

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission has prepared a **Regional Work Program Update: FY 2015-2019** (October 13, 2015) for the *Regional Plan* as required by the Minimum Standards and Procedures for Regional Planning of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

That the **Regional Work Program Update: FY 2015-2019** (Revised October 13, 2015) for the *Regional Plan (January 16, 2014)* is hereby officially approved and adopted.

SO RESOLVED, THIS 15th Day of October, 2015.



David A. Austin
Chairperson
Northwest Georgia Regional Commission

Northwest Georgia Regional Commission

Regional Work Program Annual Update

Northwest Georgia Regional Commission

P.O. Box 1798

Rome, Georgia 30162-1798

3/13/2015

Revised October 12, 2015

Regional Work Program (2015-2019)

The Regional Work Program (2015-2019) identifies specific activities the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission will undertake over the next five years in its efforts to successfully implement the Regional Plan. The table of plan implementation activities that follows also includes specific strategies that participants other than the Regional Commission may take to implement the Regional Plan.

Evaluation and Monitoring Procedures

1. A description of the evaluation and monitoring activities undertaken by the NWGRC (during the fiscal year just concluded) to measure the effectiveness of the Regional Plan

This section describes the monitoring and evaluation procedures which have been undertaken by the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission to measure the effectiveness of the Regional Plan in meeting the region's goals and objectives. Monitoring and evaluation is an on-going process throughout the year via the following activities:

- A. **Interaction with Local Governments and other Local Agencies (including Plan Implementation Strategy Meetings).** Many of the plan's implementation measures are the responsibility of local governments or other local agencies such as Chambers of Commerce, Development Authorities, Water and Sewer Authorities, and other entities. The Regional Commission provide technical assistance to local agencies in the areas of project development, grant-in-aid application, local comprehensive plan updates, zoning and other development regulation administration, and other programs. The Regional Commission also reviews provisions of the Regional Plan and the local Comprehensive Plan with each local government during Plan Implementation meetings. Through this interaction, the Regional Commission is kept informed on local activities and can determine if the plan's policies and objectives

are being met. For example, the Regional Commission is working with the City of Emerson through the DRI process to ensure regional priorities and important resources are considered for large developments such as the Avatron SmartPark (DRI 2482).

- B. **Interaction with Regional Advisory Committees.** Northwest Georgia Regional Commission will provide copies of the annual *Regional Agenda Update* to its Advisory Committee members and ask for their input relative to accomplishments that have been achieved in the region, and any suggestions regarding revisions that should be made to the Plan.

- C. **Interaction with other Regional Entities and Agencies.** The Regional Commission interacts with a number of other regional entities such as the Tennessee Valley Authority, Metropolitan Planning Commissions, Southeast Industrial Development Association and similar organizations, which carry out programs in the region, as well as regional planning efforts such as THRIVE 2055 (Greater Chattanooga Area). Efforts are made to communicate the goals and objectives of the plan to these organizations and coordinate in the development and delivery of programs of mutual interest. In addition, feedback from the Department of Community Affairs is also used to refine work programs and program action items throughout the year.

- D. **Review of Local Newspapers, Newsletters, and other Publications.** Through review of the newspapers and various publications produced by local, state and regional agencies the Regional Commission can also determine if projects initiated or undertaken by other agencies are consistent with goals, objectives, policies and implementation strategies contained in the plan.

E. **Report of Accomplishments.** Preparing the annual report of accomplishments also assists the Regional Commission in determining the effectiveness of the plan. A report that describes substantial achievements would indicate that the plan is realistic and consistent with the expectations and desires of local governments and other agencies. On the other hand, if little accomplishments are reported, it would mean that the effectiveness of the plan is limited and should be evaluated to determine if it is realistic or practical or whether there is some other short coming that prevents its implementation. The Regional Plan appears to be consistent with the regional needs and projects in 2014, and to be consistent with expected projects and needs for the 2015-2019 period.

F. **Regional Commission Initiatives.** The Regional Commission also monitors staff activities and program initiatives for consistency with the Plan's goals and objectives. Staff reports that highlight major regional commission activities are prepared and distributed to the Regional Council. Management and staff meetings are routinely conducted to discuss program activities and their effectiveness in achieving the plan's goals and objectives. When opportunities are available to the Regional Commission to initiate new programs that are consistent with the plan, every effort is made to take advantage of the opportunities.

2. **The results of the evaluation and monitoring process for 2015.**

The Northwest Georgia Regional Commission will align the yearly *Regional Agenda Report of Accomplishments* update with the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy or CEDS annual report (due September 2015 each year) to ensure that activities undertaken for regional planning and economic development are closely aligned and to facilitate future updates.

Our communities may not be familiar with the goals, policies, objectives, areas of special attention, and work items within the regional plan. In addition to the plan implementation strategy meetings with each city and county in the region, NWGRC staff will prepare city and county- level summaries of the regional plan which will be provided on visiting each city and county, as well as available on the NWGRC website.

While this current report of accomplishments reflects the work program prepared for 2014, the proposed work program for the 2015-2016 year will include more specific items to update the Regional Work Program.

The annual work program must be able to reconcile anticipated work items with the fact that those work projects are funded by various state and federal contracts which have varied start and end dates which may not coincide fully with the current proposed work program. Therefore, adjustments or amendments to the work program may be made throughout the year, and may be reflected in the report of accomplishments or following year work program as necessary.

Current updates to the joint comprehensive plans are underway for Chattooga and Catoosa Counties (Five Year Updates), and for Paulding County (Full Update); updates will be initiated in Fall 2015 for Walker (Five Year Update), Polk (Full Update), and Haralson (Full Updates).

In addition, planning implementation strategy meetings are scheduled for Fall 2015 with Gilmer County and the Cities of Ellijay and East Ellijay; Pickens County and the Cities of Jasper, Nelson, Talking Rock; and Fannin County and the Cities of Blue Ridge, Morganton, and McCaysville.

The majority of the proposed implementation measures consist of on-going annual activities. A review of the report of accomplishments indicates that while a substantial amount of activities have been undertaken or initiated that are consistent with recommended implementation strategies, there are also a number of region-wide implementation strategies for which no activities can be reported. Pursuit of regional strategies may result in local projects which are included in the local comprehensive plan work program and report of accomplishments, and which are included in the annual DCA work program for the region.

As indicated in the report of accomplishments, the reasons for a lack of implementation activity are generally because there was either a lack of demand or funding for the activity. The most prevailing reason was lack of funding. The Regional Commission relies on traditional sources of funding such as the Appalachian Regional Commission, Economic Development Administration, and Georgia Department of Community Affairs contracts for many of their activities. Unfortunately, these traditional sources rarely increase their

amounts, and in some cases (such as Department of Natural Resources' Regional Historic Preservation Planner Program) have been cut back. However, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs increased funding to the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission in FY 2010 due to the merger created by House Bill 1216. The Regional Commission is actively seeking funding for new initiatives indicated in the *Regional Agenda* and have been successful in recent years with agencies such as the Georgia Environmental Protection Division for the Total Maximum Daily Load Program, Source Water Assessment Program, and Watershed Monitoring Plans. The Regional Commission contracts with the Georgia Department of Transportation for bicycle, pedestrian and transit planning. In 2009 the Regional Commission received funding from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs to implement the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. The Regional Commission administers the Paulding County Neighborhood Stabilization Program. The Regional Commission contracts with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division to provide administrative support to the Coosa-North Georgia Regional Water Planning Council. The Regional Commission receives funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission to pursue a variety of local and regional community and economic development projects and plans. The Regional Commission receives funding from the Economic Development Administration to pursue economic development strategies, including the update of the five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, and the implementation of the 2014 Advanced Manufacturing Strategy and Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) designation, and to prepare economic development grant applications. The Regional Commission also administers the Area Agency on Aging and the Workforce Investment Act Program. In addition, local governments have stepped forward to pay for some services via local contracts with the Regional Commission. There are still several programs or projects indicated in the *Regional Agenda*, which do not presently have a dedicated or committed funding source. In many cases, a funding source will need to be identified for these projects or programs. The responsibility for implementing many of the strategies contained in the *Regional Agenda* requires a role by many agencies other than local governments or the Regional Commission.

The *Regional Plan* consisting of the Assessment and Agenda was updated in 2012-2013 to incorporate 2010 U.S. Census and other recent data for the population, economic development and housing sections, as well as other information in other sections that was readily available to the Regional Commission.

Regional issues and opportunities in the *Regional Agenda*, which contained such information likewise, were updated to reflect these changes.

3. A list of any plan amendments required as a result of the evaluation and monitoring findings.

We intend to revise the Minimum Standards to include the allowability of online training for local governments.

Report of Accomplishments (July 1, 2013- June 30, 2014)

Planning and Coordination

Activity Description	Timeframe					Completed	Underway	Postponed	Not Accomplished
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018				
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT									
Develop, improve, and promote economic development tax incentives.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Stimulate spin-off industries from existing economic clusters.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Assist business and manufacturing to start up and/or expand in the region by export trade assistance.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Assist business and manufacturing to start up and/or expand in the region by alternative financing assistance.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Assist business and manufacturing to start up and/or expand in the region by industrial planning, engineering and other services.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Assist business and manufacturing to start up and/or expand in the region by business planning and other services.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Assist business and manufacturing to start up and/or expand in the region by cooperative, regional marketing and recruitment of diversified business and industries.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Assist business and manufacturing to start up and/or expand in the region by investigating the feasibility of establishing additional business incubators.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Assist business and manufacturing to start up and/or expand in the region by conducting entrepreneur assistance workshops and creating entrepreneurial networks.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Assist business and manufacturing to start up and/or expand in the region by including entrepreneurial training in school curriculums.	X	X	X	X	X		X		

Activity Description	Timeframe					Completed	Underway	Postponed	Not Accomplished
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018				
Assist business and manufacturing to start up and/or expand in the region by implementing the NWGRC's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Focus on improving skills including science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), interpersonal communications, and self-motivation.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Identify and provide programs for those individuals with barriers to employment such as welfare, teen parents, senior citizens, disabled, and Hispanic populations.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Facilitate occupational shifts in the region by early identification of trends and retraining workers by: (a) establishing and expanding mechanisms that facilitate matching workers with jobs; and (b) improving identification of occupational trends in the region.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Work with existing post-secondary training institutions to discover gaps in services and fill these by: (a) establishing business symposiums to discuss service gaps and needed programs; (b) working with post-secondary training institutions to expand funding for facilities, programs and scholarships; (c) linking area colleges and vocational schools to provide more joint enrollment opportunities; (d) accredit technical schools so that credit can be transferred; and (e) seek interstate reciprocity for college tuition.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Encourage programs for workplace remediation for persons with substandard skills by: (a) encouraging worksite GED programs; (b) fostering worksite continuing education; and (c) encouraging worksite skills improvement labs.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Administer Workforce Investment Act Program	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Develop and implement a Digital Economy Regional Plan in coordination with the Georgia Technology Authority.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Prepare and Implement an Advanced Manufacturing Strategic Plan	X	X	X	X	X		X		

Activity Description	Timeframe					Completed	Underway	Postponed	Not Accomplished
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018				
Develop an outreach program to aid in the growth and development of existing industries.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Develop regionally significant industrial and commercial sites with complete infrastructure in place.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Support the US Highway 27 Association marketing strategies.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Assist local governments in planning and coordinating the extension of basic infrastructure along major transportation corridors consistent with local and regional land use plans.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Educate existing businesses and industries on importing and exporting opportunities.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Seek funding and technical assistance to develop a regional and local farmers and growers group to identify solutions for training, marketing and promotion, processing, distribution and other shared needs.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Address regulations on growing, production, sales and distribution that affect local, small scale growers adversely and disproportionately from large scale commercial growers.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Develop community-level plans, strategies, and inventories to promote and protect local agriculture and local food assets.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Develop a regional food systems study of growers, suppliers, buyers, and distribution.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Support the Georgia Made, Georgia Grown initiative and assist local businesses pursuing designation.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Support the development of value added processing industries, farmer's markets and neighborhood groceries supplied by local farmers to provide fresh food in the region.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Promote the "Historic High Country" identity as a brand for tourism development, and support the Historic High Country Travel Association and other organizations' efforts to cooperatively market and promote tourist attractions of the region.	X	X	X	X	X		X		

Activity Description	Timeframe					Completed	Underway	Postponed	Not Accomplished
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018				
Assist local governments and other entities in developing new tourist attractions in the region which capitalize on the region's historic, cultural and natural resources.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
HOUSING									
Identify and promote financing arrangements that will allow first time home buyers an easier path to home ownership, including enhanced access to or availability of mortgage loans.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Promote greater use of Georgia Department of Community Affairs, Rural Development, HUD and other agencies' programs for stimulating private sector sponsored low cost housing development in the region.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Conduct an inventory and analysis of local housing needs throughout the region; determine appropriate programs for addressing those needs; and provide technical assistance to implement.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Educate local officials, developers, and builders on alternative housing arrangements that may reduce the cost of housing while preserving quality standards.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Utilize State and Federal housing rehabilitation programs to preserve existing low cost housing stock for low income and elderly.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Encourage the preservation of historic homes to maintain community and neighborhood character.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Establish building and housing codes in communities where they do not exist to assure uniform, minimum standards for construction and maintenance of housing throughout the region.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Implement the Neighborhood Stabilization Program	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Amend zoning ordinances and building codes as appropriate..	X	X	X	X	X		X		

Activity Description	Timeframe					Completed	Underway	Postponed	Not Accomplished
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018				
NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES									
Educate citizens and local officials through workshops on water quality issues, current and future planning activities, and Federal and State programs.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Assist local governments with implementation of environmental protection standards for ground water recharge areas, water supply watersheds, wetlands, major river corridors, soil erosion and sediment control, and on-site sewage management systems.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Assist State and local governments with implementation of the Source Water Protection strategies.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Assist State and local governments with implementation of Total Maximum Daily Load requirements.	X	X	X	X	X				
Encourage coordination of water planning between water districts.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Sponsor and conduct workshops on Water Supply Watershed protection criteria and other methods of preserving these resources; and assist local governments with implementation of approved methods.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Sponsor and conduct workshops on River Corridor protection criteria and other methods of preserving these resources and assist local governments, which contain protected rivers within their jurisdiction, with the preparation, adoption, and implementation of River Corridor Protection Plans.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Convene and facilitate public/private partnerships such as the Conasauga River Alliance, Coosa River Basin Initiative, Coosawattee River Alliance, New Echota Rivers Alliance, and Upper Etowah River Alliance to coordinate programs for managing river corridor resources.	X	X	X	X	X		X		

Activity Description	Timeframe					Completed	Underway	Postponed	Not Accomplished
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018				
Sponsor and conduct workshops on Mountain Protection Act requirements and other methods of preserving these resources such as "open space preservation" techniques; and assist local governments with implementation of approved methods.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Convene and facilitate public/private partnerships such as land trusts to acquire prominent views through conservation easements and similar methods.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Assist local governments with development of and maintenance of greenspace plans.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Implement the Northwest Georgia Greenspace Conservation and Greenway Plan recommendations.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Update the Northwest Georgia Greenspace Conservation and Greenway Plan.					X		X		
Promulgate the Regional Resource Plan per Section 110-12-4-.02(4) of Rules of Georgia Department of Community Affairs.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Update or revise local comprehensive plans as required to address preservation needs of regionally significant historic resources and to call for coordination were appropriate.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Sponsor and conduct coordinated planning workshops concerning the preservation and protection of the region's large, rural historic districts, such as the Etowah Valley Historic District and McLemore Cove.				X	X		X		
Encourage the development of preservation master plans for rural historic districts, battlefields and other regionally significant resources with serious or complex preservation needs including historic county courthouse buildings.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Offer preservation technical assistance to all local governments and nonprofit owners of regionally significant historic resources and provide them with "The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties".	X	X	X	X	X		X		

Activity Description	Timeframe					Completed	Underway	Postponed	Not Accomplished
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018				
Provide technical assistance to local governments desiring to develop and implement local regulatory measures to protect historic resources.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Encourage public-private collaborations to acquire significant cultural properties for preservation or use as parks and/or tourist attractions.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Plan for the preservation of the region's historic districts and related properties.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES									
More or better quality parks and recreation facilities and programs and greater availability of youth activities	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Support and participate in the North Georgia Water Resources Partnership.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Provide administrative support to the Coosa-North Georgia Regional Water Planning Council.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Implement the Regional Water Plans prepared by the Regional Water Planning Councils.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Be an active participant in the allocations of water resources in the Chattahoochee, Coosa, Tallapoosa and Tennessee river basins.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Coordinate with DNR, Corps of Engineers, adjoining state agencies, and local governments to plan and develop regional (multi-jurisdictional) water supply and storage facilities.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Encourage local governments to undertake long range capital improvements planning for expanding water distribution services commensurate with planned growth and development.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Assist local governments in maintaining and/or updating service delivery strategies that promote multi-jurisdictional water treatment and distribution services.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Coordinate with GA DNR adjoining state agencies and local governments to plan and develop regional (multi-jurisdictional) wastewater treatment facilities.	X	X	X	X	X		X		

Activity Description	Timeframe					Completed	Underway	Postponed	Not Accomplished
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018				
Encourage local governments to undertake long range capital improvements planning for expanding wastewater collection and treatment services commensurate with planned growth and development.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Assist local governments with defining urban service areas and preparing capital improvements plans and budgets for extending services to these areas.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Utilize Community Work Program and Service Delivery Strategy updates as a regional coordination mechanism to assure that service providers are coordinating in their efforts to serve the region with basic infrastructure.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Provide assistance to local governments in developing and securing financing alternatives for the extension of urban services.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Create a partnership of telecommunications providers; business and industry, public institutions, and government to sponsor and conduct regional forums on how telecommunications technology can be used to expand economic development.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Educate local governments to promote local telecommunications infrastructure such as fiber networks where such systems are lacking.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Encourage public and private sector employers to investigate the potential for Telecommuting programs.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Encourage local governments to prepare solid waste management plans with an emphasis on multi-jurisdictional approaches.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Promote community support of and involvement in schools through: (a) support of local and state educational priorities including new ways to finance schools; (b) encouraging increased publicity of positive side of school and personnel; and (c) encouraging community mentoring programs.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Encourage business sponsorship of schools through: (a) promoting business adoption of schools and (b) encouraging apprenticeship programs.	X	X	X	X	X		X		

Activity Description	Timeframe					Completed	Underway	Postponed	Not Accomplished
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018				
Promote the early identification and remediation of students actually or in danger of falling behind through: (a) school-based family support services; (b) expanded services for “at risk” students and provide more alternative schools; (c) involvement of the judiciary with parents to reduce truancy; (d) increased birth to school age early intervention programs; (e) initiate/expand pregnancy prevention programs; and (f) encourage after school programs to promote education, self-esteem and work place ethic.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Promote stay in school efforts through: (a) increased involvement of business community in dropout prevention programs; (b) developing improved dropout tracking system; and (c) encouraging early instruction in career development.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Work with the State and local governments to address the priority needs identified in the Area Agency on Aging Plan including: (a) transportation; (b) legal assistance; (c) adult day care; (d) nutrition services; (e) health care; (f) housing and home maintenance; (g) long-term care and protective services; (h) employment; and (l) recreation/social opportunities among seniors and care givers.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Provide advocacy role through information sharing for services and tax breaks for the elderly.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Encourage more community based services to ensure longer independent living.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Support additional nursing homes and home health alternatives for elderly and their families.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Administer the Area Agency on Aging.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Work with health care service providers, local governments, and chambers of commerce to recruit physicians to underserved communities.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Educate citizens on preventative health care and wellness programs.	X	X	X	X	X		X		

Activity Description	Timeframe					Completed	Underway	Postponed	Not Accomplished
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018				
Work with health care providers, local governments and chambers of commerce to recruit additional OB/GYN physicians and general surgeons to area.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Work with health care service providers, local governments, and chambers of commerce to attract additional dental professional to area and increase capacity for indigent dental services especially for children.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Work with health care service providers, local governments and others to obtain additional geriatric care and control cost of medications for the elderly.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Work with health care service providers to improve family support and intervention services including: (a) dental services for children; (b) affordable health care insurance; (c) school based nurses; (d) additional mental health services; and (e) marriage/divorce counseling support services.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Work with health care and social service providers to improve services for low-income, disabled, and homeless individuals.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Work with health care and social service providers to improve mental health and substance abuse services.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION									
Provide better understanding of opportunities to cooperate/coordinate through such vehicles as a semi-annual City and County Managers' Meeting.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Support existing multijurisdictional entities, such as the Northwest Georgia Workforce Investment Board; Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council; Bike! Walk! Northwest Georgia; North Georgia Water Resources Partnership; Greater Dalton MPO, Rome-Floyd County MPO, Chattanooga/Hamilton County/North Georgia TPO, Cartersville-Bartow County MPO, and Atlanta MPO.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Greater Chattanooga Thrive 2055 Regional Planning Initiative	X	X					X		

Activity Description	Timeframe					Completed	Underway	Postponed	Not Accomplished
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018				
Increase coordination with Chambers of Commerce and economic development authorities.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
TRANSPORTATION									
Coordinate with federal and state transportation agencies, the Atlanta Regional Commission (Atlanta MPO), Chattanooga/Hamilton County/North Georgia TPO, Rome-Floyd County MPO, Greater Dalton MPO, Cartersville-Bartow County MPO, and local governments to strengthen regional transportation planning and priority setting.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Coordinate with transportation agencies and local governments to plan and determine feasibility of expanding alternative transportation modes such as (a) high-speed and commuter rail connecting the region to Atlanta and Chattanooga; (b) Amtrak service through region; (c) expanding services of local bus systems; and (d) linking county bus systems to existing and future mass transit system.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Support the implementation of the Georgia Department of Transportation, "Georgia Statewide Aviation System Plan."	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Support Scenic Byways Program; assist in promoting and developing bicycle and pedestrian path plans; implement the Transportation Enhancement Program; and exercise due diligence in conducting historical and environmental impact assessments.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Assist local governments with implementation of regional bike and pedestrian facilities plans; coordinate and facilitate Bike! Walk! Northwest Georgia.	X	X	X	X	X		X		

Regional Work Program (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016)

In addition to the regional work program items presented here, the following specific items will also be accomplished:

Current updates to the joint comprehensive plans are underway for Chattooga and Catoosa Counties (Five Year Updates), and for Paulding County (Full Update); updates will be initiated in Fall 2015 for Walker (Five Year Update), Polk (Full Update), and Haralson (Full Updates).

In addition, planning implementation strategy meetings are scheduled for Fall 2015 with Gilmer County and the Cities of Ellijay and East Ellijay; Pickens County and the Cities of Jasper, Nelson, Talking Rock; and Fannin County and the Cities of Blue Ridge, Morganton, and McCaysville.

Communities will also receive land use, mapping and zoning assistance, including Polk County, Rockmart, Lookout Mountain, and McCaysville, as well as Dalton-Whitfield County and other communities under local arrangements.

Regional initiatives include support to the North Georgia Water Resources Partnership, the Floor360 Manufacturing Consortium-Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership initiatives in the areas of regional infrastructure coordination, workforce development, Alliance for Innovation and Sustainability, marketing and partnerships to create local and regional education-workforce-industry alliances, and apprenticeships/internships; the Communities that Work Partnership for workforce; the Digital Economy Plan; Urban Redevelopment Plans and Revitalization Area Strategies; and Community and Economic Development activities including implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy through planning for, identification of and development of funding assistance for local and regional projects to produce job creation, private investment, and local and regional investment in Northwest Georgia cities and counties.

Activity Description	Timeframe					Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)	Issue / Opp Addressed
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT									
Develop, improve, and promote economic development tax incentives.	X	X	X	X	X	State of Georgia	TBD	State	ED-I-1
Stimulate spin-off industries from existing economic clusters.	X	X	X	X	X	GDEcD, COC, Dev. Auth.	TBD	State, federal	ED-O-1
Assist business and manufacturing to start up and/or expand in the region by export trade assistance.	X	X	X	X	X	GDEcD, RC	TBD	State, federal	ED-O-1
Assist business and manufacturing to start up and/or expand in the region by alternative financing assistance.	X	X	X	X	X	NGCDC, Inc.; Bus. Dev. Corp; state; federal	\$130,000/yr	SBA, RLF, state, federal	ED-O-1
Assist business and manufacturing to start up and/or expand in the region by industrial planning, engineering and other services.	X	X	X	X	X	Ga. Tech	TBD	Ga. Tech	ED-O-1
Assist business and manufacturing to start up and/or expand in the region by business planning and other services.	X	X	X	X	X	UGA Bus. Outreach	TBD	UGA, private sector.	ED-O-1
Assist business and manufacturing to start up and/or expand in the region by cooperative, regional marketing and recruitment of diversified business and industries.	X	X	X	X	X	GDEcD, Dev. Auth., COC	TBD	State, local, private sector	ED-O-1
Assist business and manufacturing to start up and/or expand in the region by investigating the feasibility of establishing additional business incubators.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, Ga. Tech	\$20,000	State, federal, local govts., universities	ED-O-1
Assist business and manufacturing to start up and/or expand in the region by conducting entrepreneur assistance workshops and creating entrepreneurial networks.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, Bus. Outreach	\$3,000/yr	Federal	ED-O-1
Assist business and manufacturing to start up and/or expand in the region by including entrepreneurial training in school curriculums.	X	X	X	X	X	School systems	\$250,000	School systems, federal	ED-O-1
Assist business and manufacturing to start up and/or expand in the region by implementing the NWGRC's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).	X	X	X	X	X	RC	TBD	State, federal, local, private	ED-O-1

Activity Description	Timeframe					Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)	Issue / Opp Addressed
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				
Focus on improving skills including science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), inter-personal communications, and self-motivation.	X	X	X	X	X	BOE, WIA/ WIOA, colleges and universities	TBD	State, federal, local	ED-O-2
Identify and provide programs for those individuals with barriers to employment such as welfare, teen parents, senior citizens, disabled, and Hispanic populations.	X	X	X	X	X	Legislators, businesses, BOE, social service agencies	TBD	State, local, private, federal	ED-O-2
Facilitate occupational shifts in the region by early identification of trends and retraining workers by: (a) establishing and expanding mechanisms that facilitate matching workers with jobs; and (b) improving identification of occupational trends in the region.	X	X	X	X	X	COC, RC, WIA/ WIOA	TBD	State, local, private, federal	ED-O-2
Work with existing post-secondary training institutions to discover gaps in services and fill these by: (a) establishing business symposiums to discuss service gaps and needed programs; (b) working with post-secondary training institutions to expand funding for facilities, programs and scholarships; (c) linking area colleges and vocational schools to provide more joint enrollment opportunities; (d) accredit technical schools so that credit can be transferred; and (e) seek interstate reciprocity for college tuition.	X	X	X	X	X	Legislators, businesses, Board of Regents, Department of Technical and Adult Education	TBD	State, local, private, federal	ED-O-2
Encourage programs for workplace remediation for persons with substandard skills by: (a) encouraging worksite GED programs; (b) fostering worksite continuing education; and (c) encouraging worksite skills improvement labs.	X	X	X	X	X	Businesses, technical schools, libraries, personnel associations	TBD	State, local, private, federal	ED-O-2
Administer WIA/ WIOA Program	X	X	X	X	X	RC, Ga. DOL	\$3,650,000	State, federal	ED-O-2
Develop and implement a Digital Economy Regional Plan in coordination with Georgia Technology Authority.	X	X	X	X	X	GTA, RC	\$60,000	GTA	ED-O-2 ED-O-3
Prepare and Implement Advanced Manufacturing Strategic Plan, IMCP Designation	X	X	X	X	X	RC	\$170,000	EDA, Ga. Tech, RC	ED-O-2 ED-O-3
Develop an outreach program to aid in the growth and development of existing industries.	X	X	X	X	X	GDEcD, Dev. Auths., COC	TBD	State, federal, local	ED-O-3
Develop regionally significant industrial and commercial sites with complete infrastructure in place.	X	X	X	X	X	GDEcD, local govts.	TBD	State, federal, local	ED-O-4

Activity Description	Timeframe					Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)	Issue / Opp Addressed
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				
Support the US Highway 27 Association marketing strategies.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, local govts.	TBD	State, federal, local	ED-O-5
Assist local governments in planning and coordinating the extension of basic infrastructure along major transportation corridors consistent with local and regional land use plans.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, local govts.	\$10,000/yr	State, local govts.	ED-O-5
Educate existing businesses and industries on importing and exporting opportunities.	X	X	X	X	X	GDEcD	TBD	State	ED-O-6
Seek funding and technical assistance to develop a regional and local farmers and growers group to identify solutions for training, marketing and promotion, processing, distribution and other shared needs.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, local govts.	TBD	State, federal	ED-O-7
Address regulations on growing, production, sales and distribution that affect local, small scale growers adversely and disproportionately from large scale commercial growers.	X	X	X	X	X	State, federal	TBD	State, federal	ED-O-7
Develop community-level plans, strategies, and inventories to promote and protect local agriculture and local food assets.	X	X	X	X	X	RC	TBD	State, federal	ED-O-7
Develop a regional food systems study of growers, suppliers, buyers, and distribution.	X	X	X	X	X	RC	TBD	State, federal	ED-O-7
Support the Georgia Made, Georgia Grown initiative and assist local businesses pursuing designation.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, local govts.	TBD	State, federal	ED-O-7
Support the development of value added processing industries, farmer's markets and neighborhood groceries supplied by local farmers to provide fresh food in the region.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, local govts.	TBD	State, federal	ED-O-7
Promote the "Historic High Country" identity as a brand for tourism development, and support the Historic High Country Travel Association and other organizations' efforts to cooperatively market and promote tourist attractions of the region.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, GDEcD, COC	\$30,000/yr	State, federal, local govts.	ED-O-8
Assist local governments and other entities in developing new tourist attractions in the region which capitalize on the region's historic, cultural and natural resources.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, Ga. DCA, GDEcD	\$5,000/yr	State, federal, local govts.	ED-O-8

Activity Description	Timeframe					Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)	Issue / Opp Addressed
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				
HOUSING									
Identify and promote financing arrangements that will allow first time home buyers an easier path to home ownership, including enhanced access to or availability of mortgage loans.	X	X	X	X	X	Local financial institutions, state, federal agencies	TBD	State, federal private sector	H-I-1
Promote greater use of Georgia Department of Community Affairs, Rural Development, HUD and other agencies' programs for stimulating private sector sponsored low cost housing development in the region.	X	X	X	X	X	Ga. DCA, USDA Rural Dev., HUD, private sector	TBD	State, federal agencies	H-I-1
Conduct an inventory and analysis of local housing needs throughout the region; determine appropriate programs for addressing those needs; and provide technical assistance to implement.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, local govts.	\$15,000/yr	State, federal, local govts.	H-I-1
Educate local officials, developers, and builders on alternative housing arrangements that may reduce the cost of housing while preserving quality standards.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, Ga. DCA	5,000/yr	State, RC tech. assist.	H-I-1
Utilize State and Federal housing rehabilitation programs to preserve existing low cost housing stock for low income and elderly.	X	X	X	X	X	Local govts.	TBD	State, RC tech. assist.	H-I-2
Encourage the preservation of historic homes to maintain community and neighborhood character.	X	X	X	X	X	Local govts., historic pres. commissions	\$5,000/yr	RC & Ga. DNR tech. assist., local govts.	H-I-2
Establish building and housing codes in communities where they do not exist to assure uniform, minimum standards for construction and maintenance of housing throughout the region.	X	X	X	X	X	Local govts.	\$2,500 per community	Local govts., Ga. DCA & RC tech. assist.	H-I-2
Implement the Neighborhood Stabilization Program	X	X	X	X	X	RC, Ga. DCA, Comm. Dev. Corps	\$8,-\$10 million	State, federal agencies	H-I-3
Amend zoning ordinances and building codes as appropriate.	X	X	X	X	X	Local govts., DDAs, Main Street programs	TBD	Local	H-O-1
NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES									
Educate citizens and local officials through workshops on water quality issues, current and future planning activities, and Federal and State programs.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, Ga. DNR, NGWRP	\$5,000/yr	State, federal	NC-O-1

Activity Description	Timeframe					Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)	Issue / Opp Addressed
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				
Assist local governments with implementation of environmental protection standards for ground water recharge areas, water supply watersheds, wetlands, major river corridors, soil erosion and sediment control, and on-site sewage management systems.	X	X	X	X	X	RC	\$5,000/yr	State, local govts.	NC-O-1
Assist State and local governments with implementation of the Source Water Protection strategies.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, Ga. EPD	\$20,000/yr.	Ga. EPD, state, federal, local gov'ts.	NC-O-1
Assist State and local governments with implementation of Total Maximum Daily Load requirements.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, Ga. EPD	\$60,000/yr.	State, federal, local govts.	NC-O-1
Encourage coordination of water planning between water districts.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, Ga. EPD, NGWRP	\$1,000/yr.	Ga. EPD	NC-O-1
Sponsor and conduct workshops on Water Supply Watershed protection criteria and other methods of preserving these resources; and assist local governments with implementation of approved methods.	X	X	X	X	X	Ga. DCA, RC, local govts.	\$5,000/yr	State, local govts.	NC-O-2
Sponsor and conduct workshops on River Corridor protection criteria and other methods of preserving these resources and assist local governments, which contain protected rivers within their jurisdiction, with the preparation, adoption, and implementation of River Corridor Protection Plans.	X	X	X	X	X	Ga. DCA, RC, local govts.	\$5,000/yr	State, local govts.	NC-O-3
Convene and facilitate public/private partnerships such as the Conasauga River Alliance, Coosa River Basin Initiative, Coosawattee River Alliance, New Echota Rivers Alliance, and Upper Etowah River Alliance to coordinate programs for managing river corridor resources.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, RC&D councils, Nature Conservancy, local govts.	\$10,000/yr	State, federal, local govts.	NC-O-3
Sponsor and conduct workshops on Mountain Protection Act requirements and other methods of preserving these resources such as "open space preservation" techniques; and assist local governments with implementation of approved methods.	X	X	X	X	X	Ga. DCA, RC, local govts.	\$5,000/yr	State, local govts.	NC-O-4
Convene and facilitate public/private partnerships such as land trusts to acquire prominent views through conservation easements and similar methods.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, Nature Conservancy, local govts.	\$10,000/yr	State, local govts. private land trusts	NC-O-4

Activity Description	Timeframe					Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)	Issue / Opp Addressed
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				
Assist local governments with development of and maintenance of greenspace plans.	X	X	X	X	X	RC	\$10,000/yr	Local govts.	NC-O-5
Implement the Northwest Georgia Greenspace Conservation and Greenway Plan recommendations.	X	X	X	X	X	Local govts.	TBD	State, federal, local govts.	NC-O-5
Update the Northwest Georgia Greenspace Conservation and Greenway Plan.			X	X	X	RC	\$50,000	State, federal, local govts.	NC-O-5
Promulgate the Regional Resource Plan per Section 110-12-4-.02(4) of Rules of Georgia Department of Community Affairs.	X	X	X	X	X	RC	TBD	Ga. DCA	NC-O-6
Update or revise local comprehensive plans as required to address preservation needs of regionally significant historic resources and to call for coordination were appropriate.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, local govts.	\$10,000/yr	State, local, federal	NC-O-6
Sponsor and conduct coordinated planning workshops concerning the preservation and protection of the region's large, rural historic districts, such as the Etowah Valley Historic District and McLemore Cove.		X	X	X	X	RC, local govts., Ga. DNR, nonprofits	\$2,000/yr	State, local, federal	NC-O-6
Encourage the development of preservation master plans for rural historic districts, battlefields and other regionally significant resources with serious or complex preservation needs including historic county courthouse buildings.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, Ga. DNR, local govts.	\$2,500/yr	State, local, federal	NC-O-6
Offer preservation technical assistance to all local governments and nonprofit owners of regionally significant historic resources and provide them with "The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties".	X	X	X	X	X	RC, Ga. DNR	\$2,500/yr	State, local, federal	NC-O-6
Provide technical assistance to local governments desiring to develop and implement local regulatory measures to protect historic resources.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, local govts., Ga. DNR	\$10,000/yr	State, local, federal	NC-O-6
Encourage public-private collaborations to acquire significant cultural properties for preservation or use as parks and/or tourist attractions.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, state, local govts.	TBD	State, local, federal	NC-O-6
Plan for the preservation of the region's historic districts and related properties.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, state, local govts.	TBD	State, local, federal	NC-O-6

Activity Description	Timeframe					Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)	Issue / Opp Addressed
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				
COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES									
More or better quality parks and recreation facilities and programs and greater availability of youth activities	X	X	X	X	X	Local govts., Ga. DNR	TBD	State, federal, local	CF-I-1
Support and participate in the North Georgia Water Resources Partnership.	X	X	X	X	X	Local govts.	\$1,500/yr. for ea. local govt.	Local	CF-O-1
Provide administrative support to the Coosa-North Georgia Regional Water Planning Council.	X	X	X	X	X	NWGRC, GMRC	\$35,000/yr.	Ga. EPD	CF-O-1
Implement the Regional Water Plans prepared by the Regional Water Planning Councils.	X	X	X	X	X	Local govts., Ga. EPD	TBD	Local govts., Ga. EPD	CF-O-1
Be an active participant in the allocations of water resources in the Chattahoochee, Coosa, Tallapoosa and Tennessee river basins.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, local govts., Ga. DNR	\$5,000/yr	State, federal, local gov'ts	CF-O-1
Coordinate with DNR, Corps of Engineers, adjoining state agencies, and local governments to plan and develop regional (multi-jurisdictional) water supply and storage facilities.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, local govts., Ga. DNR	\$5,000/yr	State, federal, local gov'ts	CF-O-1
Encourage local governments to undertake long range capital improvements planning for expanding water distribution services commensurate with planned growth and development.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, local govts.	\$5,000/yr	RC, local gov'ts	CF-O-1
Assist local governments in maintaining and/or updating service delivery strategies that promote multi-jurisdictional water treatment and distribution services.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, local govts.	\$5,000/yr	RC, local gov'ts	CF-O-1
Coordinate with GA DNR adjoining state agencies and local governments to plan and develop regional (multi-jurisdictional) wastewater treatment facilities.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, Ga. DNR, local govts.	\$10,000/yr.	State, federal, local gov'ts	CF-O-1
Encourage local governments to undertake long range capital improvements planning for expanding wastewater collection and treatment services commensurate with planned growth and development.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, local govts.	TBD	State, local gov'ts	CF-O-1
Assist local governments with defining urban service areas and preparing capital improvements plans and budgets for extending services to these areas.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, local govts.	\$20,000/yr	Local govts.	CF-O-2

Activity Description	Timeframe					Responsible	Estimated	Funding	Issue / Opp
----------------------	-----------	--	--	--	--	-------------	-----------	---------	-------------

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				
Utilize Community Work Program and Service Delivery Strategy updates as a regional coordination mechanism to assure that service providers are coordinating in their efforts to serve the region with basic infrastructure.	X	X	X	X	X	RC	\$5,000/yr	Local govts.	CF-O-2
Provide assistance to local governments in developing and securing financing alternatives for the extension of urban services.	X	X	X	X	X	RC	\$40,000/yr	State, federal, local govts.	CF-O-2
Create a partnership of telecommunications providers; business and industry, public institutions, and government to sponsor and conduct regional forums on how telecommunications technology can be used to expand economic development.	X	X	X	X	X	Local govts., Ga. DCA Region 1	\$5,000/yr.	State, federal, local gov'ts	CF-O-3
Educate local governments to promote local telecommunications infrastructure such as fiber networks where such systems are lacking.	X	X	X	X	X	Local govts., Ga. DCA Region 1	\$5,000/yr.	State, federal, local gov'ts	CF-O-3
Encourage public and private sector employers to investigate the potential for Telecommuting programs.	X	X	X	X	X	Local govts, Ga. DCA Region 1	\$2,500/yr	State, federal, local gov'ts	CF-O-3
Encourage local governments to prepare solid waste management plans with an emphasis on multi-jurisdictional approaches.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, local govts.	\$10,000/yr.	RC, federal, local gov'ts	CF-O-4
Promote community support of and involvement in schools through: (a) support of local and state educational priorities including new ways to finance schools; (b) encouraging increased publicity of positive side of school and personnel; and (c) encouraging community mentoring programs.	X	X	X	X	X	Local collaborative, legislators, local education foundations, COC, religious groups, RC (public service announcements)	TBD	Local gov'ts, BOE, state, private	CF-O-5
Encourage business sponsorship of schools through: (a) promoting business adoption of schools and (b) encouraging apprenticeship programs.	X	X	X	X	X	COC, civic/social organizations, trade associations, RC (information clearinghouse)/ DOE, TCSG	TBD	Local, private	CF-O-5

Activity Description	Timeframe					Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)	Issue / Opp Addressed
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				
Promote the early identification and remediation of students actually or in danger of falling behind through: (a) school-based family support services; (b) expanded services for “at risk” students and provide more alternative schools; (c) involvement of the judiciary with parents to reduce truancy; (d) increased birth to school age early intervention programs; (e) initiate/expand pregnancy prevention programs; and (f) encourage after school programs to promote education, self esteem and work place ethic.	X	X	X	X	X	BOE, public health organizations, judiciary system, Family and Children Services, Head Start, religious organizations, RC (grant writing), Great Promise Partnerships	TBD	BOE, local gov'ts, private	CF-O-5
Promote stay in school efforts through: (a) increased involvement of business community in dropout prevention programs; (b) developing improved dropout tracking system; and (c) encouraging early instruction in career development.	X	X	X	X	X	BOE, Ga. DOE, COC, RC (information clearinghouse), Great Promise Partnerships	TBD	BOE, state, private	CF-O-5
Work with the State and local governments to address the priority needs identified in the Area Agency on Aging Plan including: (a) transportation; (b) legal assistance; (c) adult day care; (d) nutrition services; (e) health care; (f) housing and home maintenance; (g) long-term care and protective services; (h) employment; and (i) recreation/social opportunities among seniors and care givers.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, Ga. DHR, local govts.	\$5,000/yr	Local, state, federal	CF-O-6
Provide advocacy role through information sharing for services and tax breaks for the elderly.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, Ga. DHR	\$2,500/yr.	Local, state, federal	CF-O-6
Encourage more community based services to ensure longer independent living.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, Ga. DHR	\$2,500/yr.	Local, state, federal	CF-O-6
Support additional nursing homes and home health alternatives for elderly and their families.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, Ga. DHR	\$2,500/yr.	Local, state, federal	CF-O-6
Administer the Area Agency on Aging.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, Ga. DHR	\$4,300,000/yr.	Local, state, federal	CF-O-6
Work with health care service providers, local governments, and chambers of commerce to recruit physicians to underserved communities.	X	X	X	X	X	District health offices, local govts., COC, local health care providers.	TBD	State, local, federal	CF-O-7
Educate citizens on preventative health care and wellness programs.	X	X	X	X	X	Local health care providers	TBD	State, local, federal	CF-O-7

Activity Description	Timeframe					Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)	Issue / Opp Addressed
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				
Work with health care providers, local governments and chambers of commerce to recruit additional OB/GYN physicians and general surgeons to area.	X	X	X	X	X	Local health care providers	TBD	State, local, federal	CF-O-7
Work with health care service providers, local governments, and chambers of commerce to attract additional dental professional to area and increase capacity for indigent dental services especially for children.	X	X	X	X	X	Local health care providers	TBD	State, local, federal	CF-O-7
Work with health care service providers, local governments and others to obtain additional geriatric care and control cost of medications for the elderly.	X	X	X	X	X	Local health care providers	TBD	State, local, federal	CF-O-7
Work with health care service providers to improve family support and intervention services including: (a) dental services for children; (b) affordable health care insurance; (c) school based nurses; (d) additional mental health services; and (e) marriage/divorce counseling support services.	X	X	X	X	X	Local health care providers	TBD	State, local, federal	CF-O-7
Work with health care and social service providers to improve services for low-income, disabled, and homeless individuals.	X	X	X	X	X	Federal, state, local	TBD	Federal, state, local	CF-O-8
Work with health care and social service providers to improve mental health and substance abuse services.	X	X	X	X	X	Federal, state, local	TBD	Federal, state, local	CF-O-9
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION									
Provide better understanding of opportunities to cooperate/coordinate through such vehicles as a semi-annual City and County Managers' Meeting.	X	X	X	X	X	RC	TBD	RC	IC-I-1
Support existing multijurisdictional entities, such as the Northwest Georgia Workforce Investment Board; Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council; Bike! Walk! Northwest Georgia; North Georgia Water Resources Partnership; Greater Dalton MPO, Rome-Floyd County MPO, Chattanooga/Hamilton County/North Georgia TPO, Cartersville-Bartow County MPO, and Atlanta MPO.						Local govts., state	TBD	State, local, RC	IC-I-2
Greater Chattanooga Thrive 2055 Regional Planning Initiative	X	X	X	X	X	RC	\$20,000	RC, DCA	IC-1-2

Activity Description	Timeframe					Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)	Issue / Opp Addressed
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				
Increase coordination with Chambers of Commerce and economic development authorities.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, COC, Dev. Auth.	TBD	State, local	IC-O-1
TRANSPORTATION									
Coordinate with federal and state transportation agencies, the Atlanta Regional Commission (Atlanta MPO), Chattanooga/Hamilton County/North Georgia TPO, Rome-Floyd County MPO, Greater Dalton MPO, Cartersville-Bartow County MPO, and local governments to strengthen regional transportation planning and priority setting.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, local govts.	\$15,000/yr	State, federal, local gov'ts	T-O-1
Coordinate with transportation agencies and local governments to plan and determine feasibility of expanding alternative transportation modes such as (a) high-speed and commuter rail connecting the region to Atlanta and Chattanooga; (b) Amtrak service through region; (c) expanding services of local bus systems; and (d) linking county bus systems to existing and future mass transit system.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, local govts.	\$5,000/yr	State, federal, local gov'ts.	T-O-1
Support the implementation of the Georgia Department of Transportation, "Georgia Statewide Aviation System Plan."	X	X	X	X	X	RC, local govts.	\$5,000/yr	State, federal, local	T-O-1
Support Scenic Byways Program; assist in promoting and developing bicycle and pedestrian path plans; implement the Transportation Enhancement Program; and exercise due diligence in conducting historical and environmental impact assessments.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, GDOT	\$190,000/ yr	State, federal, local	T-O-1
Assist local governments with implementation of regional bike and pedestrian facilities plans; coordinate and facilitate Bike! Walk! Northwest Georgia.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, GDOT	\$15,000/yr	State, federal, local	T-O-1

Activity Description	Timeframe					Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)	Issue / Opp Addressed
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				
Seek and establish a Rural Planning Organization process at each Regional Commission consistent with Federal Highway Administration rules and regulations. Such a process would include: preparing and maintaining a long range transportation plan; providing technical assistance for transportation plan implementation; and coordination with GDOT, MPOs, Federal Highway Administration, and other planning entities.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, GDOT	\$160,000/yr	State, federal, local	T-O-1
Promote improved east-west transportation corridors within the region.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, GDOT	TBD	State, federal, local	T-O-1
Encourage regional transportation projects through public-private partnerships.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, GDOT	TBD	State, federal, local	T-O-1
LAND USE									
Prepare and update the <i>Northwest Georgia Regional Plan, 2013-2033</i> .	X	X	X	X	X	RC	\$20,000	RC, Ga. DCA	LU-O-1
Prepare and update local comprehensive plans.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, local govts.	TBD	RC, Ga. DCA, local govts.	LU-O-2
Encourage rehabilitation and reuse of property with current infrastructure.	X	X	X	X	X	Local govts.	TBD	Local govts.	LU-I-1
Devise and promote the use of incentives in local development regulations to encourage developers to utilize open space conservation land development practices, and assist local governments with implementation.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, local govts.	\$10,000/yr	State, local govts.	LU-I-2

Review

Activity Description	Timeframe					Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)	Issue / Opp Addressed
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				
Initiate the local plan review process, coordinate the review, and take action on local government plans (comprehensive plans, capital improvement elements, CIE updates, or plan amendments) pursuant to DCA Rules, Chapter 110-12-1 and additional standards in the	X	X	X	X	X	RC	TBD	Ga. DCA	-

DCA contract scope of services.									
Activity Description	Timeframe					Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)	Issue / Opp Addressed
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				
Review all Developments of Regional Impact within the region, adhering to DCA Rules, Chapter 110-12-3.	X	X	X	X	X	RC	\$10,000/yr.	Ga. DCA	-
Review Developments of Regional Impact located within one mile of any area included on the Regionally Important Resources Map and recommend such developments be designed in accordance with the adopted best practices.	X	X	X	X	X	RC	TBD	Ga. DCA	-
Provide Section 106/environmental review advisory comments for GDOT projects, telecommunications structures, CDBG projects, and other projects, as requested, regarding their potential effects on cultural resources.	X	X	X	X	X	RC	\$4,000/yr.	GDOT; Ga. DNR	-
Review local government applications for EDA funding for consistency with the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).	X	X	X	X	X	RC	\$2,000/yr.	EDA	-
Review and comment on long-range transportation plans for consistency with the Regional Plan.	X	X	X	X	X	RC	TBD	GDOT	-
Review and comment on applications for federal or state grant/loan/permit assistance by local governments and other applicants within the region in accordance with provisions of the Georgia Intergovernmental Consultation Process (Executive Order 12372).	X	X	X	X	X	RC	TBD	Ga. DCA	

Areas Requiring Special Attention

The Regional Agenda was officially adopted by the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission on January 16, 2014 and there have been no changes to Areas Requiring Special Attention.

These areas are reviewed and recommendations for protection and mitigation are made with each Development of Regional Impact or local project which the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission reviews.