

**RULES  
OF  
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

**CHAPTER 110-12-3  
DEVELOPMENTS OF REGIONAL IMPACT  
(Effective Date: March 1, 2012)**

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**CHAPTER 110-12-3-.01  
PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW**

**110-12-3-.01 Purpose & Overview.**

**(1) General.** The Georgia Planning Act authorizes the Department of Community Affairs (the Department) to establish the specific thresholds, rules, and procedures for the identification of and communication about Developments of Regional Impact (DRI) that are provided in these rules. These rules are applicable to all local governments and Regional Commissions in the State. The intent of the DRI rules is: improved local, regional and state level communication about new growth in the state. Communication of this nature will aid in maximizing the positive benefits of new development projects while minimizing their adverse effects. The end result should improve development outcomes for the host jurisdiction, neighboring jurisdictions, the region, and the state. The DRI rules are also intended to coordinate, streamline, and provide consistency with the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority's (GRTA) required review and approval of state and federal expenditures required to create land transportation services and access to DRIs located within GRTA's jurisdictional area pursuant to O.C.G.A. 50-32-14.

**(2) Overview.** The rules require that:

**(a)** Local governments must submit any development project that meets or exceeds the thresholds specified in section 110-12-3-.05(1)(a)2. to their Regional Commission for determination of whether it is a DRI.

**(b)** If the Regional Commission determines that the project is a DRI, the project must be handled in accordance with the procedures in Chapter 110-12-3-.02 DRI Communication Procedures.

The local government may not take final action approving the project while the DRI process is ongoing. See section 110-12-3-.03(4) for actions that the local government may take while the DRI process is underway.

(c) The Regional Commission will manage the distribution of information about the project to neighboring jurisdictions, potentially affected parties, and State entities and will coordinate a process guaranteeing those jurisdictions, parties, and entities an opportunity to provide official comment upon projects that may impact them.

(d) Upon the request of the host jurisdiction, the Regional Commission may evaluate the development project for its local impacts, economic benefits, potential effects on neighboring jurisdictions, consistency with quality growth principles and/or considerations identified in the Regional Commission's Regional Plan.

(e) At the completion of the DRI process, which shall not last more than 30 calendar days (unless process extensions are taken as provided for in section 110-12-3-.02(10)(c)), the Regional Commission will assemble a report including comments received from neighboring jurisdictions, potentially affected parties, and State entities along with the results of any analysis it may have been requested to conduct pursuant to section (d), above, including any recommendations for maximizing potential positive outcomes and economic benefits, reducing potential adverse interjurisdictional impacts and other suggestions for improvement of the project. The local government is encouraged to consider the contents of the DRI report in making its decisions related to the project.

**(3) Changes and Interpretation.** These rules and regulations may from time to time be revised by the Department pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act. The Department is the final authority for interpretation of these rules.

## **CHAPTER 110-12-3-.02 DRI COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES**

### **110-12-3-.02 DRI Communication Procedures.**

**(1) Request for Action.** Whenever a local government is considering action (see 110-12-3-.03(1) on a development project that meets or exceeds the DRI thresholds for that development type, the local government must require that the applicant (developer, builder, or landowner who is proposing the new development) provide enough information about the project to complete the DRI Information Form. This form is available on the Department's web site and is intended to: (1) identify basic information about the proposed project; (2) provide this information to the Regional Commission and GRTA (if the local government is located within GRTA's jurisdiction) in order for them to determine if the project is a DRI; and (3) provide information about the proposed project to affected parties upon which they may base their comments.

**(2) DRI Notification.** When completed, the host local government must electronically submit the DRI Information Form to the Regional Commission, GRTA (if the local government is located within GRTA's jurisdiction), and the Department using the DRI website. When completing this form, the local government should ascertain that plans for the proposed project are sufficiently finalized that no, or only minor, modifications of the proposed project are anticipated prior to project construction. The host local government may proceed with its development review process during the DRI process steps specified below, provided that it does not take final official action approving a project until the DRI process is completed and it has had adequate time to consider the Regional Commission's DRI report (see section 110-12-3-.03 (4) for more details).

**(3) DRI Determination.** Within 5 days of receiving a fully and accurately completed DRI Information form, the Regional Commission must evaluate whether the project is a DRI. The Regional Commission's determination of whether the project is a DRI shall be made in consultation with the host local government and considering the guidelines provided in section 110-12-3-.05(1). The Regional Commission must then issue notice to the local government, applicant, GRTA (if the local government is located within GRTA's jurisdiction) and the Department using the DRI website, stating whether or not the project has been designated as a DRI. If applicable, the Regional Commission must also provide GRTA with a copy of all information submitted by the local government pertaining to the proposed development. GRTA will then review the project concurrently with the Regional Commission in accordance with GRTA's Principles and Procedures adopted pursuant to O.C.G.A §50-32-1 et seq. If the Regional Commission determines the project is not a DRI, the process is terminated.

**(4) Notice to Affected Parties and Comment Period.** Within 5 days of issuing the DRI determination, the Regional Commission will provide a DRI information packet for review and comment to all affected parties. This packet shall include a project summary, a copy of the DRI Information Form, and any additional information the Regional Commission may have obtained regarding the project. The DRI information packet will also include a notice stating, at a minimum, the following:

- The beginning and end dates of a 15-day period during which the Regional Commission will accept comments for inclusion in the DRI report to be delivered to the host jurisdiction;
- The manner in which affected parties should submit comments; and,
- A list of all of the jurisdictions and affected parties receiving the notice.

**(5) DRI Report.** Within 5 days of the conclusion of the 15-day comment period, the Regional Commission must assemble a DRI report containing the following components. The materials presented in the DRI report are purely advisory and under no circumstances should be considered as binding or infringing upon the host jurisdiction's right to determine for itself the appropriateness of development within its boundaries.

**(a) Comments from Affected Parties.** The Regional Commission must include all of the comments received from affected parties in the DRI report.

**(b) Regional Commission Comments.** The report must also include the Regional Commission's assessment of any likely interjurisdictional impacts resulting from the proposed development and how the project relates to the policies, programs, and projects articulated in the Regional Plan and Regional Resource Plan.

**(c) Evaluation and Recommendations.** If applicable, the DRI report shall also include the products of any evaluation and analysis which may have been completed by the Regional Commission pursuant to section 110-12-3-.02(10)(a). The Regional Commission may, depending on its assessment of the local government's need for advice and assistance, include recommendations or offer technical assistance to the local government for addressing impacts of the proposed development. Furthermore, the Regional Commission may provide in-depth recommendations or offer technical assistance to other affected parties relative to mitigating potential impacts of the proposed project.

**(d) Finding.** Based on its assessment of the project and any comments received from affected parties, the Regional Commission must issue one of the following public findings:

**1. Negative Finding.** If the Regional Commission determines that adverse impact and conflicts are likely to result from the proposed project, the Regional Commission may issue a finding that "the proposed local government action is not in the best interest of the Region and therefore not of the State" through any of the three processes identified at 110-12-3-.04(4). This finding is advisory only, and indicates that adverse impacts or conflicts remain unresolved. For a negative finding, the Regional Commission must: provide a copy of this finding to the local government and the applicant prior to the 30th day after issuing the DRI determination as identified in section 110-12-3-.02(3). If the negative finding is not issued by resolution of the full Council, the applicant may appeal the negative finding to the full Council at its next meeting. The appeal must be made in writing to the Regional Commission within 5 days of notification of the negative finding. General publication of the negative finding shall be postponed until after the opportunity to appeal has passed or the appeal has been decided by the Regional Commission's Council.

**2. Positive Finding.** If the Regional Commission determines that no adverse impacts or conflicts exist, the Regional Commission's Executive Director may issue a finding that "The proposed action is in the best interest of the Region and therefore of the State." This finding is advisory only, and indicates that there are no likely adverse impacts or conflicts or that these have been resolved. A positive finding must be made public no later than 30 days after issuing the DRI determination as identified in section 110-12-3-.02(3).

**(6) Notification Requirements.** The DRI report must be transmitted to the local government, the applicant, the Department and all affected parties not more than 30 days after issuing the DRI determination (unless process extensions are taken as provided for in section 110-12-3-.02(10)(c)). Transmittal of the DRI report officially completes the DRI process.

**(7) Local Government Action.** After the DRI process is completed, the submitting local government may proceed with whatever final official action(s) it deems appropriate regarding the proposed project, but it is encouraged to take the materials presented in the DRI report into consideration when rendering its decision.

**(8) Withdrawal of DRI.** If, at any time during the DRI process, an applicant desires to withdraw a DRI project from the process, the local government must inform the Regional Commission in writing of the request. The Regional Commission must provide notice of this withdrawal to all affected parties.

**(9) Alternative Dispute Resolution.** Alternative dispute resolution of conflicts relating to the Developments of Regional Impact may be initiated in accordance with the Rules for Alternative Dispute Resolution (DCA Rules 110-12-5) adopted by the Board of Community Affairs.

**(10) Optional Activities.**

**(a) Evaluation and Recommendations.** Upon request by the host jurisdiction, the Regional Commission may evaluate the development project for potential positive and negative outcomes. The Commission may provide recommendations intended to maximize the potential positive effects and economic benefits, minimize the project's local impacts and impacts upon neighboring jurisdictions, or otherwise further quality growth principles and/or the goals of the regional plan. The extent of this evaluation and recommendations shall be whatever the Regional Commission deems appropriate, but in no circumstance shall it delay the completion of the DRI process. The Regional Commission, in attempting to facilitate this optional activity, shall not compel the host government or applicant to provide information regarding the project beyond that routinely collected in the course of the DRI process.

**(b) Consultations.** If, at any point during the DRI process, it appears to the Regional Commission that the outcomes of the process would be improved by more direct communication, the Regional Commission may at its own discretion bring the local government, the applicant, and the affected parties together to discuss the development proposal, any comments received, or results of any evaluation conducted by the Regional Commission.

**(c) Process Extensions.** The Regional Commission's Executive Director may approve up to three 30-day extensions of the DRI process to permit negotiations, conflict resolution, or similar activities related to the project. An extension may be approved only upon receiving written request, submitted at any time during the DRI process, from two or more of the following parties: (1) the applicant; (2) the host local government; or (3) any affected party. Each additional 30-day extension must be requested and approved by the Regional Commission's Executive Director separately, and notice given to the local government, the applicant, and all affected parties.

**(d) Appeals.** In case of disagreement regarding the administration of DRI process, any of the following parties may submit a written request that the Department review the conduct of the process: (1) the applicant, (2) the host local government, (3) the Regional Commission, or (4) any affected party. The Department will only act on appeals requested by at least two of these parties. The request for Department review may be submitted at any time during the DRI process, but no later than 5 days after the Regional Commission transmits the DRI Report. For duly submitted requests, the Board of Community Affairs may evaluate the situation and provide recommendations to resolve any procedural discrepancies that are identified.

**CHAPTER 110-12-3-.03**  
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

**110-12-3-.03 Local Government Responsibilities.**

- (1) The local government must follow the applicable procedures identified under DRI Communication Procedures detailed in Chapter 110-12-3-.02 when: 1) an applicant (developer, builder, or landowner who is proposing the new development) requests some type of local government action related to a proposed development project, such as, but not limited to, a request for rezoning, annexation, zoning variance, building or land disturbance permit, hookup to a water or sewer system, master or site plan approval, acceptance of a public street, signing off on a subdivision plat, plan amendment, or entering into a contract; and 2) it appears that the proposed development may meet or exceed the applicable DRI thresholds.
- (2) When a local government proposes a project that may meet or exceed the DRI thresholds, the local government becomes the applicant and must submit the project to the Regional Commission as a potential DRI.
- (3) If a proposed development will be located in more than one jurisdiction and, in total, the proposed development meets or exceeds a DRI threshold; the local government in which the greatest acreage of the project is to be located is responsible for submitting the project to the Regional Commission as a potential DRI.
- (4) *The host local government may proceed with its development review process during the DRI process, provided that it does not take final official action approving a project until the DRI process is completed and the local government has had adequate time to consider the Regional Commission's DRI report.* It is intended that the DRI process should take place simultaneously with local development review procedures in order to minimize administrative delay for review and approval of large developments. Examples of local development review activities that may take place during the DRI process include, but are not limited to, preliminary staff administrative functions, project evaluation/assessment, community participation meetings and hearings, site visits, and planning commission meetings to discuss, but not vote on, the proposed local action that triggered the DRI process.
- (5) Failure of a local government to submit a project that exceeds the applicable DRI thresholds to the Regional Commission for determination of whether it qualifies as a DRI or to wait until the DRI process is completed before taking final action will result in the following corrective course of action:
  - (a) On the first occurrence, the Regional Commission staff will meet with the local government to carefully explain the DRI process, benefits of participating in this process, and possible consequences of not participating.

(b) If, within two years of the meeting above, a local government again fails to submit a qualifying project or to wait until the DRI process is completed prior to taking final action on the project, the Regional Commission will inform the Department. The Board of Community Affairs will evaluate the situation and determine an appropriate response which may include suspension of the local government's Qualified Local Government status for a period of up to 1 year.

## **CHAPTER 110-12-3-.04 REGIONAL COMMISSION RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **110-12-3-.04 Regional Commission Responsibilities.**

(1) *Each Regional Commission is encouraged to establish alternative DRI requirements, specifically tailored to the needs of their region, which may be either more restrictive or less restrictive than those promulgated by the Department in these rules. These alternative requirements may include: 1) alternative DRI thresholds; 2) alternative set of reviewable development types qualifying for DRI review; 3) Amendments to the DRI Communication Procedures.* These alternative DRI requirements may apply to the entire region or to specific Areas Requiring Special Attention or Regionally Important Resources that are identified in the Regional Commission's Regional Plan. The alternative requirements must be developed and approved as follows:

- The Regional Commission must first solicit input about desired alternative DRI requirements from the local governments in its region and any potentially affected parties.
- The proposed alternative DRI requirements must be approved by a majority of the Regional Commission's Council and subsequently submitted to the Department for consideration.
- The Board of Community Affairs must adopt a resolution approving the alternative DRI requirements for that Regional Commission.

(2) Whenever a development is submitted to a Regional Commission for DRI determination by one of its constituent local governments, the Regional Commission must undertake the DRI Communication Procedures identified in Chapter 110-12-3-.02. As appropriate or where duly requested, the Regional Commission may also undertake any of the optional activities identified in section 110-12-3-.02(10).

(3) Whenever it comes to the Regional Commission's attention that a local government has taken final action upon a project designated as a DRI prior to the completion of the DRI process, or has allowed a development that exceeds DRI thresholds to proceed without complying with DRI Communication Procedures, the Regional Commission must:

(a) Hold a meeting with the local government to carefully explain the DRI process, benefits of participating in this process, and possible consequences of not participating.

(b) If, within two years of the meeting above, a local government again fails to submit a qualifying project or to wait until the DRI process is completed prior to taking final action on the project, the Regional Commission will inform the Department. The Board of Community Affairs will evaluate the situation and determine an appropriate response which may include suspension of the local government's Qualified Local Government status for a period of up to 1 year.

(4) Each Regional Commission's Council must formally approve its process for issuance of negative DRI findings as provided at 110-12-3-.02(5)(d), choosing from either of the following three options:

(a) The Regional Commission's Executive Director may issue the negative finding without approval of the full Council, but subject to the applicant's opportunity to appeal as specified at 110-12-3-.02(5)(d)1.

(b) A subcommittee of the Regional Commission's Council may be designated to approve and issue negative findings without approval of the full Council, but subject to the applicant's opportunity to appeal as specified at 110-12-3-.02(5)(d)1.

(c) Approval of the full Council is required for issuance of negative findings. In order to meet the 30-day DRI process timeline, it is recommended that the Council also authorize the Regional Commission's Executive Director to notify the local government and the applicant prior to the 30th day after issuing the DRI determination that staff will recommend a negative finding for action at the next meeting of the full Council.

## **CHAPTER 110-12-3-.05 DETERMINING IF A PROJECT IS A DRI**

### **110-12-3-.05 Determining if a Project is a DRI.**

(1) Regional Commissions must use the following criteria to determine if a development project is a DRI. The determination of the Regional Commission is final; however, a determination by the Regional Commission that a project is not a DRI as herein defined will not affect GRTA's authority pursuant to O.C.G.A. 50-32-14.

#### **(a) Meets or Exceeds DRI Thresholds.**

1. The table below identifies the minimum DRI thresholds for each type of development and for two distinct tiers within the state. These tiers are: (1) **Urban** jurisdictions and (2) **Rural** jurisdictions, as defined in the Minimum Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning (DCA Rules 110-12-1). Regional Commissions and local governments must utilize the appropriate thresholds associated with their tier, unless the Regional Commission has adopted alternative thresholds for its region as provided in section 110-12-3-04(1). Proposed developments that do not equal or exceed these thresholds are not subject to the DRI Communication Procedures.

**2. Thresholds Table.**

<b>Developments of Regional Impact Development Thresholds</b>		
<b>Type of Development</b>	<b>Urban jurisdictions</b>	<b>Rural jurisdictions</b>
(1) Office	Greater than 400,000 gross square feet	Greater than 125,000 gross square feet
(2) Commercial	Greater than 300,000 gross square feet	Greater than 175,000 gross square feet
(3) Wholesale & Distribution	Greater than 500,000 gross square feet	Greater than 175,000 gross square feet
(4) Hospitals and Health Care Facilities	Greater than 300 new beds; or generating more than 375 peak hour vehicle trips per day	Greater than 200 new beds; or generating more than 250 peak hour vehicle trips per day
(5) Housing	Greater than 400 new lots or units	Greater than 125 new lots or units
(6) Industrial	Greater than 500,000 gross square feet; or employing more than 1,600 workers; or covering more than 400 acres	Greater than 175,000 gross square feet; or employing more than 500 workers; or covering more than 125 acres
(7) Hotels	Greater than 400 rooms	Greater than 250 rooms
(8) Mixed Use	Gross square feet greater than 400,000 (with residential units calculated at either 1800 square feet per unit or, if applicable, the minimum square footage allowed by local development regulations); or covering more than 120 acres; or if any of the individual uses meets or exceeds a threshold as identified herein	Gross square feet greater than 125,000 (with residential units calculated at either 1800 square feet per unit or, if applicable, the minimum square footage allowed by local development regulations); or covering more than 40 acres; or if any of the individual uses meets or exceeds a threshold as identified herein
(9) Airports	All new airports, runways and runway extensions	Any new airport with a paved runway; or runway additions of more than 25% of existing runway length
(10) Attractions & Recreational Facilities	Greater than 1,500 parking spaces or a seating capacity of more than 6,000	Greater than 1,500 parking spaces or a seating capacity of more than 6,000
(11) Post-Secondary School	New school with a capacity of more than 2,400 students, or expansion by at least 25 percent of capacity	New school with a capacity of more than 750 students, or expansion by at least 25 percent of capacity
(12) Waste Handling Facilities	New facility or expansion of use of an existing facility by 50 percent or more	New facility or expansion of use of an existing facility by 50 percent or more
(13) Quarries, Asphalt & Cement Plants	New facility or expansion of existing facility by more than 50 percent	New facility or expansion of existing facility by more than 50 percent
(14) Wastewater Treatment Facilities	New major conventional treatment facility or expansion of existing facility by more than 50 percent. Community septic treatment facilities exceeding 150,000 gallons per day or serving a development project that	New major conventional treatment facility or expansion of existing facility by more than 50 percent. Community septic treatment facilities exceeding 150,000 gallons per day or serving a development project that meets or

	meets or exceeds an applicable threshold as identified herein.	exceeds an applicable threshold as identified herein.
(15) Petroleum Storage Facilities	Storage greater than 50,000 barrels if within 1,000 feet of any water supply; otherwise, storage capacity greater than 200,000 barrels	Storage greater than 50,000 barrels if within 1,000 feet of any water supply; otherwise, storage capacity greater than 200,000 barrels
(16) Water Supply Intakes/Reservoirs/Treatment Facilities	New Facilities	New Facilities
(17) Intermodal Terminals	New Facilities	New Facilities
(18) Truck Stops	A new facility with more than three (3) diesel fuel pumps; or containing a half acre of truck parking or 10 truck parking spaces.	A new facility with more than three (3) diesel fuel pumps; or containing a half acre of truck parking or 10 truck parking spaces.
(19) Correctional/Detention Facilities	Greater than 300 new beds; or generating more than 375 peak hour vehicle trips per day	Greater than 200 new beds; or generating more than 250 peak hour vehicle trips per day
(20) Any other development types not identified above (includes parking facilities)	1000 parking spaces or, if available, more than 5,000 daily trips generated	1000 parking spaces or, if available, more than 5,000 daily trips generated

3. When it is not easily determined whether a project equals or exceeds the applicable DRI threshold, the Regional Commission must consider the following factors in making its determination:

- Speculative Developments.** If final development type is difficult to determine because project tenants have not yet been identified, use the thresholds for the highest intensity development type allowed by current land use regulations. If there are no such local development regulations, estimate the likely type and scale of development based on the real estate market potential of the project site.
- Multi-phased Developments.** Applicants shall submit all phases of the project at inception of the project, rather than submitting each phase one at a time. However, if the applicant seeks local government approvals for smaller phases individually, the determination of whether the project is in fact a multi-phased development should be based on considerations as to whether a master plan has been prepared for the overall project or whether any approvals have been sought for the entire project as a unit. If the multi-phased nature of the project cannot be established in advance, whenever a phase is submitted for approval that, when combined with all previously approved phases of the project built during the past five years, cumulatively equals or exceeds the applicable DRI threshold, the proposed new phase, plus any incomplete portions of the project must be submitted as a DRI.

- **Multiple Land Parcels.** If parts of the project are located on separate land parcels, the decision whether the project is a single (perhaps multi-phased) development, or actually separate projects should be based on such considerations as whether the separate parcels are owned by the same entity, whether a master plan has been prepared for the overall project, or whether any approvals have been sought for the overall project as a unit.

**(b) Project Specificity.** Frequently, proposed development projects are submitted for a DRI determination before project specifics are available, such as at the time of an initial rezoning of a large tract of land, establishment of an industrial park, etc. In such cases, the Regional Commission must make a determination of whether the project should proceed through the DRI process presently and/or should be resubmitted when project specifics become available. In making this determination, the Regional Commission must consider factors including, but not limited to:

1. Whether the potential for project impacts is likely to change substantially once project specifics are clarified.
2. The benefit of an earlier notification to affected parties, in terms of need to plan infrastructure expansions well in advance of development, or act otherwise to mitigate potential interjurisdictional impacts.

**(c) Project Changes.** The Regional Commission may determine that a previously submitted DRI is nevertheless subject to another round of comment by affected parties if the project changes are substantial enough to warrant this. Such determination should be made after consultation with the host government and affected parties. Examples of project changes that may lead a Regional Commission to determine that an additional comment opportunity is warranted include but are not limited to: substantial increase of project size or substantial change in the mix of uses (based on the applicable measures used for the DRI thresholds). In making this determination, the Regional Commission must consider such factors as:

1. Whether the potential for project impacts will change substantially for the altered project.
2. Whether significant time has passed since the previous DRI process (thus increasing likelihood that the views of affected parties on the project have changed).

**(d) Redevelopment.** Proposed redevelopments that exceed a DRI threshold must be considered a new DRI, even if the previous development on the site was processed as a DRI.

## CHAPTER 110-12-3-.06 DEFINITIONS

### 110-12-3-.06 Definitions.

**(1)** For the purpose of these rules, the following words will have the meaning as contained herein unless the context does not permit such meaning. Terms not defined in these rules but defined in O.C.G.A. 50-8-1 et seq., will have the meanings contained therein. Terms not defined in these rules, or in O.C.G.A. 50-8-1 et seq., will have ascribed to them the ordinary accepted meanings such as the context may imply.

**(a)** ‘Affected Parties’ means: 1) any local governments within geographic proximity that may be impacted by a DRI project located outside of its jurisdictional limits; and 2) any local, state, or federal agencies including the Department that could potentially have concern about a project’s impact on regional systems and resources; 3) Georgia Regional Transportation Authority, if the proposed project is located within GRTA’s jurisdiction; and 4) the host Regional Commission plus any Regional Commission within geographic proximity that could potentially have concern about a project’s impact on regional systems and resources. This term should be liberally construed to ensure that all potentially affected local governments, public agencies, or Regional Commissions are included in the DRI Communication Procedures.

**(b)** ‘Council’ means the Board of Directors of a Regional Commission as per O.C.G.A. 50-8-32.

**(c)** ‘Days’ means calendar days.

**(d)** ‘Department’ means the Department of Community Affairs.

**(e)** ‘Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA)’ means the authority created by O.C.G.A. 50-32-1 et seq.

**(f)** ‘GRTA’s Jurisdictional Area’ means counties that are under the jurisdiction of the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority.

**(g)** ‘Gross Square Footage’ means areas of each floor of a building, measured from the exterior faces of the exterior walls or from the centerline of a wall separating two buildings. The gross square footage measurement is exclusive of areas of unfinished basements, unfinished cellars, unfinished attics, attached or detached garages, space used for off street parking or loading, breezeways, enclosed or unenclosed porches and accessory structures.

**(h)** ‘Incomplete Portion of the Project’ means any part of a development project that is not completed to the point of being ready for occupancy or, if applicable, the final certificate of occupancy has not yet been issued by the local government.

**(i)** ‘Interjurisdictional’ means among two or more local governments or Regional Commissions.

**(j)** ‘Local Government’ means any county, municipality, consolidated government or other political subdivision of the state.

**(k)** ‘Project’ means any proposed development outlined in section 110-12-3-.05(1) above.

(l) 'Redevelopment' means new construction, possibly including clearing or rehabilitation of existing structures, on a site that was previously developed.

(m) 'Regional Commission' means a regional commission established under O.C.G.A. 50-8-32.

(n) 'Regionally Important Resource' means any natural or cultural resource area identified for protection by an Regional Commission following the minimum requirements established by the Department.

(o) 'Regional Plan' means the comprehensive plan for a region prepared by the Regional Commission in accordance with the requirements established by the Department.

(p) 'Regional Resource Plan' means a plan for management and protection of the Regionally Important Resources in the region, developed by the Regional Commission following the procedures established by the Department.

(q) 'Threshold' means a level of development beyond which a project is likely to affect areas or regions outside the boundaries of the local government in which the project occurs.

**(2) Definitions for Types of Development.** The following definitions must be used to identify the types of development that qualify for the development thresholds listed in the thresholds table above.

(a) 'Airports' means land areas and related facilities that are maintained for the landing and takeoff of aircraft and for receiving and discharging passengers and/or cargo.

(b) 'Attractions & Recreational Facilities' means an establishment or set of establishments that provide leisure time recreational or entertainment activities occurring in either an indoor or outdoor setting.

(c) 'Commercial' means activities within land areas that are predominantly associated with the sale of goods and/or services.

(d) 'Hospitals and Health Care Facilities' means a structure, or set of structures, primarily intended to provide health care services for human in-patient medical or surgical care for the sick and injured.

(e) 'Hotels' means establishments that provide temporary lodging and may also provide food and beverage service, entertainment, and/or convention services.

(f) 'Housing' means land areas used predominantly for residential purposes, including one family, two family, and multiple family dwellings.

(g) 'Industrial' means activities within land areas predominantly connected with manufacturing, assembly, processing or storage of products.

- (h)** ‘Mixed Use’ means a type of development that is comprised of multiple land uses (e.g. commercial, residential, office, etc.) which may also include multiple density and intensity of each use.
- (i)** ‘Office’ means a building(s) wherein services are performed involving predominantly administrative, professional, or clerical operations.
- (j)** ‘Petroleum Storage Facilities’ means facilities used to store gasoline, motor fuel, or other petroleum products.
- (k)** ‘Post-Secondary Schools’ means the facilities (buildings, open space, dormitories, recreational facilities, and parking) of public and private vocational and technical schools, and colleges and universities.
- (l)** ‘Quarries, Asphalt & Cement Plants’ Quarries means an open excavation used for obtaining building stone, slate, or limestone. The terms ‘Asphalt’ and ‘Cement Plants’ are self-explanatory. This includes ready-mix concrete plants.
- (m)** ‘Truck Stops’ means an establishment that provides fuel, parking, and related goods and services to primarily support interstate truck transportation. Such facilities do not include convenience stores that have the primary purpose of selling goods and services to support the traveling public.
- (n)** ‘Intermodal Terminals’ means an area and building where the mode of transportation for cargo or freight changes and where the cargo and freight may be broken down or aggregated in smaller or larger loads for transfer to other land based vehicles. Such terminals do not include airports or seaports or facilities primarily intended for the transfer of people from passenger rail to other modes.
- (o)** ‘Waste Handling Facilities’ means structures or systems designed for the collection, processing or disposal of solid waste, including hazardous wastes, and includes transfer stations, processing plants, recycling plants, and disposal systems.
- (p)** ‘Wastewater Treatment Facilities’ means structures or systems designed for the treatment of sewage. This definition does not include septic tanks.
- (q)** ‘Wholesale and Distribution’ means activities within land areas that are predominantly associated with the receipt, storage, and distribution of goods, products, cargo and materials.
- (r)** ‘Water Supply Intakes/Reservoirs/Treatment’ means facilities constructed, excavated, drilled, dug or impounded that are used for the supply or pre-consumption purification of potable water for general public consumption.