RESOLUTION

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION'S COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Georgia Planning Act of 1989 requires the Georgia Mountains RC to develop and maintain a Regional Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs has promulgated certain rules containing the Minimum Standards and Requirements for Regional Planning; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Mountains RC staff has prepared the 2014 Annual Update to the Regional Work Program portion of the Regional Plan in accordance with the Minimum Standards and Requirements; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Georgia Mountains RC Council does hereby authorize transmittal of the GMRC Regional Work Program Update to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

ADOPTED, this 27th day of March, 2014.

Sam Norton, Vice-Chairman
GMRC Council

Georgia Mountains Regional Commission

REGIONAL WORK PROGRAM

2014 ANNUAL UPDATE

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~ ***March, 2014*** ~

INTRODUCTION

The Georgia Mountains Regional Commission (GMRC) is the regional planning and community development agency for a 13 county area in northeastern Georgia. To guide and coordinate special activities, and as directed by the Georgia Planning Act of 1989, the GMRC maintains a Regional Plan in accordance with the requirements established by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA).

This document represents the required annual update of the Regional Plan, which consists of four components: 1) A description of the monitoring and evaluation procedures that are undertaken to measure the effectiveness of the Regional Plan; 2) An assessment of the Regional Plan at achieving goals and objectives, and identifying any plan modifications to enhance its effectiveness; 3) A Report of Accomplishments that have occurred in the past year; and 4) A new Regional Work Program for the upcoming five year time frame.

MONITORING ACTIVITIES AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES

Progress with the Regional Work Program as a whole is reviewed as part of the annual update process with the GMRC Council. However, monitoring and evaluation of progress with the Regional Work Program is performed regularly throughout the year. This involves several layers of status reports and meetings, and involved input from various committees, local government officials and other stakeholder groups.

- *Staff Project Reports* – Following the approval of each annual update, the Planning Department holds a work session to review the proposed tasks, objectives and strategies and assigns work items to appropriate staff (planning, historic, mapping, environmental, transportation, economic, etc.,). The progress of these projects is reported to the Executive Director and the full GMRC Council in monthly Staff Project Reports (SPRs). The SPRs identify the status of each project and is displayed by jurisdiction. The SPRs also provide primary staff contact for each work item and a brief description of progress as needed. Copies of these are found with the minutes of each Council meeting packet.

- *End of Year Review* – The update process begins in earnest in November of each year when the GMRC Planning Department reviews the Regional Work Program to evaluate the status of each project and feasibility of remaining work items. This was done in preparation for the GMRC Annual Meeting held each December, and the results provide the first indication of how priorities may need adjusting going forward. This becomes the basis of the draft update and is circulated to local governments for review and comment, providing the first opportunity for nominating new projects for the coming year.

- *Correlating RC Programs* - Additional review of progress with the Regional Plan includes cross-over work with other regional reporting efforts and projects. Several components of the Regional Work Program must be consistent with the Georgia Mountains Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), which includes a copy of the Regional Agenda and is also updated annually. Other documents regularly referenced for coordination include the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, GDOT's

State Improvement Program update, the recently completed Regional Resource Plan and any other regional projects underway at the time.

- *Local Government Interaction* – Copies of the Regional Work Program were also distributed to local communities for review and input on the identified objectives and work items. No new regional projects were added as a result of this effort, with most local governments currently requesting assistance with local planning or plan implementation projects. There were some needs with regards to transportation planning cited but that was in conjunction with ongoing GDOT support for the regional Transportation Investment Act activities.

- *Status of full Plan Update* – Completed and adopted.

RESULTS OF THE 2014 MONITORING AND EVALUATION PROCESS

The following is a summary of progress made on several primary GMRC initiatives from 2011:

- The Regional Agenda was completed and approved by DCA in the fall of 2013, and subsequently adopted by the Regional Commission in February of 2014. Work is now underway to further meld the Regional Plan with the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) that is required every year for federal coordination.

- The GMRC had/has several key projects directly assisting local governments: An emergency services assessment for White County, an Assessment of the Highway 365 corridor for Habersham and Rabun County, development regulations for the City of Dahlonega, and continuation of the housing inventory and assessment for the City of Gainesville. All projects have been proceeding according to schedule and the RC has received inquiries from local governments wishing to duplicate some of these projects in their own community.

- The GMRC continues to address environmental initiatives on two prominent fronts. At the regional level the RC is assisting with implementation of the 3 State-coordinated Watershed Management Plans for the area. The bulk of this effort has stemmed from the Chattahoochee and Etowah basins in support of the most active Water Planning Councils in the region (Metro North Ga and Coosa-North Ga). The GMRC will need to take more initiatives to provide similar levels of support in the Upper Savannah region in lieu of a standing committee.

  At the more local level the GMRC is assisting 3 different communities with the development or implementation of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) plans, which are critical to maintaining compliance with the State for all future permits and ensuring local water quality. These include water sampling, management plan development and recruiting landowners for BMP installation. Work with stakeholder committees has met with varying degrees of success based on local enthusiasm and support, however the BMP installations have been successful and there are hopes among locals that these programs will continue with EPD funding in the future. The Mud Creek watershed project in Habersham and Hall Counties will be completed this fiscal year, while work on the Chestatee River (Lumpkin County) and Coldwater Creek (Hart County) will continue

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into FY15. An additional project for the Towns and Testnatee Creeks in White County is also anticipated.

- Continuation of the GMRC efforts to assist local downtowns has led to the development of compact revitalization plans to be created for multiple communities. The concept is to create versions of downtown development plans that can fit onto one single poster for ease of display and communication. The first two trial efforts are underway this fiscal year and the hope is to develop 3 more within 2015. These will assist in building support and coordination among each city's local stakeholders as they seek to implement their plans and strengthen community character.

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GMRC REGIONAL WORK PROGRAM – 2013 LIST OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Work Item	Status	Comment
Develop a region wide downtown economic database that includes historic resources; Place on the web	In Progress	
Develop and maintain citizens-based partnerships in the five river basins to assist with public education.	Complete	
Develop single map redevelopment plans for historic downtowns	In Progress	
Complete update of Regional Plan	Complete	
Develop Regional Rural Transit Plan	In Progress	
Develop an I-85 corridor access and multi-modal study.	Postponed 2016	Postponed as a priority due to limited resources
Assist local governments and business in the development of multi-county tourism task force focusing on Lake Hartwell.	Postponed 2016	Postponed as a priority due to limited resources
Encourage the development of necessary supporting infrastructure along GA 59 to serve industry.	Complete	
Develop a model stormwater ordinance for the developed and developing areas of the region.	Complete	
Encourage local governments in the SR 17 corridor to adopt and implement standards and guidelines.	In Progress	
Create growth management programs that provide developer incentives and guidelines as well as methods of increased responsibility and accountability to the local community.	In Progress	
Work with local governments to address interstate sign and billboards	Cancelled	Lack of local support for further action
Develop for Georgia Workforce Area 2, an Adult and Dislocated Worker Strategic Plan.	Complete	
Develop planning standards education material	Complete	
Develop in-house service for calculating cost-benefit analyses for new development and utility improvements	In Progress	
Develop Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan	In Progress	
Develop regional development build-out scenario	In Progress	
Develop a county-level survey that monitors progress with implementing the Basin Mgmt. Plans.	Complete	
Develop means to facilitate review of impacts new development will make on local water systems.	Complete	
Develop regional growth and tourism strategy specifically for historic downtowns	In Progress	
Develop a metro-area growth strategy to support urbanizing communities	In Progress	
Develop regional water infrastructure map.	In Progress	
Review and update the list of permitted waste disposal	Complete	

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sites in the region		
Provide local banks with resources that educate them on the best way to support small and start-up companies	Complete	
Establish a local food guide and local assessments.	In Progress	
Inventory and map agri-tourism assets of the region.	In Progress	
Expand WD's Basic Skills support programs through coordination with local youth detention centers	Complete	
Inventory local housing programs, leaders and policies in each community.	Postponed 2015	Deferred until completion of Phase 2 of Gainesville housing assessment

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GMRC REGIONAL WORK PROGRAM – 2012

Action	I/O	Goal	Responsibility	Costs	Funding Sources
2014					
Develop a region wide downtown economic database that includes historic resources; Place on the web	8, 11, 43		GMRC	$15,000	GMRC
Develop single map redevelopment plans for historic downtowns	43, 44		GMRC, HPD, DCA	$15,000	GMRC, DCA, ARC
Develop Regional Rural Transit Plan	3		GMRC	$20,000	GDOT, GMRC
Encourage local governments in the SR 17 corridor to adopt and implement standards and guidelines.	34, 37, 41		GMRC	$2,000/yr	GMRC
Create growth management programs that provide developer incentives and guidelines as well as methods of increased responsibility and accountability to the local community.	37, 41		GMRC, Local Govts, Dev. Authorities	$25,000	Local Govt., Dev. Authorities, DCA, DNR, Private Development
Develop in-house service for calculating cost-benefit analyses for new development & utility improvements	1, 23, 24, 38		GMRC, Local Govts, Chambers	$25,000	GMRC, AppRC
Develop Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan		DM1.1	GMRC	$50,000	FMEA, GEMA
Develop regional development build-out scenario	22-24, 36, 38, 42		GMRC, DCA, DED, EPD	$20,000	DCA, GMRC
Develop regional growth and tourism strategy specifically for historic downtowns	2	LU2.1	GMRC, DCA, DED	TBD	GMRC, DCA
Develop a metro-area growth strategy to support urbanizing communities	5, 23, 32	LU6.2	GMRC, Local Govts.	TBD	DCA
Develop regional water infrastructure map.	23, 24	CFS3.2	GMRC, Local Govts.	$10,000	EPD, GEFA
Establish a local food guide and local assessments.	8, 14	ED9.3	GMRC, EDA, DED	$10,000	EDA, DCA
Inventory and map agri-tourism assets of the region.	2	ED12.1	GMRC, EDA, DED	$5,000	EDA, DCA
Inventory local housing programs, leaders and policies in each community.	3, 4, 5, 6, 7	H1.1	GMRC, DCA, Local Govts.	$5,000	DCA
Education re: environmental impacts of various materials and products placed in landfills	15, 16, 22, 40		GMRC, Local Govt., Regional Authorities	$1,000/yr	GMRC, Local Govt., DCA, DNR

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Action	I/O	Goal	Responsibility	Costs	Funding Sources
2014					
Develop Highway 441 Tourism Study	9, 28		GMRC, GDOT, GED	$20,000	GMRC
Develop Commuter Traffic Study	27, 28, 31		GMRC, GDOT	$10,000	GDOT, GMRC
Update and redress GIS database to improve regional analyses and for faster EIP assistance	17, 18, 20, 22		GMRC, EPD, DCA, DED	$20,000	DCA, EPD
Develop conservation design guidebook	2	NR1.1	GMRC, DNR, DCA	$5,000	DNR, DCA
Initiate GMRC Downtown Association	9, 10, 14, 43, 44	LU2.3	GMRC, EDA, DED	NA	
Develop and implement a wastewater education and public awareness program.	15, 16, 23, 24	CFS4.2	GMRC, EPD	$10,000	DCA, DNR, GMRC
Inventory and assessment of local water service rates	23	CFS5.4	GMRC, Local Govts	$5,000	DCA, DNR, GMRC
Develop a hi-tech strategy for the region	11, 26	CFS6.2	GMRC, DED	$5,000	EDA, DED
Develop inventory of parks and recreation plans in the region.	1, 20, 21	CFS8.2	GMRC, Local Govts	$10,000	
Develop a plan for using social media technologies to further promote the region.	8, 9, 12	ED2.2	GMRC, DED	$5,000	EDA, DED
Expand the scope of the Camera Ready program through education and awareness.	9	ED2.3	GMRC, DED	TBD	EDA, DED
Develop an inventory of tourism industry resources.	8, 9	ED3.1	GMRC, Local Govts, DED	$10,000	EDA, DED
Develop promotional material for area farmer's markets and canneries	2, 8	ED10.2	GMRC, DED	$5,000	EDA, DED
Create a regional industry roundtable.	10, 12	ED15.1	GMRC, DED	NA	EDA, DED
Produce survey and distribute to local housing leaders.	3, 4, 5, 6, 7	H1.2	GMRC	$2,500	DCA
Provide educational seminars and workshops on housing programs and services.	4, 5, 6, 7	H2.1	GMRC, DCA	$2,500	DCA

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Action	I/O	Goal	Responsibility	Costs	Funding Sources
2015					
Develop comprehensive road improvement plan combining local and State goals	1, 27, 28	CFS1.1	GMRC, Local Govts., DOT	$15,000	DOT
Develop a freight/ truck route transportation plan	27, 28	CFS1.3	GMRC, Local Govts., DOT	$15,000	DOT
Develop new template for local water planning	15, 16, 17, 22, 23	CFS3.1	GMRC, DNR	$10,000	EPD
Inventory and assessment of local water service conservation strategies	1	CFS5.3	GMRC, DNR	$10,000	EPD
Develop inventory of energy data and benchmarking.		CFS11.1	GMRC, EDA	$20,000	EDA
Establish an action plan for funding Critical facilities and Infrastructure improvements.		ED4.1	GMRC, DED	TBD	EDA, DED
Develop an entrepreneurship training program for teachers.	14, 26	ED5.2	GMRC, DED	TBD	EDA, DED
Create model design standards and incentive programs for downtown areas	43, 44	ED14.2	GMRC, DED	$5,000	EDA, DED
Develop summary report on housing survey findings	4, 5, 6, 7	H1.3	GMRC	$2,000	DCA
Develop and distribute preparedness and post-disaster recovery material.		DM2.2	GMRC, GEMA	$5,000	GEMA
Inventory local housing programs, leaders and policies in each community.	3, 4, 5, 6, 7	H1.1	GMRC, DCA, Local Govts.	$5,000	DCA
Inventory of septic system management programs.	1, 16, 17, 24	CFS4.3	GMRC, Local Govts.	$15,000	DCA, DNR, GMRC
Assessment of septic system inventory	16, 17, 24	CFS4.4	GMRC, Local Govts	$10,000	DCA, DNR, GMRC
Develop long-range management plans for targeted corridors in conjunction with GDOT and local stakeholders	27, 28, 32	LU3.1	GMRC, Local Govts., GDOT	$10,000	DCA, DNR, GMRC
Develop and implement a public awareness campaign about health information technology	13, 25	CFS9.3	GMRC, DED	$5,000	EDA, DED

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Action	I/O	Goal	Responsibility	Costs	Funding Sources
2016					
Update Regional Source Water Assessment Plan	1, 16, 17, 23		GMRC, EPD	$50,000	EPD
Explore potential for increased rural transit services within the region	1, 3		GMRC, GDOT	$10,000	GDOT
Develop template for comprehensive neighborhood plans and standards	36, 40, 41	LU4.1	GMRC, DCA	$5,000	DCA
Develop updated concept for, and inventory of, primary agricultural areas	2, 36	LU5.2	GMRC, DNR, DCA	$10,000	DNR
Creation of a regional food hub.	8	ED9.1	GMRC, EDA	$15,000	EDA
Develop an I-85 corridor access and multi-modal study.	27, 32		GMRC	$150,000	GA DOT, GA DCA, Local Govt., GMRC
Assist local governments and business in the development of multi-county tourism task force focusing on Lake Hartwell.	9, 14		GMRC, Local Govts, Local Chambers	$5,000	GMRC
Start a school mentor / Junior Achievement program in every junior high and high school in the region.	26	ED5.1	GMRC, DED	TBD	EDA, DED
Develop and distribute educational materials for entrepreneur programs.	14	ED8.4	GMRC, DED	TBD	EDA, DED
Program promoting Career Days in primary and secondary schools.	26	ED5.3	GMRC, DED	TBD	EDA, DED
Develop program linking local schools with area Technical Colleges.	26	ED5.4	GMRC, DED	$5,000	EDA, DED
Host a one-day entrepreneurial education workshop in conjunction with the SBDC and Universities.	11, 12, 14	ED8.3	GMRC, DED	TBD	EDA, DED
Regional assessment of emergency services			GMRC, GEMA	$10,000	GEMA, FEMA

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Action	I/O	Goal	Responsibility	Costs	Funding Sources
2017					
Review regional Future Development Strategy; Amend as needed	36-44		GMRC	$10,000	DCA
Update NHRGIS, survey of regional historic resources	16		GMRC, HPD	$30,000	HPD, DCA
Inventory and develop plans to improve local and regional airports.	30	CFS2.2	GMRC, DOT	$10,000	DOT
Develop inter-regional/state telecommunications strategy	1	CFS6.6	GMRC, EDA, DED	TBD	EDA, DED
Develop inventory of guidelines and plans for energy efficient sites and building methodologies in the region.		CFS11.2	GMRC, EDA, DED	$10,000	EDA, DED
Identify and create a database of entrepreneur support resources in the region.	14, 26	ED6.1	GMRC, EDA, DED	$5,000	EDA, DED
Creation of an entrepreneurial network.	14, 26	ED6.2	GMRC, EDA, DED	TBD	EDA, DED
Targeted market research study to identify innovation opportunities that correspond to the assets of the region.		ED6.3	GMRC, EDA, DED	$10,000	EDA, DED
Inventory outside forms of equity financing and possible venture capital opportunities.		ED6.4	GMRC, EDA, DED	TBD	EDA, DED
2018					
Develop a regional strategic housing plan.	3, 4, 5, 6, 7	H3.1	GMRC, DCA	$15,000	DCA
Develop Regional Post-Disaster Response Framework.		DM3.1	GMRC, GEMA	$15,000	GEMA
Update Regional Bike/Ped Strategy & related work program	29		GMRC, GDOT	$15,000	GDOT
Develop Regional Plan update			GMRC, DCA	$50,000	DCA
2019					
Conduct local and regional disaster preparedness workshops		DM2.1	GMRC, GEMA	$5,000	GEMA
Assessment of energy efficiency standards in local codes			GMRC, DCA, MEAG, Ga Power	$10,000	EDA
Explore downtown tourism networking with NC and SC			GMRC, EDA, DED	$5,000	EDA

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