

April 7, 2022

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

RE: Regional Plan Annual Implementation Program Report Submittal

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

I certify that we have held one required public hearing on April 4, 2022, and have involved regional stakeholders in development of the annual report in a manner appropriate to our region's dynamics and resources and in accordance with the Standards and Procedures for Regional Planning, Chapter 110-12-6. Documentation of the required public hearing has been 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 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
- Regional Water Plans: Savannah-Upper Ogeechee, Upper Oconee, and Middle Ocmulgee
- Northeast Georgia Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
- Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Plans: Gainesville-Hall, Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study, Atlanta Regional Commission
- Adjacent Regional Commissions' Plans: Georgia Mountains Regional Commission, Atlanta Regional Commission, Three Rivers Regional Commission, Middle Georgia Regional Commission, Central Savannah River Area Regional Commission

If you have any questions concerning our submittal, please contact Senior Community Planner Mark Beatty, at mbeatty@negrc.org or (706) 369-5650.

Sincerely,



Burke Walker
Executive Director

BW/MB: jo

c. Mark Beatty, Senior Community Planner, NEGRC

Northeast Georgia Regional Plan

Annual Implementation Report
Fiscal Year 2022

Northeast Georgia Regional Commission
May 2022



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

Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing	Implementation Status	
Development of web presence that would be a one stop access point for information, data, and news in order to more effectively market, promote, and increase the entire region's visibility to potential visitors and investors.	Promote a Northeast Georgia web presence	Create and manage a Northeast Georgia promotional website.	JDANEGA, Chambers of Commerce, Local Governments, GDEcD	Year 2-3 \$10,000-\$25000			Complete	
		Create feasibility study for potential impacts of a Northeast Georgia promotional and social media presence and/or smart phone App.	JDANEGA, Chambers of Commerce, Local Governments, GDEcD	Year 4-5 \$15,000-\$20,000			Postponed for reassessment – each NEGRC Division has social media; as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, most local communities boosted/developed social media and web presence – need to determine whether this is still a relevant need	
		Catalog and capitalize upon existing tourism and economic development-related promotional efforts in Georgia and the Southeast (ex. Georgia Power's Select Georgia Maps, GDEcD's travel regions, Georgia Agritourism Association).	JDANEGA, Chambers of Commerce, Local Governments, GDEcD, EDA	Year 1-3 \$5,000-\$10,000			Complete	
			Conduct audit of and recommend improvements to local and regional online materials (ex: JDANEG website and ED Pros Trails Connectivity Project).	GDCA, GDEcD, EDA			\$5,000 Annually	Complete
			Create and manage an inventory of vacant land, vacant buildings/spaces, Opportunity Zones (OZs), Revitalization Area Strategy (RAS) designations, Camera-Ready Communities, and other economic incentives and opportunities.	JDANEGA, Chambers of Commerce, Local Governments, GDEcD	Year 2-3 \$5,000-\$10,000			Cancelled – This is currently being accomplished by local Development Authorities and relevant local needs should be reassessed in regard to this topic
			Create and manage a list of funding and other opportunities for local entrepreneurs and artists.	Chambers of Commerce, Local Governments, Artist Communities	Year 1-2 Staff Time		\$5,000 Annually	Complete
			Create section of the NEGRC website to feature local government resources.	Chambers of Commerce, Local Governments	Year 1-2 Staff Time		\$1,000 Annually	Complete
		Comprehensive and accessible regional tourism database.	Create, manage, and promote a publicly accessible inventory of historic landmarks, festivals and events, tours, and other visitor attractions.	JDANEGA, Chambers of Commerce, Local Governments	Year 4-5 \$10,000			Postponed for reassessment - as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, most local communities boosted/developed social media and web presence to attract visitors – need to determine whether this is still a relevant need

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		Survey local, regional, and state stakeholders about whether to reconvene regular or as-needed meetings of the dormant regional tourism group.	JDANEGA, Chambers of Commerce, Local Governments, GDEcD			Staff Time	To be initiated in 2022 as part of CEDS, Regional Resource Plan, and Regional Plan update process
Resources to support and encourage local entrepreneurial development.	Support entrepreneurial development.	Develop a catalog of all regional entities that are involved in entrepreneurship and develop a plan for enhanced, easy access to existing regional entrepreneurship resources, including educational institutions	Chambers of Commerce, Local Governments	Year 3-5 \$10,000			Postponed for reassessment – WorkSource Northeast Georgia and other regional entities, such as the University of Georgia and the Technical College System of Georgia are creating and promoting entrepreneurial resources and opportunities; need to reassess the NEGRC’s role in this regard
		Conduct evaluation of the climate and capacity for entrepreneurial and small business development across the region, defining local strengths and weaknesses, funding gaps, and industry best practices	Chambers of Commerce, Local Governments	Year 1-2 \$25,000			Complete
		Create feasibility study for regional business incubation facilities, and the potential role of local educational institutions in supporting the effort	JDANEGA, Chambers of Commerce, Local Governments	Year 4-5 Staff Time			Cancelled – the University of Georgia and Athens-Clarke County are undergoing separate but similar efforts in analyzing the needs of a business incubation facility to serve the area
Greater alignment of workforce skills with current and emerging jobs.	Connect employers with skilled and dedicated employees	Produce region-wide report on link between educational preparation/attainment and existing/future employment opportunities.	WIB, Local Governments, Technical Colleges			Staff Time	Scheduled for long-term implementation
		Develop educational program (materials and workshop) to educate local governments about diverse housing types for people of all incomes.	Local Governments			Staff Time	Scheduled for long-term implementation

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Connections to employment by method other than automobile are extremely limited	Identify housing needs around job centers to support communities in attracting and retaining workers and identify workforce housing programs so workers can live near jobs.	Create report on employer-assisted housing (EAH) initiatives. EAH programs can include: Counseling for employees about housing choices and financing; Direct financial help to employees for rent, closing costs, or mortgage payments; A real estate investment by an employer; An Individual Development Account (IDA) or other savings program for employees interested in purchasing a home; Use of government matching funds and tax credits as incentives for private investment	Local Governments, Federal Government	Year 3-4 Staff Time			Abandoned/cancelled – due to the evolving nature of the programs being offered in response to the effects of COVID-19, a static report would quickly become obsolete; these needs are being addressed in the form of day-to-day assistance and education efforts by NEGRC, DCA, and local Housing Authority staff and other entities; needs/opportunities with regard to housing will be re-assessed during the 2022 Regional Plan and CEDS updates
		Develop region-wide Housing + Transportation Affordability analysis and recommendations.	Local Governments, Employers, Developers	Year 1-3 \$20,000/Study			Complete
	Develop, implement, and sustain viable housing projects that meet market demands and needs.	Publish model guidelines and/or best management practices to assist communities in assessing housing needs and identifying appropriate housing types based on factors such as community demographics, future jobs and housing affordability goals.	Local Governments, GDCA	Year 2-4 \$17,500/Study			Underway; expected completion May 2022
		Publish best management practices guide to mixed-use and pedestrian-oriented community design and amenities alternatives to single-family housing, including apartments, condos, and townhouses to meet the needs of both older and younger residents in the region.	Local Governments			Staff Time	Scheduled for long-term implementation
		Host regional housing collaborative forum, such as a housing roundtable, to promote information sharing and identification of partnership opportunities.	Local Governments, GDCA	Year 3-5 \$50,000			To be performed as part of the 2022 CEDS & Regional Plan updates
Few transportation choices region wide	Provide communities with bicyclist- and pedestrian-friendly “Complete Streets” best practices to increase community appeal, safety, and provide access to all	Develop Complete Streets design guidelines for various settings (neighborhood- and community-level).	Bike advocacy groups, Local Governments	Year 1-3 \$20,000/Study			Complete
		Create document of case studies and/or best practices for multi-purpose infrastructure improvements to maximize positive impacts of public investment (such as multi-use trails within utility easements).	Local Governments	Year 3-5 Staff Time			Abandoned/Cancelled: Due to existing resources already available through other regional and national entities, this work would be duplicative and is no longer a priority of NEGRC

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Aging physical infrastructure replacement.	users	Complete a study to identify and establish protection and maintenance standards for regionally significant multi-modal transportation corridors.	Local Governments	Year 2-5 \$10,000/Study			Postponed for initiation in FY23
		Develop guide to maximizing longevity and flexibility of infrastructure improvements for local governments.	Local Governments	Year 4-5 \$25,000/Study			Postponed – due to the limited timeframe for ARPA and other federal infrastructure funding, focus shifted to NEGRC staff providing this guidance while assisting local governments with project development
	Address aging infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and water and wastewater systems.	Develop best-practices document for capital improvements programming. Examples could include an Asset Management Program that: Conducts ongoing condition assessment that: Evaluates the existing condition of all assets Establishes Level of Service (LOS) Establishes a system of ranking and prioritization to identify the asset most likely to experience failure and identify alternatives for renewing the asset (e.g., rehabilitation versus replacement) Performs life cycle costing Identifies long term funding needs and strategies	Local Governments, UGA Vinson Institute	Year 4-5 \$25,000/Study			Abandoned/Cancelled – due to the limited timeframe for ARPA and other federal infrastructure funding, focus shifted to NEGRC staff providing this guidance while assisting local governments with project development
		Publish how-to guide to conducting comprehensive infrastructure inventories and assessments for local governments.	Local Governments	Year 2-4 \$5,000/Community			Underway; FY22 completion
	Allocate resources efficiently.	Conduct feasibility study to analyze potential for publishing measures, benchmarks, and/or asset assessment processes to evaluate transportation system improvements and project prioritization.	Local Governments	Year 1-3 \$15,000/Community			Complete

Local Government Performance Standards, Fiscal Year 2022

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

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

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

As of March 2022, the following NEGRC local governments do not meet the minimum standards:

- Oglethorpe County (Comprehensive Plan; *overdue for local adoption since 10/31/2021; Delinquent Reports: FY2020 RLGf*)
- City of Arnoldsville (Comprehensive Plan; *overdue for local adoption since 10/31/2021*)
- City of Crawford (Comprehensive Plan; *overdue for local adoption since 10/31/2021*)
- City of Maxeys (Comprehensive Plan; *overdue for local adoption since 10/31/2021*)
- Jasper County (CIE; *overdue for local adoption since 10/31/2021*)
- Town of Bishop (Delinquent Reports: *FY2019 RLGf, FY2020 RLGf, FY2021 RLGf*)
- City of Bogart (Delinquent Reports: *FY2019 RLGf, FY2020 RLGf, FY2021 RLGf*)
- City of Bostwick (Delinquent Reports: *2021 GOMI, FY2020 RLGf*)
- City of Bowman (Delinquent Reports: *2021 GOMI, FY2020 RLGf*)
- Town of Buckhead (Delinquent Reports: *2021 GOMI, FY2021 RLGf*)
- Town of Carl (Delinquent Reports: *FY2020 RLGf*)
- City of Carlton (Delinquent Reports: *2021 GOMI, FY2020 RLGf*)
- City of Colbert (Delinquent Reports: *FY2019 RLGf, FY2020 RLGf*)
- City of Danielsville (Delinquent Reports: *2021 GOMI*)
- City of Good Hope (Delinquent Reports: *2021 GOMI, FY2020 RLGf*)
- City of Greensboro (Delinquent Reports: *2021 GOMI*)
- City of Ila (Delinquent Reports: *FY2019 RLGf, FY2020 RLGf*)
- City of Lexington (Delinquent Reports: *2021 GOMI*)
- City of Loganville (Delinquent Reports: *FY2021 RLGf*)
- City of Madison (Delinquent Reports: *FY2021 RLGf*)
- Madison County (Delinquent Reports: *2021 GOMI*)
- City of Mansfield (Delinquent Reports: *2021 GOMI, FY2019 RLGf*)

- Town of Maxeys (Delinquent Reports: *2020 GOMI, 2021 GOMI, FY2018 RLGf, FY2019 RLGf, FY2020 RLGf*)
- City of Monticello (Delinquent Reports: *2021 GOMI, FY2019 RLGf, FY2020 RLGf, FY2021 RLGf*)
- Town of North High Shoals (Delinquent Reports: *2021 GOMI, FY2021 RLGf*)
- Town of Pendergrass (Delinquent Reports: *FY2019 RLGf, FY2020 RLGf*)
- Town of Porterdale (Delinquent Reports: *FY2020 RLGf*)
- City of Rutledge (Delinquent Reports: *2021 GOMI, FY2021 RLGf*)
- Town of Siloam (Delinquent Reports: *2021 GOMI*)
- City of Statham (Delinquent Reports: *FY2019 RLGf, FY2021 RLGf*)
- Town of Talmo (Delinquent Reports: *2021 GOMI*)
- City of Union Point (Delinquent Reports: *FY2020 RLGf*)
- City of Walnut Grove (Delinquent Reports: *2021 GOMI, FY2021 RLGf*)
- Walton County (Delinquent Reports: *2021 GOMI*)
- City of Winder (Delinquent Reports: *FY2021 RLGf*)
- City of Winterville (Delinquent Reports: *FY2019 RLGf, FY2020 RLGf*)
- City of Woodville (Delinquent Reports: *2021 GOMI, FY2019 RLGf, FY2020 RLGf*)

