordinances, surveys, etc.	NWGRC, HPD, local govts	2019-2023 \$10,000/ YR		
Maintain surface and groundwater quality throughout the region to meet federal and state regulations	Apply for funding to improve water quality, manage stormwater, restore streambanks, and protect water resources in the region	22. Serve as stakeholder with McCaysville and Fannin County on 319h grant project for Toccoa River watershed	NWGRC, McCaysville, Fannin County, Limestone Valley RC&D	2020-2021 \$1,000		
		23. Apply for funding to prepare Dozier Creek Watershed Management Plan	NWGRC	2021-2023 \$5,000		
		24. Apply for funds to implement the 2019 Woodward Creek Watershed Management Plan	NWGRC, Floyd County	2020-2023 \$5,000		
		25. Administer finances and grant funds and provide staff support for monthly and annual meetings of the North Georgia Water Resources Partnership, a regional organization of utility providers which advises the	NWGRC	2019-2023 \$5,000/yr		

**Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
Regional Work Program (2019-2023)**

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing
		Coosa-North Georgia Water Council and assists the Council to implement the CNG Water Plan				
		26. Assist the North Georgia Water Resources Partnership, Coosa-North Georgia Water Council, or local governments and utilities to apply for state and federal funding to implement Regional Water Plans and related studies including the Grid Transmission Study and Redundancy and Emergency Interconnectivity Study	NWGRC	2020-2023 \$7,500/yr		
		27. Work with GA EPD to develop a tool to prioritize delisting impaired streams in the Coosa-North Georgia Region and recommended implementation measures to delist these streams	Coosa-North Georgia Water Council, N GA Water Resources Partnership, NWGRC, GAEPD	2020-2023 \$5,000		
Land Use						
Develop a coordinated long-term land use vision for Northwest Georgia that respects local land use plans and that balances	Assist local governments to comply with current Georgia Zoning Procedures Law (O.C.G.A. 36-66-1, et seq.; 36-67-1, et seq.; and, 36-67A-1, et	28. Assist 2-5 local governments each year with review and update of zoning ordinance and/or map	NWGRC, local governments	2020-2023 \$20,000/yr		
		29. Work with training providers including UGA CVIOG, DCA, GAZA and	NWGRC, local governments, Training	2020-2023 \$1,000/ yr		

**Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
Regional Work Program (2019-2023)**

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing
conservation with development needs	seq. as amended) and provide necessary technical assistance.	GPA to provide at least one annual planning and zoning training in the region, and local training as requested	providers (GAZA, GPA, DCA, UGA CVIOG)			
Planning and Local Government Assistance						
Develop a coordinated long-term land use vision for Northwest Georgia that respects local land use plans	Assist local governments to prepare and implement Comprehensive Plans and service delivery strategies in accordance with the Georgia Planning Act and Service Delivery Strategy Act, to implement projects and initiatives in the comprehensive plan, and to apply for PlanFirst designation.	30. Assist 2-3 local governments/ year to prepare scheduled updates to local comprehensive plans	NWGRC, local governments	2020-2023 \$60,000/yr		
		31. Assist 1-2 communities each year with PlanFirst applications	NWGRC, local governments	2020-2023 \$5,000/ yr		
		32. Meet with approx.15 governments each year to discuss implementation of the local comprehensive plan and regional plan, reporting requirements and other topics related to planning and implementation; assist with amendments as needed to reflect emerging priorities	NWGRC, local governments	2020-2023 \$7,500/yr		
		33. Provide assistance as requested to 1-3 communities/ year to review and update Service Delivery Strategy agreements either on the 10-year Comprehensive Plan update schedule or as service changes demand	NWGRC, local governments	2020-2023 \$3,500/ yr		
	Update the Regional Plan according to Georgia Department of	34. Update the <i>Northwest Georgia Regional Plan, 2019-2023</i> annually.	NWGRC	2023 \$7,500		

**Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
Regional Work Program (2019-2023)**

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing
	Community Affairs' Standards and Procedures for Regional Planning					
Provide resources to assist local governments to meet demands of growth, reinvestment, needs of rural areas	Provide outreach, training and technical assistance on planning and development needs of local governments	35. Digitize legacy Developments of Regional Impact	NWGRC	2020-2023 \$1,000/ yr		
		36. Prepare 20-30 local plan reviews, transportation plan review, environmental reviews, and Section 106 reviews, other coordinated reviews each year	NWGRC	2020-2023 \$5,000/ yr		
		37. Develop marketing, branding, media, training and outreach materials for Regional Commission services and assistance; provide same assistance to 1-5 smaller local governments each year	NWGRC, local governments	2020-2023 \$5,000/ yr		
Transportation						
Provide safe, efficient movement of people and goods through Northwest Georgia to enhance economic growth;	Improve coordination between local governments, GDOT, MPOs and federal agencies to implement regionally significant transportation projects	38. Participate in meetings of federal and state transportation agencies, Atlanta MPO, Chattanooga/Hamilton County/North Georgia TPO, Rome-Floyd County MPO, Greater Dalton MPO, Cartersville-Bartow County MPO; provide quarterly planning and coordination between these agencies and the NWGRC Council and non-	NWGRC, GDOT, MPOs			Ongoing \$20,000/yr

**Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
Regional Work Program (2019-2023)**

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing
		MPO governments on regionally significant projects				
		39. Participate in GDOT Transit Plan update and GDOT 2050 Statewide Strategic Transportation Plan/ Statewide Transportation Plan and updates by attending public and stakeholder meetings, reviewing draft plan documents and preparing comments, both as NWGRC and as members of GAMPO and GA Transit Association	GDOT, NWGRC	2019-2020 \$5,000/ yr		
		40. <u>Prepare Regional Transit Study/ Assessment</u>	<u>GDOT, NWGRC</u>	<u>2020-2021</u> <u>\$40,000</u>		
		41. Participate in FHWA Nat'l Economic Partnership Grant freight and truck parking study and THRIVE transportation initiatives, representing NWGRC Counties of Dade, Walker, Catoosa, Whitfield, Murray	NWGRC	2019-2022 \$5,000/yr		
Improve connectivity of bike and pedestrian pathways throughout the region	Implement bike & pedestrian safety plans, GA Bicycle/ Pedestrian Safety Action Plans, Safe Routes to School, implement Complete Streets design	42. Incorporate all local bike/ ped plans into a regional database; identify favorable connection corridors between bike/ ped infrastructure	NWGRC, GDOT, local govts and Bike!Walk!NWGA	2020-2021 \$10,000		
		43. Assist local governments to prepare for regional TSPLOST/ TIA referendum: Reconvene TIA roundtable;	NWGRC, GDOT, local govts, legislative delegation	2020-2023 \$5,000		

**Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
Regional Work Program (2019-2023)**

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing
		hold regular meetings; assist with development of priorities, project list and data; Citizen Review Panels				
		44. Staff and administer and update website for Bike! Walk! Northwest Georgia to implement the Regional Bike and Pedestrian Safety Plan and local plans.	NWGRC, GDOT, local govts and Bike!Walk!NWGA	2020-2023 \$5,000/ yr		
		45. Participate in 1-2 Safe Routes to School Resource Center walk safety audits per year and assist 1-2 schools and local governments/ year to implement audit recommendations and GDOT Complete Streets policies through planning, training, and grant writing assistance	NWGRC, GDOT, Safe Routes Resource Center	2020-2023 \$5,000/ yr		
	Develop more trails and trails systems that connect to parks, neighborhoods, retail centers, libraries, workplaces and downtowns	46. Assist Floyd County, Cave Spring, Cedartown and Polk County with planning and grant writing to implement the Cave Spring to Cedartown Trail Study	NWGRC, Floyd County, Cave Spring, Cedartown and Polk County, funding agencies	2020-2023 \$5,000		
		47. Assist Catoosa, Dade, and Walker Counties and Cities with planning and grant writing to implement the 2015 NW GA Feasibility Study for Bikeway & Pedestrian Multi-Use Trails	NWGRC, Catoosa, Dade, and Walker Counties and Cities, funding agencies, Chick-Chatt Greenway Association, THRIVE2055	2019-2023 \$7,500		

**Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
Regional Work Program (2019-2023)**

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing
Broadband						
Improve broadband and telecommunication services	Partner with the Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative, local governments, providers, and other agencies and initiatives, and participate in the Georgia Broadband Ready Program.	48. Assist 1-5 communities/ year to apply for Broadband Ready designation	NWGRC, DCA, local governments, providers	2019-2023 Staff Time		
		49. Assist 1-3 local governments/ year to amend their comprehensive plans to include a Broadband Element	NWGRC, local governments	2019-2020 Staff Time		
		50. Implement key priorities of the 2014 Northwest Georgia Digital Economy Plan through the Regional Broadband Committee and GA Broadband Deployment Initiative, through grant writing and planning assistance	NWGRC, DCA, local governments, providers	2019-2023 Staff Time		
		51. Regional Broadband Committee of NWGRC Council and NWGRC staff: With GA Broadband Deployment Initiative and providers, assist 5-10 local governments/ year to identify and prioritize service and speed demand, identify gaps in infrastructure and costs to address those gaps, and to develop local and/or regional plans of action or feasibility study to address priority gaps in service	NWGRC, DCA, local governments, providers	2020-2021 \$7,500/ yr		

**Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
Regional Work Program (2019-2023)**

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing
		52. Provide planning and grant-writing assistance to 1-10 local governments/year to implement local broadband action plans or feasibility assessments	NWGRC, local governments, providers	2020-2021 \$7,500/ yr		
	Assess needs regarding 5G, provide assistance and resources	53. Attend 2-3 workshops and trainings/ year, and provide training, planning and zoning, ordinance update and historic preservation assistance to 1-5 local governments per year concerning regulation and review of 5-G technologies; provide information to NWGRC Regional Council on quarterly basis	NWGRC, DCA, local governments, providers, GMA, ACCG	2020-2021 \$5,000/ yr		

NWGRC

NORTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

A Region With A Bright Future



Rome Office: P.O. Box 1798, Rome, Georgia 30162-1798 Phone (706) 295-6485 www.nwgrc.org
RC Fax (706) 295-6665 AAA Fax (706) 802-5508 WIA Fax (706) 802-5567

Dalton Office: 503 West Waugh Street, Dalton, Georgia 30720 Phone (706) 272-2300 Fax (706) 272-2253

August 20, 2020

Kyle Hood
Division Director, Community Development
Georgia Department of Community Affairs
Office of Planning and Environmental Management
60 Executive Park South, NE
Atlanta, GA

RE: NWGRC Regional Plan Annual Implementation Program Draft Report Submittal

Dear Mr. Hood:

The Northwest Georgia Regional Commission has completed an annual implementation update of its regional plan and is submitting it with this letter for review by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

I certify that we have held one required public hearing at the meeting of the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Council on August 20, 2020, and have involved regional stakeholders, namely, the Northwest Georgia Regional Council, Georgia DCA, and Georgia Department of Economic Development, in development of the annual report in a manner appropriate to our region's dynamics and resources and in accordance with the Standards and Procedures for Regional Planning, Chapter 110-12-6. Evidence of the public hearing and stakeholder involvement is included with our submittal.

I certify that appropriate regional staff and decision-makers have, at a minimum, reviewed the following planning documents and taken them into consideration in formulating our annual report:

- *Georgia's Plan for Outdoor Recreation: SCORP 2017-2021,*
- *Coosa North Georgia Regional Water Plan (2017),*
- *Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Water Resource Management Plan (2017)*
- *Middle Chattahoochee Regional Water Plan (2017)*
- *Northwest Georgia's Economic Development Strategy 2017-2022 (CEDs),*
- *Greater Dalton Metropolitan Planning Organization FY2015-2018 Adopted TIP, 2045 Regional Transportation Plan Update of the Chattanooga Hamilton County-North Georgia TPO and 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Plan, Cartersville-Bartow County MPO Long Range Transportation Plan 2050 Update/ FY2018-2020 TIP, Floyd County- Rome 2018-2021 TIP, Atlanta Regional Commission MPO FY 2018-2023 TIP Project List, Georgia DOT Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan 2018-2021*
- *Georgia Mountains Regional Commission 2019 Regional Plan*
- *Three Rivers Plan Update 2019*

NWGRC Regional Plan Annual Report Submittal, p. 2.

If you have any questions concerning our submittal, please contact Julianne Meadows, Director of Regional Planning, at jmeadows@nwgrc.org or (706) 295-6485.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lloyd Frasier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lloyd" and last name "Frasier" clearly distinguishable.

Lloyd Frasier, Executive Director

Enclosures

Kemp drops lawsuit against Atlanta mask, public gathering restrictions

♦ The governor says he will instead take action in a new executive order.

By Beau Evans
Capitol Beat News Service

Gov. Brian Kemp is dropping a lawsuit against Atlanta officials and Mayor M. Keith Anderson, who remained in jail with no bond Thursday.

Rome man arrested in Heritage Park on trespassing charge

A 43-year-old man was being held at the Floyd County Jail on a \$10,900 bond Thursday, facing for two failure to appear charges and felony obstruction of an officer, reports stated.

According to Floyd County Jail reports: Senika Gamaze Turman, 43, was sleeping on a bench in a gazebo at Heritage Park after dark when Rome police officers found him. He threatened officers during the arrest, saying he would cause them bodily harm.

Turman is also charged with misdemeanor criminal trespass and terrorist threats and acts.

that safeguards the rights of private property owners in Georgia.

"Given this stalemate in negotiations, we will address this very issue in the next executive order," Kemp said in a statement. "We will continue to protect the lives and livelihoods of all Georgians."

State officials said negotiations with Bottoms stalled. Finley is also charged with felony firearm possession during the commission of a felony, misdemeanor obstruction of officers, suspended license and tag light violation.

Both Finley and Harper were released on bond Thursday morning.

2 charged with meth possession, reckless conduct in Cave Spring

A Cave Spring man and a woman were charged with felony meth possession, two counts of misdemeanor reckless conduct and possession of drug-related objects during a traffic stop, reports stated.

According to Floyd County Jail reports: John McKinley Hudgins, 55, and Brooke Nicole Baldwin, 33, were pulled over for driving a car with no rear

a Fulton County Superior Court judge declare unlawful a citywide masking requirement imposed by Bottoms earlier in July.

It marked an intense ratcheting up of the dispute between Kemp, who has insisted on keeping mask-wearing voluntary, and several Georgia mayors including Bottoms, who want local control over mandatory measures to help

According to Floyd County Jail reports: Tesla Rene Roderick, 19, is accused of stealing a 2006 blue Ford Mustang worth approximately \$6,000.

Report: Lindale man had meth, pipe

A Lindale man is charged with felony meth possession and misdemeanor possession of drug-related objects, reports stated.

According to Floyd County Jail reports:

Rickey Lamar Turner, 42, of Lindale, was arrested outside of Bargain Hunt on Shorter Avenue after Rome police officers found methamphetamine and a pipe in his possession. He is also charged with parole violation. Turner remained in jail with no bond Thursday.

Olivia Morley, staff writer



AP Richard Vogel
Artist Karla Funderburk, owner of Matter Studio Gallery, adjusts one of the thousands of origami cranes hanging during an exhibit honoring the victims of COVID-19 in Los Angeles. "I was feeling the loss, and one way to process that was I started folding cranes. Cranes the same period last year. can increase the severity or overwhelming."

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE NORTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

The Northwest Georgia Regional Commission has prepared a draft Annual Report on the Implementation Plan of the 2019 Northwest Georgia Regional Plan, in accordance with the Standards and Procedures for Regional Planning, Chapter 110-12-6. The draft annual report includes a report of accomplishments on projects completed in 2019-2020, a local government performance standards update, and updates to the regional work program for 2019-2023.

The draft annual report has been prepared with review and consideration of the Northwest Georgia Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, Regional Water Plans, Georgia's Plan for Outdoor Recreation, SCORP 2017-2021, Metropolitan Planning Organization transportation plans, and adjacent Regional Commissions' regional plans.

A public hearing is scheduled for the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission to accept comments on the draft annual report. After the public hearing, the draft annual report will be submitted to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for approval.

The public hearing on the draft annual report will be held on Thursday, August 20, 2020, at the meeting of the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission, Council beginning at 11:00 am, at the Rome Civic Center, 400 Civic Center Drive Rome, Georgia 30161.

The draft annual report can be viewed on the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission website, www.nwgrc.org.

Posted on NWGRC website:

www.nwgrc.org

NWGRC

NORTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION



Northwest Georgia Regional Commission is proud to be recognized as a Certified Organization of Ethics by the Georgia Municipal Association.

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Mission Statement: To improve the quality of life for every Northwest Georgia resident, through orderly growth, conservation of the region's natural and historic resources, and care and development of the region's human resources.

The Northwest Georgia Regional Commission is a multi-county organization consisting of 15 Northwest Georgia counties and 49 municipalities. Major responsibilities of the Regional Commission include: (1) implementation of the Georgia Planning Act of 1989; (2) administration of the Area Agency on Aging; (3) administration of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act; and (4) providing planning and development assistance to member governments in areas they could not otherwise afford.

READ MORE



Ted M. Rumley
2020/2021 Chairperson

About the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission

Area Agency On Aging

Planning, Community & Economic Development

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Program

Meetings & Announcements

Public Hearing Notice – Draft 2020 Annual Implementation Report on the NWGRC Regional Plan – August 20, 2020

NWGRC Council Meeting – August 20, 2020

NWGRC Council Meeting – March 19, 2020

Recent Publications

DRAFT 2020 Annual Implementation Report on NWGRC Regional Plan posted on August 12th, 2020

Water-Related Educational and Outreach Resources for Georgia posted on July 30th, 2020

Serving the following counties



Tentative Agenda for August 20, 2020 NWGRC Council meeting

TENTATIVE AGENDA

NORTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION COUNCIL

11:00 A. M.
Thursday, August 20, 2020

Civic Center - Rome, Georgia

1. Call to Order – Commissioner Ted Rumley, Chairperson
 - Invocation
 - Pledge of Allegiance
2. Establishment of Quorum – Commissioner Shannon Whitfield, NWGRC Secretary
3. Ratification of New Nonpublic Council Member, as Recommended – Ted Rumley
 - Floyd County – Chris Butler
4. Approval: Minutes of the February 20, 2020, Northwest Georgia Regional Commission (NWGRC) Council Meeting – Ted Rumley
5. Department of Finance – Joey Cumbie, Director
 - Update on Financial Status
 - Approval of NWGRC's New EDA RLF Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Revolving Loan Fund Supplemental Disaster Recovery and Resiliency Award Plan
6. Department of Regional Planning – Julianne Meadows, Director
7. Department of Workforce Development – Lesia Lambert, Director
8. Area Agency on Aging – Lynne Reeves, Director
9. Adoption of FY 2020-2121 NWGRC Annual Work Program – Lloyd Frasier, Executive Director
10. Executive Director's Report/Update – Lloyd Frasier
11. Report from Personnel and Financial Management (PFM) Committee
 - FY 2020 Amended Budget
 - FY 2021 Budget
 - Fund Balance
12. Public Hearing on Draft Annual Update to Regional Plan – Julianne Meadows
13. Old/New Business
14. Adjournment/Lunch

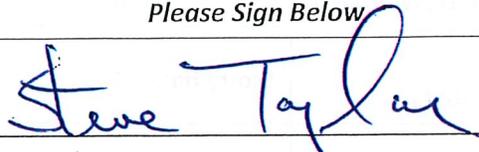
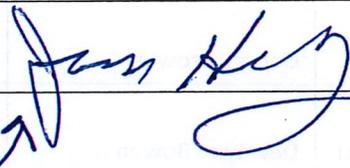
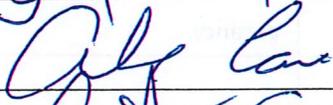
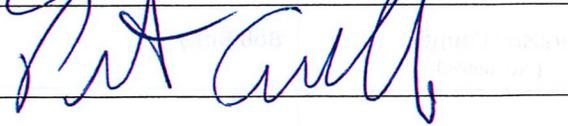
Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Council Meeting

Thursday, August 20, 2020 11:00 A.M.

Rome Civic Center, Rome, Georgia

Sign-in Sheet (Page 1)

COUNCIL MEMBERS

<i>County/City/Nonpublic</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Please Sign Below</i>
Bartow County	Steve Taylor	
City of Cartersville	Jayce Stepp	
Bartow County (Nonpublic)	Clarence Brown	
Catoosa County	Jim Cutler	
City of Fort Oglethorpe	Rhonda James	
Catoosa County (Nonpublic)	Vacancy	
Chattooga County	Jason Winters	
City of Summerville	Harry Harvey	
Chattooga County (Nonpublic)	Jim Henry	
Dade County	Ted Rumley	
City of Trenton	Alex-Case	
Dade County (Nonpublic)	Peter Cervelli	
Fannin County	Stan Helton	
City of Blue Ridge	Donna Whitener	
Fannin County (Nonpublic)	Joe Cipolla	

Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Council Meeting

Thursday, August 20, 2020 11:00 A.M.

Rome Civic Center, Rome, Georgia

Sign-in Sheet (Page 2)

COUNCIL MEMBERS

<i>County/City/Nonpublic</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Please Sign Below</i>
Floyd County	Scotty Hancock	
City of Rome	Wendy Davis	<i>Wendy Davis</i>
Floyd County (Nonpublic)	Chris Butler	<i>Chris Butler</i>
Gilmer County	Charlie Paris	
City of Ellijay	Al Hoyle	<i>Al Hoyle</i>
Gilmer County (Nonpublic)	Kent W. Sanford	<i>Kent Sanford</i>
Gordon County	M.L. Bud Owens	
City of Calhoun	George Crowley	
Gordon County (Nonpublic)	Dewayne Bowen	
Haralson County	Ronnie Ridley	<i>Ronnie Ridley</i>
City of Bremen	Vacancy	
Haralson County (Nonpublic)	Bob Birky	<i>Bob Birky</i>
Murray County	Greg Hogan	<i>Greg Hogan</i>
City of Chatsworth	K.W. Gong	<i>K.W. Gong</i>
Murray County (Nonpublic)	Steve Noland	

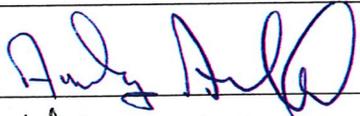
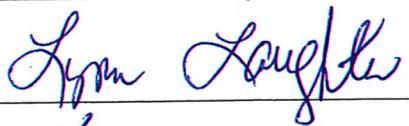
Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Council Meeting

Thursday, August 20, 2020 11:00 A.M.

Rome Civic Center, Rome, Georgia

Sign-in Sheet (Page 3)

COUNCIL MEMBERS

County/City/Nonpublic	Name	Please Sign Below
Paulding County	David Carmichael	
City of Dallas	Vacancy	
Paulding County (Nonpublic)	David Austin	
Pickens County	Robert Jones	
City of Jasper	Steve Lawrence	
Pickens County (Nonpublic)	Gary Reece	
Polk County	Linda Liles	
City of Cedartown	Vacancy	
Polk County (Nonpublic)	Alan Dean	
Walker County	Shannon Whitfield	
City of LaFayette	Andy Arnold	
Walker County (Nonpublic)	Chip Catlett	
Whitfield County	Lynn Laughter	
City of Tunnel Hill	Ken Gowin	
Whitfield County (Nonpublic)	Mike Babb	

Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Council Meeting

Thursday, August 20, 2020 11:00 A.M.

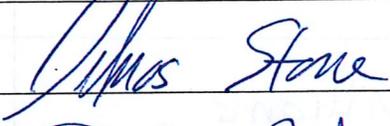
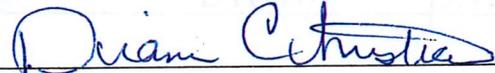
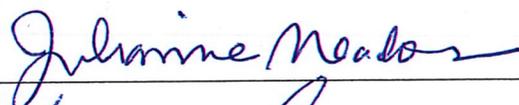
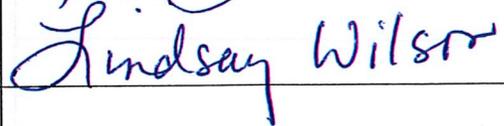
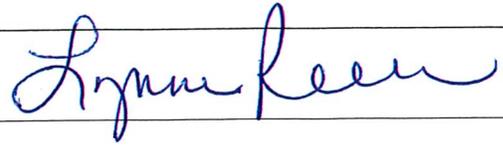
Rome Civic Center, Rome, Georgia

Sign-in Sheet (Page 5)

NWGRC STAFF

Staff

Please Sign Below

Barbara Snead	
Lloyd Frasier	
Alex Smith	
Chase Holden	
Delmos Stone	
Diane Christian	
Ethan Calhoun	
Gretchen Lugthart	
Jennifer Whorton	
Joey Cumbie	
Joseph Davidson	
Julianne Meadows	
Lesia Lambert	
Lindsay Wilson	
Luke Robinson	
Lynne Reeves	

Stakeholder Review and Comment

Draft Annual Report Sent to Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Council via August 20, 2020 Meeting Notice including Dropbox link to meeting documents.

From: Barbara Snead
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 4:16 PM
To: 'Al Hoyle'; 'Alan Dean'; 'Alex Case'; 'Andy Arnold'; 'Bob Birky'; 'Charlie Paris'; 'Chip Catlett'; 'Chris Butler'; 'Clarence Brown'; 'David Austin'; 'David Carmichael'; 'David Guldenschuh'; 'Dewayne Bowen'; 'Don Murray'; 'Donna Whitener'; 'Gary Reece'; 'George Crowley'; 'Greg Hogan'; 'Harry Harvey'; 'James H. Henry'; 'Jason Winters'; 'Jayce Stepp'; 'Jim Cutler'; 'Joe Cipolla'; 'K. W. Gong'; 'Ken Gowin'; 'Kent W. Sanford'; 'Linda Liles'; 'Lynn Laughter'; 'M. L. "Bud" Owens'; 'Michele Taylor'; 'Mike Babb'; 'Nick Chester'; 'Peter Cervelli'; 'Rhonda James'; 'Robert Jones'; 'Ronald J. Ridley'; 'Scotty Hancock'; 'Shannon Whitfield'; 'Stan Helton'; 'Steve Lawrence'; 'Steve Noland'; 'Steve Taylor'; 'Ted Rumley'; 'Wendy Davis'
Cc: Lloyd Frasier; Joey Cumbie; Diane Christian
Subject: Meeting of Northwest Georgia Regional Commission (NWGRC) Council on Thursday, August 20, 2020
Importance: High

TO: Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Council

FROM: Ted Rumley, Chairperson

DATE: August 10, 2020

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Council on Thursday, August 20, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission (NWGRC) Council will be held at **11:00 A. M.** on Thursday, August 20, 2020, at the **Rome Civic Center**, located at 400 Civic Center Drive, Rome, Georgia 30161. Lunch will be served at the close of the meeting—hopefully, at 12:00 Noon, or shortly thereafter. A Tentative Agenda and a location map are attached.

Please note the change in location for this meeting. The Civic Center is just down the hill from the NWGRC offices in Rome. The Gordon County Ag Center is still closed for public meetings, due to COVID-19. And, because we will be complying with the *social distancing guidelines*, the Civic Center has more space for doing so. The *wearing of masks is optional*. We will have *temperature checks* as you enter the Civic Center. *Hand sanitizer* will be

available. The meeting space will be appropriately *cleaned and disinfected* prior to our meeting. Lunch will be *individually packaged*.

This is an extremely important meeting. We must adopt the FY 2020-2021 NWGRC Annual Work Program, the FY 2020 NWGRC Amended Budget, and the FY 2021 NWGRC Budget. The May Council meeting is what we traditionally call our "Annual Business Meeting", when we adopt these. *Of course, due to COVID-19, there was no May Council meeting this year.*

I urge you to attend, if at all possible. **Your vote counts!** Please see note below about the dropbox.

TR:bs

Attachments 2

NOTE: Please click on the link www.nwgrc.org/council-documents which is the dropbox for documents to be discussed or acted upon at this meeting and also for your information. Barbara will be adding documents, as she receives them, up to the day prior to the meeting. So, please check the dropbox periodically, as documents are added periodically and not all at one time.

NWGRC

Sorted by name

1A. Meeting Notice 08.2...020.pdf

1B. Tentative Agenda 0...020.pdf

4A. Minutes 02.20.2020 ...tg.pdf

5B. New RLF Cares Act ...lon.pdf

6A. GDOT BikePed FY20... ion.pdf

6B. GDOT Transit FY202... ion.pdf

6C. GA DCA FY2021 MO... ion.pdf

8A. Aging Blast - April...A...020.pdf

9A. Regional Planning W...021.pdf

9C. Area Agency on Agl...021.pdf

10A. EDA CARES Act Inv... ase.pdf

12A. Draft 2020 Annual... lan.pdf

Location Map Rome Ci... ter.pdf

NWGRC 2020 Mtgs Sch... uler.pdf

Draft Annual Report emailed to Georgia Department of Community Affairs and Georgia Department of Economic Development Representatives for Review and Comment

Julianne Meadows

From: Julianne Meadows
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 5:06 PM
To: Patrick Vickers; Taylor Kielty (TKielty@georgia.org); Elizabeth Smith; Jon A. West, AICP ; Janet Cochran
Cc: Lloyd Frasier; Ethan Calhoun; Delmos Stone; Barbara Snead
Subject: Draft Annual Report on NWGRC Regional Plan
Attachments: Draft 2020 Annual Implementation Report on NWGRC Regional Plan.pdf

Good afternoon,

The Northwest Georgia Regional Commission has prepared a draft of its annual implementation report on the 2019 regional plan and is sharing the annual report for your review and comment as regional stakeholders. In addition, each member of the NWGRC Regional Council will receive a copy to review prior to the August 20, 2020 Council meeting, where a regional public hearing will be held on the draft report. After the hearing, the draft report will be transmitted to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for review.

The draft report on the implementation program of the 2019 Regional Plan for Northwest Georgia is prepared according to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs Regional Planning Rules. It includes an annual Report of Accomplishments for FY 2019-2020, a report on the Local Government Minimum and Excellence Standards, and additions or deletions to the current work program for the region.

Please let me know if you have questions or comments, or see any revisions are needed.

Thank you,

Julianne Meadows
Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
[PO Box 1798/ 1 Jackson Hill Drive](#)
[Rome GA 30162-1798](#)
(706) 295-6485
www.nwgrc.org