

River Valley Regional Work Program 2016-2020

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Resolution of Adoption Regional Work Program 2016-2020

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Georgia Planning Act of 1989 and the Standards and Procedures for Regional Planning promulgated pursuant thereto by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, the River Valley Regional Commission prepared an annual update to the Regional Work Program element of the River Valley Regional Plan, said update consisting of a Report of Accomplishments for 2015 and the addition of a fifth year, 2020, to the Regional Work Program 2016-2020, and

WHEREAS, in correspondence dated May 27, 2016, staff with the Department of Community Affairs notified the River Valley Regional Commission that said annual update meets all requirements of the Regional Planning Standards and can now be adopted.

NOW, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, and it is hereby resolved by the River Valley Regional Commission that the Regional Work Program 2016-2020 of the River Valley Regional Plan be adopted.

Resolved on this 22nd day of June, 2016



Clinton Perry, Jr., Chair
River Valley Regional Commission



Patricia P. Cullen, Executive Director
River Valley Regional Commission

Attest:



River Valley Regional Work Program 2016-2020

Natural Resources

Vision Statement	The RVRC will not only promote the protection of natural resources within the Region by encouraging sustainable development practices, but will also work to educate local governments and citizens on the importance of protecting natural resources within individual communities, and the Region as a whole.
Guiding Principles	
NR. 1	Adopt appropriate Part V. Environmental Ordinances
NR. 2	Work with local planning commissions, Georgia Trust, DOT, SHPO, and private property owners to designate scenic byways.
NR. 3	Educate local governments to ensure soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution control measures and practices conform to the minimum requirements outlined by the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Service.
NR. 4	Promote adopt-a-stream activities on all streams not meeting water quality standards
NR. 5	Support and promote funding for the study and protection of the region's surface and groundwater resources.
NR. 6	Participate in the National Flood Insurance Program
NR. 7	Celebrate the region's agricultural heritage by continuing economic assistance efforts to rejuvenate agricultural industries within the region.
NR. 8	Work with the federal, state, regional, county and city agencies to conserve and enhance our valuable water resources as an economic, recreational and natural asset.

Activity	Category	Time Frame	Responsible Party(ies) and Partners	Cost	Funding Source(s)	Guiding Principles	Issues / Opportunities Addressed	Performance Standard(s) Addressed	Accomplishments CY 2015
1. Educate local elected officials, industries, developers, youth, and the public on the importance of natural resource protection, including scenic views, by utilizing brochures, maps, nature trails, and/or outdoor learning centers.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts DCA DNR EPD GDEcD	\$20,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts DCA DNR EPD GDEcD	NR.2	CF.I.1 CF.I.9 I.I.1- I.I.2 ED.O.9 I.O.5 LU.O.10 T.O.3 LU.I.2- LU.I.3 LU.O.1	NCRE.15 NCRE.16	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
2. Promote the development of Keep America Beautiful affiliates and regular "Clean-up" campaigns in each county.	Review	2016-2020	Local Gov'ts KAB EPD	\$15,000	Local Gov'ts KAB EPD	NR.3 NR.4	LU.I.1 LU.I.3	L1M.4 NCRE.2 NCRE.3 NCRE.15 NCRE.16	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
3. Promote safe disposal of potential hazardous materials and encourage recycling activities within the Region.	Review	2016-2020	Local Gov'ts KAB EPD	\$15,000	Local Gov'ts KAB EPD	NR.1 NR.5	LU.O.5 CF.I.9	L1M.4 NCRE.4 NCRE.18	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
4. Assist local governments with development and adoption, as needed, of DNR Part V Environmental Planning Standards.	Planning	2016-2020	Local Gov'ts KAB EPD	\$40,000	Local Gov'ts KAB EPD	NR.1	LU.O.5	L2M.1 NCRE.1	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.

5. Market local products to other parts of the state through programs such as Georgia Made, Georgia Grown.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC COC Dev Auth GDEcD USDA	\$12,000 \$1350	Member Dues USDA COC Dev Auth GDEcD USDA	NR.7	ED.O.9 I.O.5		COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
6. 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.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC GDAg GDEcD Local HD USDA	\$50,000	Member Dues GDAg GDEcD DCA USDA	NR.7	CF.I.11 LU.O.4 ED.O.9		COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
7. Develop ordinances to protect the Chattahoochee and Flint River corridors for proper land use, and implement/enforce the Flint River Drought Protection Act, Flint River Basin Water Development and Conservation Plan, the Georgia Stormwater Management Manual, and Tier 1-4 non-farm water and agricultural conservation practices.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts ACOE Water Councils EPD GDAg GA Conserv TPL	\$50,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts ACOE EPD GDAg GA Conserv TPL	NR.5 NR.6	LU.O.4 LU.I.15 I.I.1		POSTPONED lack of staff and financial resources

8. Support the development of Green Belts along the Flint and Chattahoochee Rivers.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts ACOE DNR GA Conserv TPL	\$40,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts ACOE DNR GA Conserv TPL	NR.5 NR.6	LU.O.10 I.O.2		POSTPONED lack of staff and financial resources
9. Support and promote activities and actions that maintain the navigation of the Chattahoochee River from south Columbus to the Florida state line.	Review	2016-2020	RVRC ACOE GDOT RWS	\$30,000	Member Dues ACOE GDOT	NR.8	LU.I.19		COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
10. Identify and assess non-point stressors in watersheds with the objective to monitor and provide data and Best Management Practice strategies to local governments that will reduce sources of pollution.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts EPD EPA	\$60,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts EPD EPA	NR.4 NR.5 NR.8	LU.I.10 LU.I.16 LU.I.20 LU.I.21	CFE.21	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
11. Investigate the feasibility of developing a wetland bank and conservation land program to increase stream buffers in perpetuity.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts DNR EPD GA Conserv TPL	\$60,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts DNR EPD GA Conserv TPL	NR.1 NR.6 NR.8	H.O.7 LU.I.19 LU.O.4	LUE.11	POSTPONED lack of staff and financial resources

12. Encourage studies to improve water resource management information, water return ratios for land application and septic systems, modeling scenarios under extreme conditions.	Review	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts Water Councils EPD	\$50,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts EPD	NR.5	LU.I.16 LU.I.19- LU.I.21 I.I.2		POSTPONED lack of staff and financial resources
13. Evaluate storage options for flow augmentation in dry periods by considering direct pumping from aquifers, Aquifer Storage and Recovery, farm ponds and/or additional storage reservoirs.	Review	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts Water Councils EPD USDA	\$50,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts EPD USDA	NR.5 NR.8	LU.O.8 LU.I.15 LU.I.18- LU.I.19I.I.2		UNDERWAY pending completion of ASR study
14. Educate non-participating communities of the advantages of the National Flood Insurance Program and assist them with applications for enrollment and flood damage prevention ordinances.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts USGS	\$30,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts USGS	NR.6	CF.I.8	LUE.25	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
15. Encourage all water providers to consider conservation-oriented rate structures at the time of refinancing or recapitalization.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC GA RWA GEFA	\$20,000	Member Dues GEFA	NR.5 NR.8	I.I.1	CFE.4	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.

16. Encourage use of point discharges for wastewater treatment effluent disposal for major facilities (greater than one million gallons per day).	Review	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts Water Councils EPD	\$40,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts EPD	NR.5 NR.8	LU.I.16 LU.I.20		NOT COMPLETE no know activity during period
17. Increase education and outreach programs directed toward improving water quality.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Svc Providers Water Councils	\$20,000	Member Dues Svc Providers EPD	NR.3 NR.4 NR.5	LU.O.4		COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
18. Encourage interconnection of regional supply systems for reliability.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts	\$20,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts	NR.5 NR.8	I.I.8	L1M.3 ICE.4 ICE.6	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
19. Encourage local providers to prepare drought contingency plans.	Review	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts	\$40,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts EPD	NR.5 NR.8	LU.I.1 LU.I.15	ICE.4 ICE.11	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
20. Utilize and improve upon reservoir release quantity and timing in the Chattahoochee River to maintain and/or improve water quality in the Chattahoochee River below the Columbus Planning Node.	Review	2016-2020	RVRC ACOE	\$50,000	Member Dues ACOE	NR.5 NR.8	LU.I.19		COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.

Land Use

Vision Statement	The RVRC will employ both proven and modern planning techniques to encourage and facilitate sustainable development practices; compact development; strong traditional and alternative transportation options; housing choices for all citizens; green space protection/development; et al. These different elements will in turn work together to foster sustainable and healthy communities.
Guiding Principles	
LU. 1	Promote the development, adoption and implementation of land use regulations that will result in a fiscally responsible quality living environment.
LU. 2	Develop design guidelines and make available to local merchants, builders, etc.
LU. 3	Provide alternative transportation in new development and retrofit for alternative transportation in developed areas.
LU. 4	Update zoning ordinances to allow mixed uses and higher density development where appropriate.
LU.5	Encourage and create innovative design practices that preserve open space.
LU. 6	The River Valley Regional Commission will work to preserve the region’s cultural and historic resources and use these assets to develop and sustain the tourism industry.

Activity	Category	Time Frame	Responsible Party(ies) and Partners	Cost	Funding Source(s)	Guiding Principles Addressed	Issues / Opportunities Addressed	Performance Standard(s) Addressed	Accomplishments CY 2015
1. Provide zoning technical assistance by updating zoning ordinances to comply with current laws and to allow for more compact and mixed-use development.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts DCA	\$40,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts DCA	LU.1 LU.2 LU.4 LU.5	LU.I.5 LU.I.11 LU.O.11 LU.1.12	HE.9 HE.10 LUE.1- LUE.4 LUE.6 LUE.7 LUE.8 LUE.21	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
2. Provide zoning administration technical assistance and training to local governments.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC DCA CUIOG	\$40,000	Member Dues DCA	LU.1 LU.4	LU.I.12	LUE.7 LUE.8 LUE.21	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
3. Develop recommended land use standards to be adopted by the local governments, to include but not be limited to subdivision regulations, sign ordinances and tree ordinances.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC	\$20,000 per year	Member Dues	LU.1 LU.2 LU.4 LU.5	LU.I.11 T.I.4	LUE.1- LUE.12 NCRE.9 NCRE.15	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
4. Host strategy/visioning workshops and/or leadership programs at the county level involving community stakeholders and the general public.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC DCA	\$10,000	Membership Dues DCA	LU.1	LU.0.10	LUE.14	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.

5. Facilitate regional land banking	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts SWGA United DCA	\$40,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts DCA	LU.1	LU.I.6 H.O.7 H.I.4	EDE.22	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
6. Work with communities to incorporate planning tools such as traditional neighborhoods, stream buffers, etc. into existing regulations.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts DCA EPD	\$50,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts DCA EPD	LU.1 LU.4 LU.5	LU.O.2 LU.O.3	HE.3 HE.9- HE.10 TE.1- TE.10 LUE.5 LUE.9- LUE.12 LUE.17- LUE.18 NCRE.1 NCRE.11- NCRE.13	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
7. Encourage the use of resource management planning when siting new developments to protect resources (i.e. natural, agricultural, environmental, historic and cultural resources) from encroachment.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts DCA DNR EPD	\$20,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts DCA EPD	LU.1 LU.4 LU.6	LU.I.1 LU.I.2 LU.I.3 LU.O.5 LU.O.7 LU.O.9	L2M.1 CFE.21 LUE.17- LUE.18 LUE.8 NCRE.15	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
8. Work with local governments to improve the quality of alternative transportation options, including sidewalks, trails, bike lanes, transit and promote their use.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts DCA GDOT	\$40,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts DCA GDOT	LU.3 LU.4	LU.O.10 T.I.12 LU.I.7	TE.1- TE.7 TE.10- TE.11	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.

9. Expand the Safe Routes to School program to encourage the development of safe walking environments for children.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts Local BOE GDOT	\$20,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts Local BOE GDOT	LU.3 LU.4	LU.I.13 T.I.1	TE.5 TE.3 TE.2	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
10. Support marketing campaigns that promote bicycling and pedestrian activities and opportunities within the community, such as available trails and bike plans, and bike races and events.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts GDOT	\$1,500	Member Dues Local Gov'ts GDOT Sponsors	LU.3	LU.I.13 LU.I.7	TE.6 TE.7 TE.2	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
11. Ensure that infrastructure provides necessary accessibility for people with disabilities such as parking and ramps.	Review	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts DCA GDOT	\$10,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts DCA GDOT	LU.1 LU.3	LU.0.7		COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
12. Promote development and assist with implementation of historic preservation ordinances and design guidelines; promote and facilitate historic resource inventories.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts DNR DCA	\$30,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts DNR DCA	LU.1 LU.2 LU.6	LU.I.3 LU.I.4	NCRE.5 NCRE.6 NCRE.7 NCRE.8	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
13. Provide information and present programs educating the general public of the benefits of historic preservation.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC DNR DCA	\$10,000	Member Dues DNR DCA	LU.1 LU.6	LU.0.6	NCRE.5 NCRE.6	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.

14. Assist interested parties with tax credits and other historic preservation incentive programs.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts DNR DCA	\$10,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts DNR DCA HUD	LU.6	LU.O.6 H.I.5	EDE.17 EDE.10	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
15. Create an ongoing and active education program about historic and cultural resource conservation and protection for the public, local elected officials, developers, etc.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts DNR DCA	\$15,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts DNR DCA	LU.1 LU.6	LU.O.6	NCRE.5 NCRE.6	POSTPONED lack of staff and financial resources
16. Assist communities secure Better Hometown/Main Street designation and provide technical assistance to implement revitalization programs.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts DNR DCA	\$15,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts DNR DCA HUD DCA	LU.1 LU.2 LU.5 LU.6	LU.O.6 LU.O.7 ED.O.2 ED.O.13 CF.O.3 I.O.4 T.I.2	EDE.17	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
17. Encourage communities in their efforts to obtain Certified Local Government designation; provide training and technical assistance to historic preservation commissions.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts DNR DCA	\$15,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts DNR	LU.1 LU.6	LU.O.6		COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.

18. Encourage conservation of the Old Federal Road	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts DNR DCA	\$15,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts DNR DCA	LU.1 LU.6	LU.O.6	NCRE.5 NCRE.6	POSTPONED lack of staff and financial resources
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Housing and Neighborhood Development

Vision Statement	The RVRC will promote development of sustainable neighborhoods that provide a variety of housing choices, parks, green space, schools and retail opportunities interconnected with a well-developed traditional and alternative transportation infrastructure.
Guiding Principles	
H. 1	Educate residents on home ownership. Also create, adopt and regularly update an affordable housing strategy that examines the tools and mechanisms to facilitate affordable housing. The strategy should be developed in partnership with local citizens and developers, and should be implemented and monitored.
H. 2	Promote a higher density and range of housing choices and a variety of dwelling types in all neighborhoods that have appropriate infrastructure.
H. 3	Develop in areas already served by municipal or county utilities and streets.
H. 4	Change zoning ordinances to accommodate loft living and mother-in-law suites.
H. 5	Work with other counties and cities in the region to implement residential code enforcement including health and safety standards for manufactured homes.
H. 6	Tax manufactured housing as real property where appropriate.
H. 7	Utilize federal, state and non-profit rehabilitation loan and grant assistance programs for maintenance assistance, home equity conversion mortgage programs, shared housing programs and smaller affordable low and moderate income housing units to meet housing challenges.
H. 8	Work with state agencies, federal agencies, and local governments to help preserve existing housing stock and promote the development of quality affordable housing in the region by seeking local, state and federal funding.

Activity	Category	Time Frame	Responsible Party(ies) and Partners	Cost	Funding Source(s)	Guiding Principles Addressed	Issues / Opportunities Addressed	Performance Standard(s) Addressed	Accomplishments CY 2015
1. Promote intergovernmental agreements between governments that have existing code enforcement staff and those that do not.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts	\$5,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts	H.5	I.I.8 LU.I.12 H.I.2	ICE.7	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
2. Develop a general maintenance program for the Region's existing housing stock coordinating with community outreach and volunteer organizations targeting at-need populations.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts DCA USDA GICH SWGA United Neighbor- Works, Habitat House of Heroes Fuller Center	\$40,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts DCA USDASWG A United, Neighbor- Works, Habitat, House of Heroes, Fuller Center	H.1 H.5 H.7	H.O.6 H.I.5	HE.4 HE.6	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.

<p>3. Support and continue to partner with ROSS Elderly/Persons which is the Resident Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency program. The program promotes our mission for self-sufficiency and independence by allowing people to remain in their home and age in place.</p>	<p>Planning</p>	<p>2016-2020</p>	<p>RVRC Local Gov'ts DCA DHS USDA GICH SWGA United Neighbor Works Habitat House of Heroes Fuller Ctr</p>	<p>\$20,000</p>	<p>Member Dues Local Gov'ts DCA DHS USDA SWGA United Neighbor Works Habitat House of Heroes Fuller Ctr</p>	<p>H.1 H.2 H.3 H.4 H.7 H.8</p>	<p>H.I.5 H.I.6 CF.I.7</p>	<p>HE.6</p>	<p>POSTPONED lack of staff and financial resources</p>
<p>4. Provide educational seminars and counseling for residents on subjects related to home ownership, such as credit and mortgages, home maintenance, and financing.</p>	<p>Review</p>	<p>2016-2020</p>	<p>RVRC DCA SWGA United Neighbor Works USDA</p>	<p>\$20,000</p>	<p>Member Dues DCA SWGA United Neighbor Works USDA</p>	<p>H.1</p>	<p>LU.I.12 H.I.7</p>	<p>HE.7</p>	<p>COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.</p>
<p>5. Seek opportunities to diversify the housing mix to include quality multi-family and single-family attached units.</p>	<p>Planning</p>	<p>2016-2020</p>	<p>RVRC Local Gov'ts DCA USDA GICH</p>	<p>\$20,000</p>	<p>Member Dues Local Gov'ts DCA USDA SWGA United</p>	<p>H.7</p>	<p>H.I.2 H.I.5</p>	<p>HE.8</p>	<p>POSTPONED lack of staff and financial resources</p>

6. Support and, where possible, coordinate housing efforts with housing organizations such as Neighbor-Works, Habitat for Humanity, House of Heroes, and the Fuller Center.	Planning	2016-2020	SWGA United Neighbor Works Habitat House of Heroes Fuller Center	\$20,000	Neighbor Works Habitat House of Heroes Fuller Center				COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
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Transportation and Infrastructure

Vision Statement	By encouraging proper maintenance and efficient expansion of existing transportation infrastructure and development of alternative transportation options, the RVRC will promote a varied and versatile transportation system within communities and the region.
Guiding Principles	
T. 1	Concentrate activities where possible. Encourage pedestrian and transit travel by creating ‘nodes’ of high-density, mixed development that are linked by convenient transit service. Retain strong downtowns and CBD’s by concentrating commercial activities in these areas.
T. 2	Encourage shared parking
T. 3	Create a network of well-connected lots, blocks streets and paths. Keep streets narrow and use traffic calming measures to minimize vehicle speeds.
T. 4	Participate in and support the regional transit system.
T. 5	Identify potential transportation programs to meet public transportation needs.
T. 6	Work with local governments, state agencies and federal agencies to implement TIA and other programs to improve the transportation network in the region.
T. 7	Assist local government’s efforts with RC staff support, including GIS support, to receive state and federal funding to provide and maintain transportation and facility infrastructure capable of meeting community needs.
T. 8	Promote initiatives aimed at the development and implementation of alternative transportation options as a means of increasing connectivity, walkability, bike-ability and health.
T. 9	Work with local telecommunication provider to identify telecommunication issues and enhance the level of telecommunication services within the Region.
T. 10	Provide alternative transportation in new development and retrofit transportation infrastructure in existing developed areas.

Activity	Category	Time Frame	Responsible Party(ies) and Partners	Cost	Funding Source(s)	Guiding Principles Addressed	Issues / Opportunities Addressed	Performance Standard(s) Addressed	Accomplishments CY 2015
1. Inventory and map all available land and buildings to evaluate possible infill and redevelopment opportunities within the region.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts COC Dev Auth EDA	\$60,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts COC Dev Auth EDA	T.1 T.3	H.O.7 LU.O.1 LU.O.5 H.O.3	EDE.10 EDE.16 LUE.5 LUE.8	POSTPONED lack of staff and financial resources
2. Make transportation and infrastructure GIS information readily available through a website or other digital media.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts	\$30,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts	T.7	I.O.1	LUE.22 LUE.23 LUE.24	POSTPONED lack of staff and financial resources
3. Work to expand the Pataula Transit System into other counties by introducing new routes and expanding operational hours to better serve the communities.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts FTA LCRTA	\$20,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts FTA LCRTA JARC	T.4 T.5 T.6	T.O.1 I.I.3 I.I.5	ICE.4 ICE.6 ICE.10	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
4. Work with transit providers to identify operating inefficiencies and promote coordination between metropolitan and rural systems to enhance service delivery.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts Svc Providers	\$20,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts Svc Providers JARC	T.4 T.5 T.6	I.O.1 I.I.5 T.O.1 T.I.12	TE.10 ICE.4 ICE.6	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.

5. Encourage the re-establishment of intercity passenger rail service (Columbus-Atlanta), preservation of existing interstate and rail line right-of-way to facilitate passenger rail service, and the preservation/expansion of rail freight service.	Review	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts GDOT FTA	\$30,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts GDOT FTA	T.6	T.I.8 T.I.9 T.I.11	TE.10	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
6. Assist local governments to comply with FHWA traffic sign restoration reflectivity requirements.	Planning	2013	RVRC Local Gov'ts GDOT FHWA	\$20,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts GDOT FHWA	T.5 T.6	T.I.3 T.I.5	LUE.20	POSTPONED FHWA suspended restoration requirements
7. Work to coordinate local and regional bike, multi-use, and walking trails with larger regional systems.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts DCA GDOT USDA	\$50,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts DCA GDOT USDA	T.1 T.3	I.I.3 T.I.1 T.I.6 H.O.4 LU.I.7	TE.3 TE.4 TE.6 TE.7	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
8. Expand the Safe Routes to School program to encourage the development of safe walking environments for children.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts Local BOE GDOT	\$30,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts GDOT	T.1 T.3 T.5 T.8 T.10	T.I.1 T.I.6	TE.5 TE.2 TE.1 TE.3	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.

9. Conduct marketing campaigns that promote bicycling and pedestrian activities & opportunities within the community, such as available trails and bike plans, & bike races & events.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts DCA GDOT	\$25,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts DCA GDOT	T.1 T.3 T.8 T.10	T.I.1 T.I.6	TE.5 TE.11 TE.6 TE.7	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
10. Support and work with DHS Coordinated Transportation and continue to provide educational information on Medicaid transportation services.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRCAAA DHS	\$25,000	RVRCAAA DHS	T.1 T.6 T.7	I.I.3 I.I.5	TE.10	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
11. Identify and address telecommunications deficiencies in the region.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts SWGA United DCA	\$30,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts SWGA United DCA	T.7 T.9	CF.I.2 ED.O.7 ED.I.10	L1M.6	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.

Economic Development

Vision Statement	Through implementation of a variety of comprehensive and diverse economic development initiatives, and coordinating the efforts between different sectors, such as agriculture, industry, tourism and retail, the RVRC will support the creation of a stable economic base for the region, creating communities that are self-sufficient and equitable.
Guiding Principles	
ED. 1	Assist local governments and business efforts with federal, state financial aid and staff assistance to diversify and coordinate the region’s economic base and provide employment opportunities for regional residents. Grow the RVRC Revolving Loan Fund.
ED. 2	Partner with representatives and leverage resources from military installations, both within the Region and surrounding the Region, including Fort Benning in Columbus, the Marine Corps Logistics Base in Albany, and Robins Air Force Base, in Warner Robins, to study and plan for the impact on future growth patterns and economic development opportunities within the Region.
ED. 3	Support the development and marketing of tourism initiatives, such as U. S. Highway 27 Association, and campaigns within the Region to capitalize on the many strengths and assets found within the Region.
ED. 4	Utilize state, regional and local staff to promote the development and rehabilitation of downtowns and neighborhoods. Market downtown and neighborhood redevelopment campaigns and initiatives within the River Valley region.
Ed. 5	Capitalize on the rich agricultural and natural resources of the region to enhance agri-tourism by marketing said resources and developing agri-tourism ordinances.

Activity	Category	Time Frame	Responsible Party(ies) and Partners	Cost	Funding Source(s)	Guiding Principles Addressed	Issues / Opportunities Addressed	Performance Standard(s) Addressed	Accomplishments CY 2015
1. Support the economic importance of the in-land port in Cordele by promoting multi-modal transportation within the region as a way to import and export manufacturing goods and stimulate growth.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts SWGA United DCA USDA GDOT	\$50,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts SWGA United DCA USDA GDOT	ED.1	T.I.7 T.I.8 T.I.9 ED.O.2 ED.I.11	EDE.22	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
2. Coordinate efforts with local broadband providers and cities/counties/local organizations to identify and address key issues.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts DCA GTA	\$30,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts DCA GTA	ED.6 T.10	I.I.7 ED.O.7 ED.O.11		COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
3. Identify communities in the Region with current access to broadband services and refer back to Georgia Technology Authority.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts DCA GTA	\$15,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts DCA GTA	ED.6	ED.0.7		COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
4. Coordinate in-land port activities with barge traffic along the Chattahoochee River as another way to transport goods throughout the Region.	Review	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts SWGA United GDOT	\$40,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts SWGA United GDOT	ED.1	T.I.7 T.I.8		POSTPONED pending market demand

5. Work to broaden the CEDS stakeholder group to diversify input and increase coordination between organizations.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts Private Citizens	\$40,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts	ED.1	ED.I.2 ED.I.6 ED.I.7		COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
6. Assist local communities in the development and marketing of available industrial facilities.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts COC Dev Auth	\$40,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts COC Dev Auth	ED.4	H.O.7 LU.O.1 L.O.4	EDE.15 EDE.16	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
7. Provide assistance such as business research and market analysis to potential entrepreneurs within the Region to support the development of successful businesses.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC COC GDEcD SBA SBDC	\$50,000	Member Dues COC GDEcD SBA SBDC	ED.4	LU.O.7 H.I.3	EDE.16 EDE.18 EDE.19 EDE.20 EDE.21	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
8. Increase local job opportunities that do not require access to transportation by supporting in-fill development in existing urban areas.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts MS/BHT COC DCA	\$50,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts MS/BHT COC DCA	ED.4	ED.O.1 ED.O.5 H.I.1 ED.O.2	LUE.5 LUE.8 EE.10	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
9. Increase the visibility of the River Valley Region as a location for film/video production.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts COC MS/BHT GDEcD	\$20,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts COC MS/BHT GDEcD	ED.3	ED.O.8 ED.O.6 ED.O.5 ED.O.2 ED.O.13 CF.O.3	EDE.26	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.

10. Aim to provide a local, skilled workforce to meet the needs of commercial growth related to local and regional military contractors.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC COC WIOA Bd	\$50,000	Member Dues COC GOWD	ED.2	P.O.1 ED.I.13 ED.O.12	EDE.21	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
11. Encourage the nomination of Scenic Byways in the region and assist with designation MARKETING and Corridor Management Plans.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts COC MS/BHT GDOT	\$30,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts COC MS/BHT GDOT	ED.3	T.I.4 ED.O.4 ED.O.6 ED.O.13 CF.O.3	NCRE.17 EDE.25	NOT ACCOMPLISHED USDOT's decreased support has made it more difficult to generate local initiatives for Scenic Byways.
12. Promote the use of current and new technologies to increase tourism (e.g. geocaching).	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts COC MS/BHT GDEcD	\$5,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts COC MS/BHT GDEcD	ED.3 ED.5	C.F.O.3	LUE.22	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
13. Promote partnerships among various jurisdictions and organizations to increase tourism (i.e. regional tours or trails).	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts COC MS/BHT GDEcD	\$5,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts COC MS/BHT GDEcD	ED.3 ED.5	C.F.O.3	ICE.8 ICE.4	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
14. Promote the use of the region by film, music and digital entertainment agencies.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts COC MS/BHT GDEcD	\$5,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts COC MS/BHT GDEcD	ED.4	LU.O.7 ED.O.4 ED.O.5		COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.

15. Support the White Water Project in Columbus.	Planning	2013 - 2017	RVRC Local Gov'ts COC CVB RWS HCC	\$5,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts COC CVB RWS HCC	ED.5	LU.O.9		COMPLETED
16. Promote and encourage the use of State Parks in the River Valley Region.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts COC RWS HCC	\$5,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts COC RWS HCC	ED.3 ED.5	LU.O.9	NCRE.16	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
17. Support/assist with the development of a Marina in Georgetown-Quitman County.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts RWS HCC	\$5,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts RWS HCC	ED.5	LU.O.9		POSTPONED lack of staff and financial resources
18. Support/assist existing businesses within communities, especially those in downtowns through marketing campaigns and programs, such as a "buy local" initiative, and the "Georgia Made, Georgia Grown" initiative.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC COC MS/BHT Dev Auth GDEcD	\$15,000	Member Dues COC MS/BHT Dev Auth GDEcD	ED.4	ED.O.9 LU.I.3 ED.I.3 ED.I.4 ED.I.11 ED.O.2 ED.O.13 CF.O.2 CF.O.3	EDE.2 EDE.4 EDE.5	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
19. Market/promote after hour's activities in downtowns, such as extended hours, art walks, and sidewalk festivals to increase community involvement and support locally owned businesses.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC MS/BHT GDEcD	\$10,000	Member Dues MS/BHT GDEcD	ED.4	ED.O.6 LU.I.6 LU.O.1	EDE.10	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.

20. Market downtowns as attractive places to start new businesses by coordinating with the Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Development Authorities, or Better Hometown and Mainstreet Programs, and Economic Development Authorities.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC COC MS/BHT Dev Auth DCA GDEcD	\$20,000	Member Dues COC MS/BHT Dev Auth DCA GDEcD	ED.4	LU.O.1 LU.O.6 LU.O.7 L.O.4	EDE.2 EDE.4 EDE.16 EDE.17 EDE.18 EDE.19 EDE.20	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
21. Assist communities with preservation and adaptive re-use of downtown buildings through programs such as façade improvements, etc.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC COC MS/BHT GDEcD	\$10,000	Member Dues COC MS/BHT GDEcD	ED.4	ED.O.6 LU.I.3 LU.I.6 LU.O.1	EDE.10 LUE.3	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
22. Support the Georgia Made, Georgia Grown initiative and assist local businesses pursuing designation.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Dev Auth GDEcD GDAg USDA	\$20,000	Member Dues Dev Auth GDEcD GDAg USDA	ED.3 ED.5	ED.O.9	EDE.3	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.

Education

Vision Statement

By fostering programs and initiatives that aim to increase educational opportunities within the region, the RVRC will promote increased educational attainment among citizens of the region, which will lead to a stronger workforce, greater economic development opportunities, and opportunities to attract new citizens to the region, resulting in more sustainable and healthy communities.

Guiding Principles

E. 1

Work with local and school officials, colleges, chambers of commerce, etc. to develop programs/activities to elevate the region's educational attainment to a level comparable with the State of Georgia.

E. 2

Participate with agencies to develop workforce training activities.

Activity	Category	Time Frame	Responsible Party(ies) and Partners	Cost	Funding Source(s)	Guiding Principles Addressed	Issues / Opportunities Addressed	Performance Standard(s) Addressed	Accomplishments CY 2015
1. Coordinate with Family Connections and other local partners to raise high school graduation rates and prevent later social problems by improving basic literacy levels of elementary students through home visits and after school programs.	Review	2016-2020	RVRC Fam Conn Local BOE WIOA Bd	\$20,000	Member Dues Fam Conn Local BOE GOWD	E.1	P.I.5 I.O.3 ED.O.3 ED.I.2	EDE.1 EDE.11 EDE.12	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
2. Coordinate with local technical colleges to create technical training programs and dual enrollment programs within the Region's high schools.	Review	2016-2020	RVRC Local BOE Local Colleges	\$40,000	Member Dues Local BOE Local Colleges and Universities GOWD	E.1	I.O.5 ED.I.2	EDE.21	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
3. Support local community's efforts to attain designation as Certified Literate Community.	Review	2016-2020		\$15,000	Member Dues Local BOE	E.1	ED.I.1 ED.I.2	EDE.11 EDE.12	POSTPONED No known local initiatives this period.

4. Provide funding to expose students to cultural and fine art subjects such as art, music, literature, and religion through partnerships with cultural organizations.	Planning	2016-2020	Local BOE Local Colleges and Universities	\$20,000	Member Dues Local BOE Local Colleges and Universities	E.1	ED.I.1 P.I.5		COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
5. Work with local 4-H Programs and Chambers of Commerce to encourage the development of Youth Leadership Programs.	Review	2016-2020	RVRC COC Ext Svc	\$15,000	Member Dues COC Ext Svc	E.1	ED.I.1 ED.I.2 ED.O.3	ICE.10	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
6. Promote broadband development within the Region to support distance learning, dual enrollment and virtual learning centers.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts Local BOE DCA GTA Local Colleges and Universities	\$30,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts Local BOE DCA GTA Local Colleges and Universities	E.1	ED.O.7 I.I.7		COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
7. Support and assist in finding additional funding to perform Work Ready testing in high schools to better prepare students for the workforce, by providing skills assessments and, if necessary, gap training.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local BOE Local Colleges and Universities	\$30,000	Member Dues Local BOE Local Colleges and Universities	E.2	ED.I.2 ED.I.12 ED.O.3	EDE.1	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.

8. Assist with development of facilities to address literacy, computer skills and technical skills for people in the region	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local BOE WIOA Bd DCA Local Colleges and Universities	\$50,000	Member Dues Local BOE GOWD DCA Local Colleges and Universities	E.2	ED.O.3 ED.O.7	EDE.1	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
9. Establish literacy training (and learning centers) throughout the region.	Review	2016-2020	RVRC Local BOE DCA WIOA Bd Local Colleges and Universities	\$80,000	Member Dues Local BOE GOWD DCA Local Colleges and Universities	E.1 E.2	P.I.5 ED.I.1 ED.O.11	EDE.11 EDE.12	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
10. Develop programs within the local school systems that prepare students for the workforce.	Review	2016-2020	RVRC Local BOE WIOA Bd Local Colleges and Universities	\$30,000	Member Dues Local BOE GOWD Local Colleges and Universities	E.2	ED.I.1 ED.I.2 ED.I.4	EDE.1	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
11. Support the efforts of regional technical colleges and high schools to provide work force/vocational training in high schools for youth.	Review	2016-2020	RVRC Local BOE WIOA Bd Local Colleges and Universities	\$30,000	Member Dues Local BOE GOWD Local Colleges and Universities	E.2	ED.I.1 ED.I.2 ED.O.11 ED.O.3	EDE.1	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.

12. Educate local industries on the existing training and education programs.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC WIOA Bd Local Colleges and Universities	\$30,000	Member Dues GOWD Local Colleges and Universities	E.2	ED.O.3 CF.I.8	EDE.5	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
13. Encourage Technical Colleges to offer training programs in the communities.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC WIOA Bd Local Colleges and Universities	\$30,000	Member Dues GOWD Local Colleges and Universities	E.1 E.2	ED.O.3	EDE.1	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
14. Support the establishment of preschool and adult day care centers in the region.	Review	2016-2020	RVRC Fam Conn DFACS DHS	\$60,000	Member Dues Fam Conn DFACS DHS	E.1	P.I.5	CFE.25	POSTPONED No known activity in 2015
15. Support and advocate workforce training for medical healthcare professionals to address critical shortages in rural areas.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Colleges and Universities WIOA Bd	\$40,000	Member Dues Local Colleges and Universities	E.2	ED.I.2 P.I.6		COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
16. Promote the development of additional leadership programs.	Review	2016-2020	RVRC COC Ext Svc Local Colleges and Universities	\$40,000	Member Dues COC Ext Svc Local Colleges and Universities	E.1	ED.O.10 ED.O.9		COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.

17. Utilize Plan Assessment meetings to reactivate regional meetings of city and county clerks and managers.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts	\$10,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts		ED.O.11 I.I.8	ICE.5	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
18. Support the development of children's day care centers with "extended stay" where needed.	Review	2016-2020	RVRC Fam Conn DFACS	\$60,000	Fam Conn DFACS	E.1	P.I.5	CFE.25	POSTPONED No known day care initiatives this period.

Community Facilities

Vision Statement

Guiding Principles

CF. 1	Conduct infrastructure and facility expansions assessment to support future demands.
CF. 2	Keep Hazard Mitigation Plans current to help ensure continued protection of public health and safety.
CF. 3	Use existing facility systems to direct growth to appropriate areas.
CF. 4	Utilize state, federal, and local funding sources to fund infrastructure projects, (e.g. water, sewer, gas, streets, parks) for city and county governments.

Activity	Category	Time Frame	Responsible Party(ies) and Partners	Cost	Funding Source(s)	Guiding Principles Addressed	Issues / Opportunities Addressed	Performance Standard(s) Addressed	Accomplishments CY 2015
1. Using GPS technology, capture the various visible and underground components of the region's water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer infrastructure	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts DCA USDA	\$100,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts DCA USDA	CF.1	LU.I.1 LU.O.4 CF.I.1 CF.O.1	L1M.3 CFE.1 CFE.2 CFE.3 CFE.4 CFE.20	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
2. Assist local governments in their pursuit of funding to maintain and extend utility services, as needed.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts DCA GA RWA GEFA USDA	\$50,000	Member Dues/ Contracts Local Gov'ts DCA GA RWA GEFA USDA	CF.1 CF.4	CF.O.1 CF.I.1 LU.I.9 CF.I.6	L1M.3 CFE.3 CFE.24	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
3. Work with local governments to implement best management practices in relation to storm water management.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts DCA EPD	\$20,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts DCA EPD	CF.1 CF.3	CF.I.1		COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
4. Promote the adoption and utilization of Capital Improvement planning and budgeting in all communities within the region.	Review	2016-2020	RVRC	\$15,000	DCA	CF.1 CF.3 CF.4		CF.I.4	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.

5. Provide technical assistance to local governments in the development of infrastructure improvement plans supported by grant and loan assistance	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC	\$25,000	Member Dues Contracts	CF.1 CF.4		CF. I. 8 I.O.1 P.I.2	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
6. Provide grant assistance to local governments in the provision of needed governmental facilities.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC	\$15,000	Member Dues Contracts	CF.4		CF. I. 8 I.O.1 P.I.2	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
7. Provide planning and technical assistance to local governments in the development of community and regional parks.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC	\$20,000	Member Dues Contracts	CF.1 CF.4		CF. I. 8 I.O.1 P.I.2	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
8. Provide planning technical assistance in the planning, development and financing of new library facilities.	Planning	2016-2020	Regional Library Rural Library Project	\$10,000	Member Dues Contracts	CF.1 CF.4		CF. I. 8 I.O.1 P.I.2	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
9. Advocate regional infrastructure planning through the Service Delivery Strategy process and during comprehensive plan updates and Plan Assessment meetings over the planning horizon.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC	\$25,000	Member Dues	CF.1		ED.O.11 I.O.1 I.O.4	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.

10. Provide planning for special infrastructure needs in identified target areas.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC	\$10,000	Member Dues	CF.1 CF.2 CF.3		I.O.1	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
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Human Services

Vision Statement

Promote safe and healthy communities by maintaining infrastructure, supporting health and public services, and encouraging walkable development patterns that promotes healthy lifestyles for its citizens.

Guiding Principles

HS. 1

The River Valley Regional Commission will support the establishment and maintenance of essential public safety, medical, and emergency services to serve the region. It will do so by assisting local government's efforts with state and federal grant funding sources to provide and maintain community and recreational facilities/programs and services within the Region to promote healthy lifestyles of its residents, including seniors and children.

Activity	Category	Time Frame	Responsible Party(ies) and Partners	Cost	Funding Source(s)	Guiding Principles Addressed	Issues / Opportunities Addressed	Performance Standard(s) Addressed	Accomplishments CY 2015
1. Coordinate with local governments to apply for funding to purchase necessary equipment, make repairs, and update facilities.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts FEMA USDA	\$60,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts FEMA USDA	HS.1	I.I.8 P.I.1	ICE.6	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
2. Assist local governments with disaster preparedness activities such as pre-disaster mitigation plans.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts GEMA FEMA	\$40,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts GEMA FEMA	HS.1	CF.I.1	LUE.25 L1M.5	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
3. Promote broadband development within the Region to allow for tele-medical services, as well as to expand educational opportunities for local medical professionals.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts DCA USDA GTA	\$50,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts DCA USDA GTA	HS.1	I.I.7 ED.O.7 ED.I.10		COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
4. Partner with local colleges and universities, as well as technical colleges, to build capacity in existing health and medical programs to allow more residents to enter available educational programs.	Review	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts Local Colleges and Universities	\$30,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts Local Colleges and Universities	HS.1	ED.O.9		COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.

5. Provide information, assistance and referrals for older adults, persons with disabilities and caregivers.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRCAAA Fam Conn DHS	\$40,000	Member Dues Fam Conn DHS	HS.1	CF.I.8		COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
6. Provide information and educational material to caregivers through designated senior centers in the region.	Planning	2016-2020	RRCAAA DHS	\$40,000	Member Dues DHS	HS.1	CF.I.8 ED.O.7		COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
7. Develop and teach programs on health and wellness that are evidenced based: including CDSMP (Chronic Disease Self-Management Program), Powerful Tools for Caregivers and Fall Prevention (Matter of Balance).	Planning	2016-2020	RVRCAAA DHS	\$40,000	Member Dues DHS	HS.1	ED.O.9 P.I.5		COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
8. Promote and identify community lay leaders for the advancement of Tai Chi	Planning	2016-2020	RVRCAAA DHS		Member Dues DHS	HS.1	CF.I.7 CF.I.8		COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.

9. Support senior farmers markets in providing fresh foods to seniors within the region. Identify additional farmers in the region willing to participate in the senior farmers markets.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRCAAA Fam Conn DHS	\$40,000	Member Dues Fam Conn DHS	HS.1	ED.O.9 CF.I.11 LU.I.14	EDE.3	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
10. Provide planning and technical assistance to local governments in the development of community and regional parks, recreational facilities and community centers.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts DNR DCA	\$50,000	Member Dues Local Gov'ts DNR DCA	HS.1	LU.O.10 T.O.3 T.I.6 CF.I.4 T.I.14	ICE.8	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
11. Support local health fairs, festivals, bike rides and other wellness initiatives.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC DHS GDOT	\$30,000	Member Dues DHS GDOT	HS.1	CF.I.8	TE.5 TE.11	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
12. Establish a fee-for-service business plan for sustainability. This plan will be established for options counseling and consumer choice.	Planning	2016-2020	Division of Aging Services RVRC AAA X-Factor Consultants Carl Vinson Institute Fanning Institute Private Consultant	\$40,000	DAS				COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.

Intergovernmental

Vision Statement

Guiding Principles

- I. 1** Update Service Delivery Strategies to help ensure the efficient delivery of services.
- I. 2** Share information between local governments to enhance efficiency.
- I. 3** Train local government officials through opportunities offered by the Carl Vinson Institute, Georgia Municipal Association, Association of County Commissioners of Georgia, Georgia Planning Association, Georgia Association of Zoning Administrators or others to enhance their leadership abilities.

Activity	Category	Time Frame	Responsible Party(ies) and Partners	Cost	Funding Source(s)	Guiding Principles Addressed	Issues / Opportunities Addressed	Performance Standard(s) Addressed	Accomplishments CY 2015
1. Support the update of the Service Delivery Strategy to help ensure the efficient delivery of services.	Planning	2016-2020	RVRC Local Gov'ts	Part of comp plan update fee Part of AAA Admin funding	DCA	I.1	CF.I.1, I.O.1	CFE.4 CFE.17 CFE.20	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
2. Utilize Plan assessment meetings to improve upon the sharing of information between local governments for greater efficiency and intergovernmental coordination.	Planning	2016-2020	Local Gov'ts	\$25,000	DCA	I.2	I.O.1 I.I.4 I.I.5	ICE.4 ICE.5 ICE.6 ICE.7 ICE.8	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.
3. Notify local government officials on training opportunities offered by the Carl Vinson Institute, Georgia Municipal Association, Association of County Commissioners of Georgia, Georgia Planning Association, GAZA or others to enhance their leadership abilities.	Review	2016-2020	Local Gov'ts	\$1,000		I.3	I.O.1	CFE.5-CFE.16	COMPLETED... activity for the year. This is an ongoing effort.

AREAS REQUIRING SPECIAL ATTENTION DESCRIPTIONS

The Areas Requiring Special Attention on the Future Development Map includes:

- Possible Fort Benning Expansion Area
- Areas of Disinvestment
- Areas of Resources Potentially Impacted by Development
- Potential Redevelopment/ Areas of Infill
- Areas of Development
- Conservation and other RIR Mapped Resources (See Regional Development Pattern Narrative)

The Defining Narrative for each Area Requiring Special Attention Includes:

- Area Description
- Quality Community Objectives to be Pursued
- Recommended Development Patterns
- Types of Land Uses
- Steps to Implementation



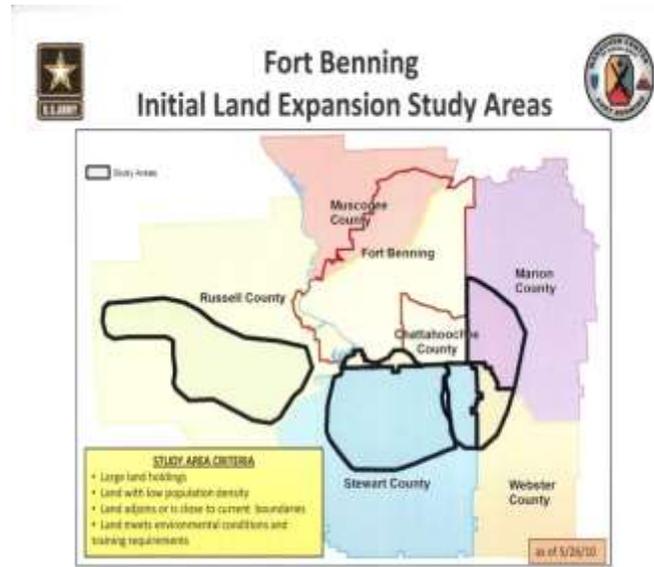
As regional conditions change The River Valley Regional Commission will update the Regional Plan as needed to describe and depict the most logical long range development patterns for the River Valley Region. Factors affecting changes to the Future Development Map may include but are not limited to:

- Additions or deletions of Regionally Important Resources
- Changes to Areas Requiring Special Attention
- Developments causing large scale land use shifts
- Local/Regional Transportation Plans,
- County/City Comprehensive Plan Updates
- Other Regional, State or Local Plans or studies
- Natural or manmade disasters

2015 Update of Areas Requiring Special Attention (2016-2020)

Proposed Fort Benning Expansion Area

It is important to note that Fort Benning is considering a possible expansion of up to 216,365 acres in Stewart, Marion, and Webster, Counties. The expansion could also occur in Russell County, Alabama. Within these counties the number of acres proposed to be included in the expansion varies, though the acreage proposed to be added from Stewart County is the greatest, at 123,003 acres. In both Chattahoochee and Marion Counties the proposed acreage to be acquired is very close at 38,034 and 38,021, respectively. The land proposed to be included in the expansion from Webster County is considerably less at 17,307 acres.



No one knows when or if the Fort Benning base expansion will take place. However it is prudent to review future development in the proposed Fort Benning Expansion Area for consistency with base expansion compatibility and the impact or affect it will have on the local tax base of River Valley's communities.

Update: The prospect of additional physical expansion of the Fort Benning military reservation remains in limbo. After completion of a round of public meetings in each of the potentially affected counties in 2012-early 2013, virtually no new information has been released by the base or the Department of Defense on the issue. Since the end of the Cold War the Pentagon has employed the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process five times in an attempt to decrease excess capacity, decrease the size of the defense budget and increase overall military efficiencies, resulting in closure of 350 major facilities. In the most recent BRAC process (2005) Fort Benning's military role was expanded with relocation of the Armored Division from Fort Knox Kentucky. Even before the September, 2011, completion of Fort Benning's 2005 BRAC expansion, imposition of military budget cuts and greater military operational efficiencies resulted in an impact significantly below projected levels. The actual increase of $\pm 22,000$ soldiers, civilian employees and family members was 78% of the 28,000 projected. Despite calls from some quarters for another round in 2015 no such formal announcement has been made. Current trends in reduced U. S. military force levels and budget cuts suggest there will not be any additional service or physical expansion of Fort Benning in the near future.

Areas of Resources Potentially Impacted by Development

Areas of resources potentially impacted by development include growth areas that could encroach upon natural or cultural/historic resources, such as a state park, historic structure, river or groundwater recharge areas.

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Update: The promise of the proposed ±\$25 million, 475 acre, multi-faceted motorsports complex on Americus' north city limits is in abeyance. The cost of successful navigation of environmental and regulatory processes has contributed to the complexities of investment financing, such that project development is now pending clearance of the money hurdle. A 2013 agreement between Cordele Intermodal Services and the Georgia Ports Authority enhanced the facility's service capabilities. Operating initially from a 40-acre tract in Cordele's industrial park with 1,200 adjoining acres available for expansion, the volume of industrial freight containers through the state's only (dry) inland port continues to increase. One future port customer received approval during the year to develop seventy-five of the adjoining acres. Construction thereon is expected to begin in the spring of 2016.

Neither of these two developments would/will have significant, adverse impact on known natural or cultural/historic resources (state park, historic structure, or river). Both would/will; however, affect prime farmland and jurisdictional wetlands. Physical development of virtually any significant size in either of the affected counties (Sumter and Crisp) will entail conversion of at least some prime farmland acreage or other agricultural land of statewide importance because of the prevalence of the natural resource locally. Impacts on agricultural lands will be mitigated somewhat by the fact that both sites are extensions of developed areas rather than "leap-frog" developments into pristine areas. In accordance with applicable law and regulations impacts on jurisdictional wetlands, another natural resource common across the region and present on both sites, will also be mitigated.

Communities continue to employ and enhance their land use regulations to guide development and mitigate potentially adverse impacts of development at the jurisdictional level. During the past year several local governments have developed, reviewed and or updated zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, signage and/or telecommunications ordinances.

Areas of Disinvestment

BEFORE



Areas with significant levels of poverty, and/or unemployment that is substantially higher than average levels for the region as a whole.

Most communities throughout the state of Georgia have some areas of disinvestment, or areas in need of improvement, and the River Valley region is no exception.

AFTER



However, these areas also provide opportunities for redevelopment and reinvestment in the

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community. Both residential and commercial redevelopment opportunities exist in the region. In terms of commercial redevelopment, many of the cities in the region have vacant retail space available in their traditional downtown areas. Reinvestment in these buildings could lead to new residential options, such as loft apartments/condos. In addition to available commercial space in downtowns, many communities also have greyfields that could also be redeveloped or improved. These commercial buildings that have been vacant or abandoned have a negative impact on the community as a whole. Reinvestment in these spaces would be a positive economic impact and help to improve the overall aesthetics of the community.

UPDATE: Every incorporated area in the region has, or is itself, a pocket of poverty and/or unemployment. The economy in the smaller of these communities is too depressed and the return on investment typically so marginal the local private sector cannot reverse these economic conditions unilaterally. During calendar year 2015 Americus, Butler, Cordele, Cuthbert, Richland and Vienna implemented various aspects of their respective and recently adopted urban redevelopment plans, and/or supplemented them with other revitalization programs; Renaissance in Americus, local historic district designation and building maintenance standards in Cordele and structure renovation in Butler, Cuthbert, Richland and Vienna. These activities help develop stronger public initiatives and private sector incentives in commercial and residential areas officially designated as “slum” areas than is possible using conventional redevelopment tools only.

Columbus, also taking advantage of additional redevelopment powers available through state law, completed the River District Redevelopment Plan with designation of three potential Tax Anticipation Districts (TAD). Application of these redevelopment powers in areas of disinvestment shortens the time required, and facilitates the private investment needed, for revitalization. Collectively, the three TADs directly affect 2,000 parcels covering 850 acres (exclusive of roads/streets and rights-of-way), and 1,050 structures with a combined 9 million square feet of building space.

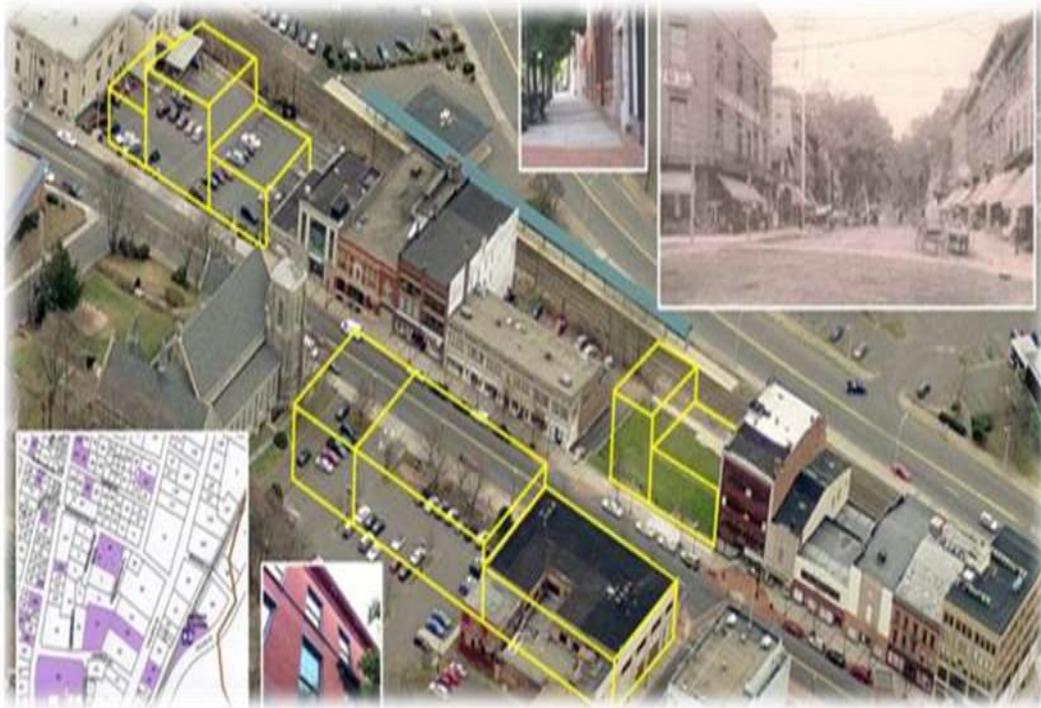
Americus and Sumter County, with a full board complement, began securing tax delinquent and unwanted public properties through its recently created land bank. Cordele and Crisp County continue discussions on such a joint venture. Other communities have inquired about this revitalization tool but have not yet pursued it.

In addition, each year there are fifteen-twenty applications submitted from the region for highly competitive Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and other grant/loan programs. CDBG funds are typically directed into areas with high levels of disinvestment and are designed to benefit low and moderate-income residents. Some of these CDBG projects are implemented in previously designated urban redevelopment areas.

Potential Redevelopment / Areas of Infill

Areas in need of redevelopment and/or significant improvements to aesthetics or attractiveness which include a significant amount of vacant sites, vacant buildings/houses and environ-mentally contaminated commercial/industrial sites.

Redevelopment efforts will be most prevalent within the existing traditional neighborhoods that surround downtowns. In many communities, the condition of these properties varies from pristine to dilapidated. However, assistance and support for the renovation of these historic structures can be found at both the state and national level. Many communities offer tax freezes, job tax credits, and other incentives to encourage redevelopment within targeted areas.



In addition to commercial areas, older homes that are in disrepair could be restored or replaced with compatible new construction that would maintain the historic character of the many cities within the region.

There are many infill development and/or redevelopment opportunities throughout the River Valley Region. However, due to the rural nature of the region, most of these will occur in the developed cities. While most re-development will occur in city centers and downtowns, as you move away from the city core, potential for infill development increases. Due to more sprawling and more widespread development patterns, developers will have the opportunity to build within these areas to increase density and create more pedestrian-oriented development. These areas could include strip commercial development, as well as housing

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infill opportunities in newer subdivisions, or as older multi-family structures need renovation or replacement.



Other areas of potential infill development include brownfield sites located throughout the region. In general terms, brownfields are abandoned or underused industrial or commercial properties where redevelopment is complicated by actual or perceived environmental contamination. Some examples of brownfields include abandoned gas stations and unused former manufacturing plants. Redeveloping brownfields can restore property to productive use, increase property values, improve public health and the environment, utilize existing public infrastructure, and increase job opportunities and local tax revenues. Throughout the River Valley region, there are a number of potential brownfields, mostly from abandoned gas stations. As these properties are often in prime locations, they provide excellent candidates for highly visible redevelopment opportunities within the community.

Areas of Development

Areas where rapid development or changes of land uses are likely to occur, especially where the pace of development has and/or may outpace the availability of community facilities and services, including transportation.



While the River Valley region is predominately rural, there are several counties that have recently experienced significant growth and development, and are expected to continue to grow in the near future. For example, both Dooly and Crisp County have seen growth related to the business expansion along I-75. The in-land port in Cordele will result in tremendous economic development opportunities for that portion of the region, and as a result, will attract new business and residents to the area. On the western side of the region, the city of Columbus and its neighboring jurisdictions have seen growth related to base realignment, as troops from the Armor School at Fort Knox are relocated to Fort Benning. Preparations made for the BRAC process have resulted in new jobs and an estimated 22,000 or more new residents in the Columbus area.

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UPDATE: The Region saw an economic uptick during 2015, but the improvement was very spotty. Improvement in unemployment was widespread as all but two counties recorded lower rates year-to-year. Marion County managed to maintain a flat unemployment rate during the year despite the loss of its major industrial employer, and was actually credited with increased employment. However, fewer counties shared in growth in the number of jobs. Ten counties recorded higher employment year-to-year; one-third of the growth was concentrated in Crisp and Dooly, another third in Muscogee. In general, areas identified as most likely to attract development, concentrated along the jurisdictional boundaries of towns and cities, saw little if any activity during 2015.

Quality Community Objectives Descriptions

Traditional Neighborhoods

Traditional neighborhoods typically follow development patterns common to the time period prior to World War II, which offers residents a variety of housing options. These neighborhoods are often located within easy walking distance of a community's downtown, town center, or other commercial areas, providing easy access to commercial and recreational activities. The resulting community is one that is pedestrian friendly and allows residents to easily work and live within a compact environment.



Infill Development

Infill development is an effective revitalization strategy for communities to maximize underutilized buildings, vacant lots, and brownfield/greyfield sites within the community. This strategy takes advantage of existing infrastructure and community facilities such as streets, sewer, and other utilities.

Sense of Place

A community's sense of place is created by its unique combination of natural setting, architecture, history, and cultural resources. Local governments can work to ensure that the character and sense of place of their community are preserved through a variety of different channels, such as the creation of historic districts, the development of design guidelines, and open space preservation ordinances.

Transportation Alternatives



Transportation alternatives refer to a variety of means of traveling within a community, as opposed to solely using automobiles. These alternatives include walking; cycling; using buses, trains or



Evaluation and Monitoring

Preliminary meetings were held with elected officials and chief administrators/managers of each of the region's fifty-one jurisdictions as soon as possible after adoption of the Regional Agenda in 2013. Local plan assessment meetings were held during calendar year 2015 in Cusseta/Chattahoochee County, Columbus/Muscogee County, Dooly County/Byromville/Dooling/Lilly/Pinehurst/Unadilla/Vienna, Harris County/Hamilton/ Pine Mountain/Waverly Hall, Marion County/Buena Vista and Taylor County/ Butler/ Reynolds.

Surveys of the region's fifty-one jurisdictions were performed previously to assess the existing level of local government compliance with minimum performance standards established in the regional plan. This year, in response to the survey findings, the Commission contacted jurisdictions where it was not clear all local officials had received the level of training stipulated in the minimum performance standards (and state law) and encouraged the necessary local follow-up. The survey also revealed most jurisdictions are lacking ordinances providing for protection of groundwater recharge areas and/or wetlands; two of the twenty-four designated Regionally Important Resources. State law had previously prescribed protection of both of these natural resources, and Commission staff packaged sample ordinances for local consideration. For the eighteen jurisdictions that are either host to, or within one mile of, any of the other twenty-two Regionally Important Resources and do not currently have protective measures the commission packaged and distributed options for local government action. Local governments began reporting their respective compliance actions the first week of 2016.

The Commission will schedule periodic reviews with each jurisdiction commensurate to the nature and scale of the local government compliance need. Checklists and timelines used in the preliminary meetings to identify appropriate policies and ordinances will be used to assess progress made toward achieving the minimum performance standard. The Commission will document review findings with possible recommendations in a written communication to the local government. In addition, local government progress will be an agenda item at biennial plan assessment meetings requested by the Commission.

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs 2009 Standards and Procedures for Regional Planning require the River Valley Regional Commission to ensure implementation of the Regional Agenda. As part of the annual update of the regional work program staff will survey developments that occurred during the preceding year and local government responses to determine whether the regional vision is being implemented effectively, and if it is having the desired impact on regional development patterns. Based on the results of this survey RVRC staff will identify impediments to implementation, possible solutions and whether amendment(s) to the regional plan are needed. Staff is in regular contact with the majority of "responsible parties" identified in the regional plan, and at least occasional contact with the balance. These frequent communications keep the staff abreast of developments across the

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sixteen counties, most of which are reported at monthly meetings of the River Valley Regional Council.

Review of the work program was solicited directly from the RC appointees, local governments and other identified stakeholders as part of the annual report of accomplishments/update process. A public hearing announced via e-mail to each of these same parties and newspaper publication held in the Americus office was used to solicit input and comment from the general public. Input/comments received from these outreach efforts were presented at the Regional Commission's February 24, 2016, meeting for evaluation and to gage the effectiveness of plan implementation. Monitoring and evaluation of plan effectiveness was performed mindful of the fact that full and satisfactory implementation of the regional plan requires efforts of not only the Regional Commission and member local governments, but complementary activities of numerous other "responsible parties" external to, and wholly independent of, the River Valley Regional Commission. The unanimous vote of the Regional Council on March 23 was that good and acceptable progress is being made with plan implementation and that the update should be submitted for state level review.

Regional Priorities List

Please list the top priorities in your region using the following guidance:

- a) Identify each priority by:
 1. Drawing from the priorities identified in local plans; and
 2. Drawing from the priorities identified in the regional plan.
- b) Consider the following when identifying priorities:
 1. Be important enough to warrant the Governor’s attention (and the attention of the state agency heads and other officials who serve on the Commission on Regional Planning).
 2. Be current, meaning that the issue hasn’t yet been addressed.
 3. Be actionable, in that the state agencies can do something to address or clarify the issue.
- c) For each priority, include the following information:
 1. Recommended action plan for addressing each priority.
 2. Indication of what assistance is needed from the state to address each priority.
 3. Possible impediments that will need to be overcome for each priority.

Regional Commission Name: River Valley

Priority or Issue (list not prioritized)	Source (e.g., regional plan, shared priorities from local plans, etc.)	Suggestions for Addressing this Priority or Issue (e.g., state assistance needed, collaboration opportunities, etc.)
Lack of Vibrant Economy	Regional and Local	Expanded and more flexible funding for sustainable development
River Corridor Protection/Green Belts Chattahoochee and Flint	Regional	Restoration of state tax credit for conservation preservation
Maintenance of Utility Infrastructure (TIA/TSPLOST is Helping with Roadways)	Regional and Local	“Incentivize” capital budgeting; prompt or incentivize GPS capture of infrastructure through utility loans and grants
Code Enforcement (for Public Health, Nuisances and Aesthetics)	Regional and Local	GMA/ ACCG promote community pride (referencing land bank as means to resolve “inaccessible” code violators)

“Wall-To-Wall” Internet Service	Regional and Local	Link this with development of the micro-economy/cottage industries
Raise Educational Attainment Levels	Regional and Local	Increase coordination between high schools and technical colleges to reduce HS dropout; develop a technical college presence <u>in</u> every county
Incentivize Participation in Leadership Development Programs	Regional and Local	Promote DCA’s Regional Economic Development Leadership with GMA/ACCG promotion
Local Trail Development with Regional Interconnectivity	Regional and Local	Additional state/federal transportation funding assistance