

## A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission has prepared a **Regional Work Program Update: FY 2016-2020** (March 17, 2016) 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 2016-2020** (March 17, 2016) for the *Regional Plan (January 16, 2014)* is hereby officially approved and adopted.

SO RESOLVED, THIS 18<sup>th</sup> Day of August, 2016.



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Al Hoyle  
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

3/22/2016

Adopted 8/18/2016

## Regional Work Program (2016-2020)

The Regional Work Program (2016-2020) identifies specific activities that 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.

This draft of the Regional Work Program was sent for review to members of the Regional Planning Committee of the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission as well as provided to all members of the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Council for review.

## Evaluation and Monitoring

### 1. Monitoring and Evaluation Procedures

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.

#### A. Quality Growth Effectiveness/ Minimum Planning Standards (2014 Regional Agenda)

In Fall 2015, NWGRC staff met with several local governments to review provisions of the Regional Plan and the local Comprehensive Plan. These included meetings with elected officials and staff in Fannin County and the Towns and Cities of Blue Ridge, McCaysville, Morganton; Gilmer County and the Cities

of Ellijay and East Ellijay; and Pickens County and the Towns and Cities of Jasper, Nelson, and Talking Rock. In Spring 2016, NWGRC met with Gordon County and the Towns and Cities of Fairmount, Plainville, Resaca, Ranger and Calhoun; Bartow County and the Towns and Cities of Adairsville, Cartersville, Emerson, Euharlee, Kingston, Taylorsville, and White; Whitfield County and the Cities of Dalton, Cohutta, Tunnel Hill, and Varnell; Murray County and the Cities of Eton and Chatsworth. In these meetings, NWGRC staff reviewed the local comprehensive plan and discussed implementation of the comprehensive plan and work program, including activities with which NWGRC staff could provide funding or planning/ development assistance. NWGRC staff also presented components of the regional plan, including overarching categories and projects at a regional level, as well as excerpts from the 2012 Regionally Important Resource plan for that county.

From the Regional Agenda, the minimum planning standards and standards of planning excellence were discussed with each community. The vast majority of local governments had more than met the minimum standards, with one or two of the smallest local governments reporting that they had not yet achieved the training standard. However, NWGRC counseled these communities on training options and encouraged training through the Georgia Municipal Association so that each city or town would be able to achieve compliance within the required timeframe. Likewise, many cities and counties had implemented many of the Excellence Standards.

At this time the NWGRC has not set up regional incentives, but in meeting with local governments, we recommended that the Excellence Standards be reviewed as best practices and implemented as pertinent to each communities' needs (population and staff levels being taken into consideration). When local governments noted that they had implemented these standards, they were encouraged to submit documentation so that NWGRC staff would be able to credit them with meeting the Excellence Standards. NWGRC staff assisted Paulding and Floyd Counties to begin documenting the Excellence standards.

## **B. Survey of Regional Leaders**

In meeting with local government leaders during the plan implementation meetings in Fall 2015 and Spring 2016, the regional plan was reviewed and topics of regional importance were discussed. As many of these leaders serve on the Regional Council and are key contributors to the region's development, NWGRC took the opportunity to discuss local and regional projects of significance. In Whitfield County, the preservation of cultural and historic resources was of primary importance. In Murray County (as well as Gordon and Whitfield Counties), the development and impact of the Appalachian Regional Port as a regional intermodal hub for industry, warehousing and distribution is anticipated to require infrastructure improvements of water, sewer, and high speed fiber or broadband, as well as improvements to US 411. Additionally, the need to minimize or mitigate any impacts on environmental resources in the surrounding area was discussed. In Bartow County, leaders discussed the need for measured and coordinated growth and development between cities and the County as the Lakepoint Regional Sports Complex develops, with its anticipated impacts on water and sewer and transportation infrastructure and on land use. In Gordon County, the discussion centered on the coordination between Calhoun and Gordon County in terms of population growth and development and retention of regional employers. In Gilmer, Fannin and Pickens Counties, much of the discussion centered around anticipated population growth from the metro Atlanta area- while growth projections have slowed somewhat, residential growth is occurring- and the need for more coordinated planning throughout the counties. Additionally, during preliminary comprehensive plan discussions, the need for digital technology access and utilization, particularly during K-12 years was highlighted in several communities. Regional economic development projects, transportation corridors, and preservation of greenspace and natural resources were highlighted within Paulding County's efforts to update their comprehensive plan.

## 2. Results of Monitoring and Evaluation Program

The issues discussed by regional leaders reflect the regional agenda's focus on infrastructure development to support regional employers, assistance for infrastructure improvements, land use and historic preservation assistance, continued coordination and joint planning among and between cities and counties, and identification of specific regional initiatives for the inland port, the digital economy, assistance to advanced manufacturers and small businesses.

The region is seeing expanded growth and development post- recession. In 2015, the region saw several DRIs and developments for mixed use, recreation (Avatron SmartPark), industrial projects, as well as commercial, industrial and residential projects and developments on a smaller scale. Within the region, key growth areas include Pickens County (Jasper), Catoosa County, Paulding County, and the Cartersville-Emerson-Euharlee area. In addition, the I-75 corridor continues to be of economic importance as the new Union Grove interchange in Calhoun and the Highland 75 industrial park north of Cartersville attest; the progress on the Rome-Cartersville Development Corridor to improve the connection of US 411 to I-75 in Cartersville is also encouraging. SR 515 in Fannin, Gilmer and Pickens Counties continues to be a commercial corridor. Population growth is anticipated at a moderate pace within Pickens and Gilmer Counties, but limited by the availability of sewer or availability of soil conditions to permit septic systems. The US 411 corridor through Gordon and Bartow and Murray Counties is developing as a regional industrial corridor as it connects the region with Cleveland, TN. The location of the Appalachian Regional Port north of Eton on US 411 may change the surrounding land use as sites develop around the port, particularly to the south and west of US 411 and along the CSX rail corridor. Areas on both sides of the US 411 corridor are designated as rural in nature, but may see some port-related development. Little impact is anticipated to areas marked for conservation (US Forest Service Lands).

In addition, the THRIVE2055 regional planning effort among the 16 counties in and around Chattanooga including Dade, Walker, Catoosa, Whitfield and Murray Counties has led to regional partnerships and efforts in the areas of economic development, natural resource protection, and workforce development. One outcome of the effort has been the Thriving Communities Initiative, a planning effort by Bridge

Chattanooga funded by the Lyndhurst Foundation, to develop locally driven asset-based strategies. Four of the eight selected communities include Chatsworth, Cohutta, Rossville, and Dalton. THRIVE2055 also supports regional planning and development efforts related to the Appalachian Regional Port.

### **3. Plan Amendments Required**

No significant changes to the region's land use are anticipated.

We intend to revise the Minimum Standards to include the allowability of online training for local governments. At this time no other amendments are required.

## Report of Accomplishments (July 1, 2015- June 30, 2016)

### *Planning and Coordination*

Activity Description	Timeframe					Completed	Underway	Postponed	Not Accomplished
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				
<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>									
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
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				
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 (Now WIOA)			
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
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				
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
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				
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		
<b>HOUSING</b>									
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 (GICH & related)	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
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				
<b>NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES</b>									
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		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
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				
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 (Covered during Comprehensive Plan Updates or Planning Assistance Mtgs)	
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 (As needed or requested)	
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
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				
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		
<b>COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES</b>									
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
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				
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
	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		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 (i) 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
	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		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 esp. 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		
<b>INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION</b>									
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		
Participate in Greater Chattanooga Thrive 2055 Regional Planning Initiative	X	X					X 2016 Implementation efforts underway)		

Activity Description	Timeframe					Completed	Underway	Postponed	Not Accomplished
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				
Increase coordination with Chambers of Commerce and economic development authorities.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>									
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." <sup>**</sup>	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		

Activity Description	Timeframe					Completed	Underway	Postponed	Not Accomplished
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>									
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				X (Lack of funding)
Promote improved east-west transportation corridors within the region.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Encourage regional transportation projects through public-private partnerships.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
<b>LAND USE</b>									
Prepare and update the <i>Northwest Georgia Regional Plan, 2013-2033</i> .	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Prepare and update local comprehensive plans.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Encourage rehabilitation and reuse of property with current infrastructure.	X	X	X	X	X		X		
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		X		

**Review**

Activity Description	Timeframe					Completed	Underway	Postponed	Not Accomplished
	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 DCA contract scope of services.	X		X				X		
Review all Developments of Regional Impact within the region, adhering to DCA Rules, Chapter 110-12-3.	X		X				X		
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		
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		
Review local government applications for EDA funding for consistency with the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).	X		X				X		
Review and comment on long-range transportation plans for consistency with the Regional Plan.	X		X				X		
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		

\*indicates policy rather than work program item. Items will be included as policies for ongoing assistance.

## Regional Work Program (July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017)

### Annual Work Program Contents

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.

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.

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 were completed for Chattooga and Catoosa Counties in early 2016 (Five Year Updates). Updates are currently underway for Paulding County (Full Update, June 2017), Haralson and Polk Counties (Full Updates- February 2017), Walker County (Five Year Update- February 2017), and Dade County (June 30, 2017). The Fannin County ten year update process will begin in Fall 2016.

In addition, planning implementation strategy meetings are scheduled for Fall 2016 with Catoosa County and the Cities of Ringgold and Fort Oglethorpe; with Chattooga County and the Cities of Summerville and Menlo and Towns of Trion and Lyerly; Floyd County and the Cities of Rome and Cave Spring; Walker County and Cities of LaFayette, Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain and Rossville meeting will be concurrent with five year update of comprehensive plan); Dade County and City of Trenton (meeting will be concurrent with update of comprehensive plan); Paulding County and the Cities of Dallas and Hiram (meeting will be concurrent with update of comprehensive plan).

Communities will also receive land use, mapping and zoning assistance, including Polk County, Lookout Mountain, Fairmount, 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; job creation and private investment through the North Georgia Community Development Corporation loan programs; 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
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020				
<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>									
Assist business & manufacturing to start up and/or expand by implementing NWGRC's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).	X	X	X	X	X	RC	TBD	State, federal, local, private	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	Staff Time	State, federal, local, private	ED-O-1, ED-O-3
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; fed.	\$130,000/yr	SBA, RLF, state, federal	ED-O-1
Update Region's CEDS.	X	X				RC	Staff Time	EDA	ED-O-1
Prepare Urban Redevelopment Plans and Revitalization Area Strategies, Opportunity Zones and Enterprise Zones to promote redevelopment, revitalization, job creation and private investment	X	X	X	X	X	RC, local governments	Staff Time	ARC, EDA	ED-O-1
Identify and assist in preparing and administrating grant funds to implement local comprehensive plans, CEDS, Regional Agenda, local strategies and locally identified priority projects	X	X	X	X	X	RC, local governments, development authorities	Staff Time	ARC, EDA	ED-O-1
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
Administer WIOA Program	X	X	X	X	X	RC, Ga. DOL	\$3,650,000	State, 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	Legislators, businesses, Board of Regents, Department of Technical and Adult Education	TBD	State, local, private, federal	ED-O-2

Activity Description	Timeframe					Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)	Issue / Opp Addressed
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020				
<b>Develop Digital Region One Advisory Board; Implement Digital Region One Plan.</b>	X	X	X	X	X	GTA, RC	\$60,000	ARC, EDA, DCA	ED-O-2
Prepare and Implement Advanced Manufacturing Strategic Plan, IMCP Designation; to include regional infrastructure planning and funding, workforce development initiatives related to advanced manufacturing, partnerships and marketing efforts for advanced manufacturing.	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
Provide technical assistance and grant- in aid as needed to local governments throughout the region	X	X	X	X	X	RC	Staff Time	State, federal, local	ED-O-1
Staff the North Georgia CDC including SBA504 and EDA RLF Loan Programs; market and expand loan programs; coordinate training programs for lenders and banks; administer loans; provide technical assistance to banks, companies, local governments, Chambers of Commerce, development authorities	X	X	X	X	X	RC, CDC, local governments, business owners	Staff Time	State, Federal, Local	ED-O-3, ED-O-4
Administer the US Highway 27 Association in conjunction with Southeast Georgia and Hwy 27 Board	X	X	X	X	X	RC, local govts.	TBD	State, federal, local	ED-O-5
Assist local governments to implement Comprehensive Plans, CEDS and Regional Agenda to extend basic infrastructure along major transportation corridor.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, local govts.	\$10,000/yr	State, local govts.	ED-O-5
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
Partner with growers to 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	Staff Time	State, federal	ED-O-7

Activity Description	Timeframe					Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)	Issue / Opp Addressed
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020				
Develop community-level plans, strategies, and inventories to promote and protect local agriculture and local food assets.	X	X	X	X	X	RC	\$5,000/ yr	State, federal	ED-O-7
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
Assist Northwest Georgia Regional Food Hub in identification of funds, best practices, and participating farmers, and other assistance	X	X				RC, local govt	\$5,000. yr	State, federal, local	ED-O-7
<b>HOUSING</b>									
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-1, H-I-2
Work with Preservation Commissions to develop historic districts and ordinances to preserve historic homes in key areas 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	Staff Time	Local	H-O-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

Activity Description	Timeframe					Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)	Issue / Opp Addressed
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020				
<b>NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES</b>									
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
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
Implement Water Plan, Grid Transmission Study, and Redundancy and Emergency Interconnectivity Study	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

Activity Description	Timeframe					Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)	Issue / Opp Addressed
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020				
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
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 where 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
Work with local governments to prepare 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

Activity Description	Timeframe					Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)	Issue / Opp Addressed
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020				
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
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
Prepare Historic Resources Survey of historic sites throughout the region in conjunction with other Regional Commissions	X	X	X			RC, other RCs within ARC region	\$50,000	ARC and local	NC- O-6
<b>COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES</b>									
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
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
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, 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 Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)	Issue / Opp Addressed
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020				
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
Coordinate 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
Implement findings of Aspen Institute Communities that Work Partnership including coordination between College and Career Academies	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
Implement Great Promise Partnerships and at-risk youth programs throughout Region	X	X	X	X	X	BOE, Ga. DOE, COC, RC (information clearinghouse), Great Promise Partnerships	TBD	BOE, state, private	CF-O-5
Seek funding for STEM, robotics, other academic and skill development programs in K-12 schools	X	X	X	X	X	RC	STAFF TIME	Local, state, federal	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	RC	STAFF TIME	Local, state, federal	CF-O-5

Activity Description	Timeframe					Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)	Issue / Opp Addressed
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020				
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	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
Administer the Area Agency on Aging to provide wide spectrum of supportive services for seniors.	X	X	X	X	X	RC, Ga. DHR	\$4,300,000/yr.	Local, state, federal	CF-O-6
<b>INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION</b>									
Implement Thrive 2055 Regional Planning Initiative in Dade, Catoosa, Walker, Whitfield, Murray Counties (economic development, natural resources, Workforce development coordinated strategies	X	X	X	X	X	RC	\$20,000	RC, DCA	IC-1-2
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
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>									
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

Activity Description	Timeframe					Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)	Issue / Opp Addressed
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020				
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
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
<b>LAND USE</b>									
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 to implement.	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
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020				
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 DCA contract scope of services.	X	X	X	X	X	RC	TBD	Ga. DCA	-
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	-

# LONGTERM POLICIES FOR ONGOING ASSISTANCE

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Issue/Op Addressed

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| 1. Develop, improve, and promote economic development tax incentives.  | 1. ED-I-1  |
| 2. Stimulate spin-off industries from existing economic clusters.  | 2. ED-O-1  |
| 3. Assist business and manufacturing to start up and/or expand in the region by export trade assistance.   | 3. ED-O-1  |
| 4. Assist business and manufacturing to start up and/or expand in the region by industrial planning, engineering and other services.   | 4. ED-O-1  |
| 5. Assist business and manufacturing to start up and/or expand in the region by business planning and other services.  | 5. ED-O-1  |
| 6. Assist business and manufacturing to start up and/or expand in the region by cooperative, regional marketing and recruitment of diversified business and industries.  | 6. ED-O-1  |
| 7. Assist business and manufacturing to start up and/or expand in the region by conducting entrepreneur assistance workshops and creating entrepreneurial networks.  | 7. ED-O-1  |
| 8. Assist business and manufacturing to start up and/or expand in the region by including entrepreneurial training in school curriculums.  | 8. ED-O-1  |
| 9. Focus on improving skills including science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), inter-personal communications, and self-motivation.  | 9. ED-O-2  |
| 10. Identify and provide programs for those individuals with barriers to employment such as welfare, teen parents, senior citizens, disabled, and Hispanic populations.  | 10. ED-O-2 |
| 11. 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. | 11. ED-O-2 |
| 12. Educate existing businesses and industries on importing and exporting opportunities.   | 12. ED-O-6 |

	<u>Issue/Op Addressed</u>
13. Address regulations on growing, production, sales and distribution that affect local, small scale growers adversely and disproportionately from large scale commercial growers.	13. ED-O-7
14. Support the Georgia Made, Georgia Grown initiative and assist local businesses pursuing designation.	14. ED-O-7
15. 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.	15. ED-O-7
16. 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.	16. ED-O-8

HOUSING

	<u>Issue/Op Addressed</u>
1. 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.	1. H-I-1
2. 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.	2. H-I-1
3. Educate local officials, developers, and builders on alternative housing arrangements that may reduce the cost of housing while preserving quality standards.	3. H-I-1

## NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

### Issue/Op Addressed

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Encourage coordination of water planning between water districts.   | 1. NC-O-1 |
| 2. Encourage public-private collaborations to acquire significant cultural properties for preservation or use as parks and/or tourist attractions. | 2. NC-O-6 |

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| 1. More or better quality parks and recreation facilities and programs and greater availability of youth activities.   | 1. CF-I-1 |
| 2. Be an active participant in the allocations of water resources in the Chattahoochee, Coosa, Tallapoosa and Tennessee river basins.  | 2. CF-O-1 |
| 3. Encourage local governments to undertake long range capital improvements planning for expanding water distribution services commensurate with planned growth and development.   | 3. CF-O-1 |
| 4. Encourage local governments to undertake long range capital improvements planning for expanding wastewater collection and treatment services commensurate with planned growth and development.  | 4. CF-O-1 |
| 5. Encourage public and private sector employers to investigate the potential for Telecommuting programs.  | 5. CF-O-3 |
| 6. Encourage local governments to prepare solid waste management plans with an emphasis on multi-jurisdictional approaches.  | 6. CF-O-4 |
| 7. 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. | 7. CF-O-5 |

	<u>Issue/Op Addressed</u>
8. Encourage business sponsorship of schools through: (a) promoting business adoption of schools and (b) encouraging apprenticeship programs.	8. CF-O-5
9. 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.	9. CF-O-5
10. Encourage more community based services to ensure longer independent living.	10. CF-O-6
11. Support additional nursing homes and home health alternatives for elderly, their families.	11. CF-O-6
12. Work with health care service providers, local governments, and chambers of commerce to recruit physicians to underserved communities.	12. CF-O-6
13. Educate citizens on preventative health care and wellness programs.	13. CF-O-7
14. Work with health care providers, local governments and chambers of commerce to recruit additional OB/GYN physicians and general surgeons to area.	14. CF-O-7
15. 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.	15. CF-O-7
16. Work with health care service providers, local governments and others to obtain additional geriatric care and control cost of medications for the elderly.	16. CF-O-7
17. 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.	17. CF-O-7
18. Work with health care and social service providers to improve services for low-income, disabled, and homeless individuals.	18. CF-O-8
19. Work with health care and social service providers to improve mental health and substance abuse services.	19. CF-O-9

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

1. Provide better understanding of opportunities to cooperate/coordinate through such vehicles as a semi-annual City and County Managers' Meeting.
2. 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.

## Issue/Op Addressed

1. IC-I-1
2. IC-I-2

## TRANSPORTATION

1. Support the implementation of the Georgia Department of Transportation Georgia Statewide Aviation System Plan and Georgia Statewide Freight and Logistics Plan, as well as Statewide Transportation Improvement Plans.
2. 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.

1. T-O-1
2. T-O-1

## 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.

### **Implementation and Review Measures:**

Implementation activities within each identified land use area center around discussion of the importance of State Vital Areas with member local governments, and explanation of availability of Part V Environmental Criteria draft ordinances for local adoption.

These areas requiring special attention 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.

In a March 2016 Planning Implementation Meeting, Bartow County suggested that in the next update to the Regionally Important Resource plan, many historical resources may need to be updated due to loss of resources as well as discovery of new resources and their addition to the National or state historic register.

A database of areas of special attention, greenspace, historic and cultural resources, and bike and pedestrian facilities for the five counties bordering Chattanooga (Dade, Walker, Catoosa, Whitfield and Murray) was provided to the THRIVE2055 regional planning initiative's Natural Treasures working group. The Natural Treasures working group coordinated with the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga to prepare a regional map and modeling scenarios using Envision Tomorrow and GIS resources which will be utilized for planning purposes for projects in these counties.

Growth and development will continue to occur along major transportation corridors including US 411, I-75, SR 515, and Highway 27, and US 278.

No significant changes to the region's land use or Areas of Special Attention are anticipated.