

*Adoption of*

*Regional Work Program 2014-2018*

**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 a draft annual update to the Regional Work Program element of the River Valley Regional Plan, said update consisting of a Report of Accomplishments for 2013 and the addition of a fifth year, 2018, to the Regional Work Program 2014-2018, and on April 23, 2014, the Regional Commission authorized the transmittal of said update to the Department of Community Affairs for mandated review, and

**WHEREAS**, in correspondence dated June 23, 2014, staff with the Department of Community Affairs notified the River Valley Regional Commission that said draft annual update meets all requirements of the Regional Planning Standards.

**NOW, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, and it is hereby resolved by the River Valley Regional Commission that said Regional Work Program 2014-2018 of the River Valley Regional Plan be adopted.

Resolved on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2014



Terrell Hudson, Chair  
River Valley Regional Council



Patricia P. Cullen, Executive Director  
River Valley Regional Commission

Attest: 

# River Valley Regional Work Program 2014-2018

## 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

<b>NR.1</b>	Adopt appropriate Part V. Environmental Ordinances
<b>NR.2</b>	Work with local planning commissions, Georgia Trust, DOT, SHPO, and private property owners to designate scenic byways.
<b>NR.3</b>	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.
<b>NR.4</b>	Promote adopt-a-stream activities on all streams not meeting water quality standards
<b>NR.5</b>	Support and promote funding for the study and protection of the region's surface and groundwater resources.
<b>NR.6</b>	Participate in the National Flood Insurance Program
<b>NR.7</b>	Celebrate the region's agricultural heritage by continuing economic assistance efforts to rejuvenate agricultural industries within the region.
<b>NR.8</b>	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 2013
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	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's DCA DNR EPD GDEcD	\$20,000	Member Dues Local Govt's 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	Adopt A Stream Bacterial Monitoring Training Workshop held 2-1-14; brochures and other information provided at two local fairs, Georgetown-Quitman Rotary Club, Big Pig in Vienna and RVRC Council Meetings
2. Promote the development of Keep America Beautiful affiliates and regular "Clean-up" campaigns in each county.	Review	2014-2018	Local Govt's KAB EPD	\$15,000	Local Govt's KAB EPD	NR.3 NR.4	LU.I.1 LU.I.3	L1M.4 NCRE.2 NCRE.3 NCRE.15 NCRE.16	Clay, Crisp, Randolph & Columbus maintain KAB clean up campaigns.
3. Promote safe disposal of potential hazardous materials and encourage recycling activities within the Region.	Review	2014-2018	Local Govt's KAB EPD	\$15,000	Local Govt's KAB EPD	NR.1 NR.5	LU.O.5 CF.I.9	L1M.4 NCRE.4 NCRE.18	Columbus has increased/improved their recycling campaign.
4. Assist local governments in the development, adoption and enforcement of the DNR Part V Environmental Planning Standards.	Planning	2014-2018	Local Govt's KAB EPD	\$40,000	Local Govt's KAB EPD	NR.1	LU.O.5	L2M.1 NCRE.1	Stressing ordinance adoption with comprehensive plan updates

5. Prepare a feasibility study for the use of rainwater harvesting or greywater to support horticulture and poultry industries.	Planning	2016	RVRC EPD GDAg Water Councils USDA	\$50,000	Member Dues EPD GDAg USDA	NR.8	I.I.1 LU.I.1		Has not been accomplished and don't plan to complete due to limited staff time Deleted from work program
6. Market local products to other parts of the state through programs such as Georgia Made, Georgia Grown.	Planning	2014 - 2018	RVRC COC Dev Auth GDEcD USDA	\$12,000	Member Dues USDA COC Dev Auth GDEcD USDA	NR.7	ED.O.9 I.O.5		Working with the newly established Columbus Local Food Fund to establish local, healthy, sustainable food sources for Columbus and the region Receive funding for \$20 vouchers for seniors in 12 senior centers to purchase Georgia Grown produce in FY13
7. Support the development of value added processing industries, farmer's markets and neighborhood groceries supplied by local farmers to provide fresh food in the region.	Planning	2014-2018	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		Working with the newly established Columbus Local Food Fund to establish local, healthy, sustainable food sources for Columbus and the region Staff organized the Tour de Farm event, a 106 mile bicycle ride area farmers and co-ops provided food and produce for the weekend event Seniors Farmer Markets in each senior center

8. 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	RVRC Local Govt's ACOE Water Councils EPD GDAG GA Cons TPL	\$50,000	Member Dues Local Govt's ACOE EPD GDAG GA Cons TPL	NR.5 NR.6	LU.O.4 LU.I.15 I.I.1		Proper land use along river corridors is stressed in comprehensive plan documents
9. Support the development of Green Belts along the Flint and Chattahoochee Rivers.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's ACOE DNR GA Cons TPL	\$40,000	Member Dues Local Govt's ACOE DNR GA Cons TPL	NR.5 NR.6	LU.O.10 I.O.2		Development of passive recreational infrastructure along river corridors is stressed in comprehensive plan documents
10. Support and promote activities and actions that maintain the navigation of the Chattahoochee River from South Columbus to the Florida State line.	Review	2014-2018	RVRC ACOE GDOT RWS	\$30,000	Member Dues ACOE GDOT	NR.8	LU.I.19		Staff supports these activities

11. 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	2014 - 2015	RVRC Local Govt's EPD EPA	\$60,000	Member Dues Local Govt's EPD EPA	NR.4 NR.5 NR.8	LU.I.10 LU.I.16 LU.I.20 LU.I.21	CFE.21	Monthly water quality monitoring conducted to assess nonpoint sources of sediment and fecal coliform in Pataula and Pennahatchee Creeks. BMPs installed in Dooly County within Pennahatchee Creek watershed. Continued monitoring required for development of BMP installations within Pataula Creek watershed. Monthly data submitted to public GA Adopt-A-Stream website.
12. Investigate the feasibility of developing a wetland bank and conservation land program to increase stream buffers in perpetuity.	Planning	2015	RVRC Local Govt's DNR EPD GA Cons TPL	\$60,000	Member Dues Local Govt's DNR EPD GA Cons TPL	NR.1 NR.6 NR.8	H.O.7 LU.I.19 LU.O.4	LUE.11	Postponed due to lack of staff resources
13. Encourage studies to improve water resource management information, water return ratios for land application and septic systems, modeling scenarios under extreme conditions.	Review	2014	RVRC Local Govt's Water Councils EPD	\$50,000	Member Dues Local Govt's EPD	NR.5	LU.I.16 LU.I.19- LU.I.21 I.I.2		Arabi has requested engineering T/A for municipal sewer development options Stewart County and Waverly Hall are doing a septic tank replacement project in Omaha

14. 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	2014 - 2018	RVRC Local Govt's Water Councils EPD USDA	\$50,000	Member Dues Local Govt's EPD USDA	NR.5 NR.8	LU.O.8 LU.I.15 LU.I.18- LU.I.19I.I.2		Underway; being performed by the state for sites along the Flint and Chattahoochee River basins
15. 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	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's USGS	\$30,000	Member Dues Local Govt's USGS	NR.6	CF.I.8	LUE.25	Prepared Andersonville application March 2013, enrolled in NFIP April 2013. Worked with Shellman and Cuthbert during the PDM plan process.
16. Create an awards program to recognize agricultural irrigators for exemplary implementation of best management practices for water conservation.	Planning	2015	RVRC Local Govt's Water Councils EPD	\$20,000	Member Dues Local Govt's EPD	NR.8	LU.O.4		Has not been accomplished and do not plan to continue due to lack of resources Deleted from work program
17. Encourage all water providers to consider conservation-oriented rate structures at the time of refinancing or recapitalization.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC GA RWA GEFA	\$20,000	Member Dues GEFA	NR.5 NR.8	I.I.1	CFE.4	No known activity in 2013

18. Encourage use of point discharges for wastewater treatment effluent disposal for major facilities (greater than one million gallons per day).	Review	2016	RVRC Local Govt's Water Councils EPD	\$40,000	Member Dues Local Govt's EPD	NR.5 NR.8	LU.I.16 LU.I.20		No known activity in 2013
19. Increase education and outreach programs directed toward improving water quality.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Svc Providers Water Councils	\$20,000	Member Dues Svc Providers EPD	NR.3 NR.4 NR.5	LU.O.4		Adopt-A-Stream monitoring workshop for water quality held for public 2-1-14. Additional information via brochures and handouts given at regional fairs.
20. Encourage interconnection of regional supply systems for reliability.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's	\$20,000	Member Dues Local Govt's	NR.5 NR.8	I.I.8	L1M.3 ICE.4 ICE.6	Met with Marion and Schley Counties October 2013; Schley and the City of Ellaville have since agreed to connect their separate systems
21. Encourage local providers to prepare drought contingency plans.	Review	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's	\$40,000	Member Dues Local Govt's EPD	NR.5 NR.8	LU.I.1 LU.I.15	ICE.4 ICE.11	Included in Taylor pre-disaster mitigation plan submitted September 2013; working with Talbot, Stewart, Randolph, and Schley Counties currently

22. 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	2014-2018	RVRC ACOE	\$50,000	Member Dues ACOE	NR.5 NR.8	LU.I.19		No known activity in 2013
---	--------	-----------	--------------	----------	------------------------	--------------	---------	--	---------------------------

## Land Use

<b>Vision Statement</b>	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.
<b>Guiding Principles</b>	
<b>LU. 1</b>	Promote the development, adoption and implementation of land use regulations that will result in a fiscally responsible quality living environment.
<b>LU. 2</b>	Develop design guidelines and make available to local merchants, builders, etc.
<b>LU. 3</b>	Provide alternative transportation in new development and retrofit for alternative transportation in developed areas.
<b>LU. 4</b>	Update zoning ordinances to allow mixed uses and higher density development where appropriate.
<b>LU.5</b>	Encourage and create innovative design practices that preserve open space.
<b>LU. 6</b>	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 2013
1. Update zoning ordinances to comply with current laws and to allow for more compact and mixed-use development.	Planning	2014 - 2016	RVRC Local Govt's DCA	\$40,000	Member Dues Local Govt's DCA	LU.2 LU.4 LU.5	LU.I.5 LU.I.11 LU.O.11	HE.9 HE.10 LUE.1- LUE.4 LUE.6	Updated Macon County zoning ordinance; continue to provide zoning T.A. to Chattahoochee Co., Quitman Co., Talbot Co., cities of Hamilton, Richland and Fort Gaines
2. Provide zoning administration technical assistance and training to local governments.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC DCA CVIQG	\$40,000	Member Dues DCA	LU.1 LU.4	LU.I.12	LUE.7 LUE.8 LUE.21	Held planning and zoning training for local governments 4/18/2013, 15-20 jurisdictions represented
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	2014-2018	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	Assisting Schley with zoning ordinance development
4. Host strategy/visioning workshops and/or leadership programs at the county level involving community stakeholders and the general public.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC DCA	\$10,000	Membership Dues DCA	LU.1	LU.O.10	LUE.14	Held Community visioning sessions for Taylor County and the Cities of Butler and Reynolds

5. Facilitate regional land banking	Planning	2014-2015	RVRC Local Govt's SWGA United DCA	\$40,000	Member Dues Local Govt's DCA	LU.1	LU.I.6 H.O.7 H.I.4	EDE.22	Meeting with Crisp/Cordele as they pursue land bank, could expand to regional authority; Hosted Christopher Norman, President GALBA and Sara Toering, Center for Community Progress to speak at the Jan.2014 RVRC on Land Bank formation, operation and best practices
6. Work with communities to incorporate planning tools such as traditional neighborhoods, stream buffers, etc. into existing regulations.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's DCA EPD	\$50,000	Member Dues Local Govt's 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	These tools are incorporated into character areas in comprehensive plan documents
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	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's DCA DNR EPD	\$20,000	Member Dues Local Govt's 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	Resource management planning being used drafting Schley zoning ordinance

8. Work with local governments to improve the quality of alternative transportation options, including sidewalks, trails, bike lanes, transit and promote their use.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's DCA GDOT	\$40,00	Member Dues Local Govt's DCA GDOT	LU.3 LU.4	LU.O.10 T.I.12 LU.I.7	TE.1- TE.7 TE.10- TE.11	Met with 75% of region's counties explaining the benefits/value of rural transit; Working with the City of Columbus on the development of a Bicycle Friendly Community application; Working with Americus/Sumter County to promote bicycling as a tool for economic development TE Projects – sidewalks under design in Shellman and Cordele
9. Expand the Safe Routes to School program to encourage the development of safe walking environments for children.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's Local BOE GDOT	\$20,000	Member Dues Local Govt's Local BOE GDOT	LU.3 LU.4	LU.I.13 T.I.1	TE.5 TE.3 TE.2	Completed a Safe Routes to School Plan for Randolph County Elementary School, working with Montezuma on a plan
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	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's GDOT	\$1500	Member Dues Local Govt's GDOT Sponsors	LU.3	LU.I.13 LU.I.7	TE.6 TE.7 TE.2	<a href="http://www.activevalley.org">www.activevalley.org</a> is up and running and continuously updated Annual AAA Wellness Walk in Peachtree Mall to promote wellness activities while visiting sponsored community resources

11. Ensure that infrastructure provides necessary accessibility for people with disabilities such as parking and ramps .	Review	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's DCA GDOT	\$10,000	Member Dues Local Govt's DCA GDOT	LU.1 LU.3	LU.0.7		Sponsored regional ADA/Title VI workshop in Americus and Columbus October 2013; Worked with the City of Columbus on educating citizens on Complete Streets policy
12. Promote development and assist with implementation of historic preservation ordinances and design guidelines; promote and facilitate historic resource inventories.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's DNR DCA	\$30,000	Member Dues Local Govt's DNR DCA	LU.1 LU.2 LU.6	LU.I.3 LU.I.4	NCRE.5 NCRE.6 NCRE.7 NCRE.8	Completed Design Guidelines for the Gillespie Selden Historic District in Cordele.
13. Provide information and present programs educating the general public of the benefits of historic preservation.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC DNR DCA	\$10,000	Member Dues DNR DCA	LU.1 LU.6	LU.0.6	NCRE.5 NCRE.6	Hosted a historic preservation training workshop 6/14/2013.
14. Assist interested parties with tax credits and other historic preservation incentive programs.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's DNR DCA	\$10,000	Member Dues Local Govt's DNR DCA HUD	LU.6	LU.O.6 H.I.5	EDE.17 EDE.10	Not completed due to lack of staff resources and interest by local governments

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	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's DNR DCA	\$15,000	Member Dues Local Govt's DNR DCA	LU.1 LU.6	LU.O.6	NCRE.5 NCRE.6	Articles are written regularly
16. Assist communities secure Better Hometown/Main Street designation and provide technical assistance to implement revitalization programs.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's DNR DCA	\$15,000	Member Dues Local Govt's 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	Held visioning and charrette sessions for Butler to complete Redevelopment Plan for their downtown; Plan adoption scheduled for April 2014.
17. Encourage communities in their efforts to obtain Certified Local Government designation; provide training and technical assistance to historic preservation commissions.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's DNR DCA	\$15,000	Member Dues Local Govt's DNR	LU.1 LU.6	LU.O.6		Provide staff review for the City of Columbus' historic preservation commission.

18. Encourage conservation of the Old Federal Road  <b>ADDITION TO THE ORIGINAL WORK PROGRAM</b>	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's DNR DCA	\$15,000	Member Dues Local Govt's DNR DCA	LU.1 LU.6	LU.O.6	NCRE.5 NCRE.6	<b>N/A for 2013</b>
--	----------	-----------	------------------------------------	----------	---	--------------	--------	------------------	---------------------

## Housing and Neighborhood Development

<b>Vision Statement</b>	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.
<b>Guiding Principles</b>	
<b>H.1</b>	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.
<b>H.2</b>	Promote a higher density and range of housing choices and a variety of dwelling types in all neighborhoods that have appropriate infrastructure.
<b>H.3</b>	Develop in areas already served by municipal or county utilities and streets.
<b>H.4</b>	Change zoning ordinances to accommodate loft living and mother-in-law suites.
<b>H.5</b>	Work with other counties and cities in the region to implement residential code enforcement including health and safety standards for manufactured homes.
<b>H.6</b>	Tax manufactured housing as real property where appropriate.
<b>H.7</b>	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.
<b>H.8</b>	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 2013
1. Promote intergovernmental agreements between governments that have existing code enforcement staff and those that do not.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's	\$5,000	Member Dues Local Govt's	H.5	I.I.8 LU.I.12 H.I.2	ICE.7	Assisted Sumter County/Andersonville January 2013 with intergovernmental agreement for code enforcement
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	2014 - 2015	RVRC Local Govt's DCA USDA GICH SWGA United NeighborWorks Habitat House of Heroes Fuller Center	\$40,000	Member Dues Local Govt's DCA USDASWG A United, NeighborWorks, Habitat, House of Heroes, Fuller Center	H.1 H.5 H.7	H.O.6 H.I.5	HE.4 HE.6	Continue to research and identify home modification resources in community and available housing

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.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's DCA DHS USDA GICH SWGA United Neighbor Works Habitat House of Heroes Fuller Center	\$20,000	Member Dues Local Govt's DCA DHS USDA SWGA United Neighbor Works Habitat House of Heroes Fuller Center	H.1 H.2 H.3 H.4 H.7 H.8	H.I.5 H.I.6 CF.I.7	HE.6	Contiune collaboration with Columbus Housing Authority, attend informational meetings as well as provide assistance. GeorgiaCares presentations.
4. Provide educational seminars and counseling for residents on subjects related to home ownership, such as credit and mortgages, home maintenance, and financing.	Review	2014-2018	RVRC DCA SWGA United Neighbor Works USDA	\$20,000	Member Dues DCA SWGA United Neighbor Works USDA	H.1	LU.I.12 H.I.7	HE.7	Homebuyer education classes continue in Crisp and Dooly Georgia Legal Services (AAA contractors) has made this a priority for free legal counseling focusing on eviction issues.
5. Work with local governments to implement the GA State Minimum Construction Code.	Review	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's DCA USDA GICH SWGA United	\$20,000	Local Govt's DCA USDA SWGA United	H.4	H.O.6 LU.O.1 H.O.3 H.I.7	WE.2	Has not been accomplished and don't plan to due to limited staff resources Deleted from work program

6. Seek opportunities to diversify the housing mix to include quality multi-family and single-family attached units.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's DCA USDA GICH	\$20,000	Member Dues Local Govt's DCA USDA SWGA United	H.7	H.I.2 H.I.5	HE.8	Cuthbert & Talbot housing rehab CDBGs; City of Cordele USDA Housing Preservation Grant
7. Support and, where possible, coordinate housing efforts with housing organizations such as NeighborWorks, Habitat for Humanity, House of Heroes, and the Fuller Center.	Planning	2014-2018	SWGA United Neighbor Works Habitat House of Heroes Fuller Center	\$20,000	Neighbor Works Habitat House of Heroes Fuller Center				ADRC continues to refer clients appropriate for housing assistance such as House of Heroes.

## Transportation and Infrastructure

<b>Vision Statement</b>	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.
<b>Guiding Principles</b>	
<b>T.1</b>	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.
<b>T.2</b>	Encourage shared parking
<b>T.3</b>	Create a network of well-connected lots, blocks streets and paths. Keep streets narrow and use traffic calming measures to minimize vehicle speeds.
<b>T.4</b>	Participate in and support the regional transit system.
<b>T.5</b>	Identify potential transportation programs to meet public transportation needs.
<b>T.6</b>	Work with local governments, state agencies and federal agencies to implement TIA and other programs to improve the transportation network in the region.
<b>T.7</b>	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.
<b>T.8</b>	Promote initiatives aimed at the development and implementation of alternative transportation options as a means of increasing connectivity, walkability, bike-ability and health.
<b>T.9</b>	Work with local telecommunication provider to identify telecommunication issues and enhance the level of telecommunication services within the Region.
<b>T.10</b>	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 2013
1. Inventory and map all available land and buildings to evaluate possible infill and redevelopment opportunities within the region.	Planning	2014 - 2017	RVRC Local Govt's COC Dev Auth EDA	\$60,000	Member Dues Local Govt's 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	Completed for the City of Vienna and Butler as part of their Urban Redevelopment Plans, will work on others as funding allows
2. Make transportation and infrastructure GIS information readily available through a website or other digital media.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's	\$30,000	Member Dues Local Govt's	T.7	I.O.1	LUE.22 LUE.23 LUE.24	Have expanded GIS data but not yet posted on websites
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	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's FTA LCRTA	\$20,000	Member Dues Local Govt's FTA LCRTA JARC	T.4 T.5 T.6	T.O.1 I.I.3 I.I.5	ICE.4 ICE.6 ICE.10	Met with and explained to counties adjoining the Pataula service area the opportunities for improved service by joining Pataula Transit

4. Work with transit providers to identify operating inefficiencies and promote coordination between metropolitan and rural systems to enhance service delivery.	Planning	2014	RVRC Local Govt's Svc Providers	\$20,000	Member Dues Local Govt's 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	Met with 75% of the region's counties explaining how to achieve greater transit efficiencies
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	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's GDOT FTA	\$30,000	Member Dues Local Govt's GDOT FTA	T.6	T.I.8 T.I.9 T.I.11	TE.10	Served on the Mayor's Commission for Passenger Rail in Columbus –feasibility study completed by HTNB Corporation; Continue to work with the In-land Port in Cordele
6. Assist local governments to comply with FHWA traffic sign restoration reflectivity requirements.	Planning	2013	RVRC Local Govt's GDOT FHWA	\$20,000	Member Dues Local Govt's GDOT FHWA	T.5 T.6	T.I.3 T.I.5	LUE.20	Initiated assistance but DOT suspended mandate indefinitely

7. Work to coordinate local and regional bike, multi-use, and walking trails with larger regional systems.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's DCA GDOT USDA	\$50,000	Member Dues Local Govt's 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	Staffs continues to work on this as time allows. There is a local effort to link Crisp and Sumter designated bike routes
8. Expand the Safe Routes to School program to encourage the development of safe walking environments for children.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's Local BOE GDOT	\$30,000	Member Dues Local Govt's 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 a Safe Routes to School Plan for Randolph County Elementary School, working with Montezuma on a plan
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	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's DCA GDOT	\$25,000	Member Dues Local Govt's DCA GDOT	T.1 T.3 T.8 T.10	T.I.1 T.I.6	TE.5 TE.11 TE.6 TE.7	<a href="http://www.activevalley.org">www.activevalley.org</a> website is maintained for all bicycling and pedestrian activities in the region

10. Support and work with DHS Coordinated Transportation and continue to provide educational information on Medicaid transportation services.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRCAAA DHS	\$25,000	RVRCAAA DHS	T.1 T.6 T.7	I.I.3 I.I.5	TE.10	Have had several face to face meetings with transportation providers and Gateway staff to improve quality of service delivery
11. Expand transportation services for hospitalized discharged patients through Care Transitions.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRCAAA DHS	\$25,000	RVRCAAA DHS	T.1 T.6 T.7	I.I.3 I.I.5	TE.10	Has not been implemented but still in discussion and participation on Community Healthcare Connections organization
12. Identify and address telecommunication s deficiencies in the region.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's SWGA United DCA	\$30,000	Member Dues Local Govt's SWGA United DCA	T.7 T.9	CF.I.2 ED.O.7 ED.I.10	L1M.6	Initiated digital economy plan

## Economic Development

<b>Vision Statement</b>	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.
<b>Guiding Principles</b>	
<b>ED-1</b>	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.
<b>ED-2</b>	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.
<b>ED-3</b>	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.
<b>ED-4</b>	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.
<b>Ed-5</b>	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 2013
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	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's SWGA United DCA USDA GDOT	\$50,000	Member Dues Local Govt's SWGA United DCA USDA GDOT	ED.1	T.I.7 T.I.8 T.I.9 ED.O.2 ED.I.11	EDE.22	Execution of MOU between Georgia Ports Authority and Cordele Intermodal Services officially established Cordele site as inland port. Local development authority has an application prepared for any potential funding agency to assist with multi-million dollar, on-site transportation improvement needs.
2. Coordinate efforts with local broadband providers and cities/counties/local organizations to identify and address key issues.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's DCA GTA	\$30,000	Member Dues Local Govt's DCA GTA	ED.6 T.10	I.I.7 ED.O.7 ED.O.11		Initiated digital economy plan

3. Identify communities in the Region with current access to broadband services and refer back to Georgia Technology Authority.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's DCA GTA	\$15,000	Member Dues Local Govt's DCA GTA	ED.6	ED.0.7		Initiated digital economy plan
4. Coordinate in-land port activities with barge traffic along the Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers as another way to transport goods throughout the Region.	Review	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's SWGGA United GDOT	\$40,000	Member Dues Local Govt's SWGGA United GDOT	ED.1	T.I.7 T.I.8		No known activity for 2013
5. Work to broaden the CEDS stakeholder group to diversify input and increase coordination between organizations.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's Private Citizens	\$40,000	Member Dues Local Govt's	ED.1	ED.I.2 ED.I.6 ED.I.7		CEDS Committee has added additional members to increase representation from throughout the region.
6. Assist local communities in the development and marketing of available industrial facilities.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's COC Dev Auth	\$40,000	Member Dues Local Govt's COC Dev Auth	ED.4	H.O.7 LU.O.1 L.O.4	EDE.15 EDE.16	No known activity for 2013

7. Provide assistance such as business research and market analysis to potential entrepreneurs within the Region to support the development of successful businesses.	Planning	2014-2018	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	Provided ESRI Business Analyst information to Taylor County Chamber of Commerce and City of Vienna.
8. Increase local job opportunities that do not require access to transportation by supporting in-fill development in existing urban areas.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's MS/BHT COC DCA	\$50,000	Member Dues Local Govt's MS/BHT COC DCA	ED.4	ED.O.1 ED.O.5 H.I.1 ED.O.2	LUE.5 LUE.8 EE.10	In-fill is promoted in comprehensive plans, primarily through character areas
9. Increase the visibility of the River Valley Region as a location for film/video production.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's COC MS/BHT GDEcD	\$20,000	Member Dues Local Govt's 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	Assisted most counties become "camera ready" Held Camera Ready Workshop to teach local governments how to attract film/video productions.

10. Aim to provide a local, skilled workforce to meet the needs of commercial growth related to local and regional military contractors.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC COC WIA Bd	\$50,000	Member Dues COC GOWD	ED.2	P.O.1 ED.I.13 ED.O.12	EDE.21	CEDS Committee has adopted this as their goal for 2013 and for 2014 adopted the increase of dual enrollment in high schools as the best tool. Representatives from all technical colleges which serve the region have met with the CEDS Committee and shared information on dual enrollment.
11. Encourage the nomination of Scenic Byways in the region and assist with designation MARKETING and Corridor Management Plans.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's COC MS/BHT GDOT	\$30,000	Member Dues Local Govt's 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	All of the local governments in Macon County passed a resolution in support of designating State Route 49 as a Scenic Byway in the region in 2012, staff continues to gauge Sumter County's interest in this project
12. Promote the use of current and new technologies to increase tourism (i.e. geocaching).	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's COC MS/BHT GDEcD	\$5,000	Member Dues Local Govt's COC MS/BHT GDEcD	ED.3 ED.5	C.F.O.3	LUE.22	Held a Lunch and Learn on this topic in 2012. Randolph County Chamber is actively working to create a geo-cache trail because of this session. Application of new technology was included in Andersonville Tourism Study June 2013

13. Promote partnerships among various jurisdictions and organizations to increase tourism (i.e. regional tours or trails).	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's COC MS/BHT GDEcD	\$5,000	Member Dues Local Govt's COC MS/BHT GDEcD	ED.3 ED.5	C.F.O.3	ICE.8 ICE.4	RC staffs the HWY 27 Association Tour de Farm Bicycle Ride
14. Promote the use of the region by film, music and digital entertainment agencies.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's COC MS/BHT GDEcD	\$5,000	Member Dues Local Govt's COC MS/BHT GDEcD	ED.4	LU.O.7 ED.O.4 ED.O.5		Work with local governments as requested on the Camera Ready Initiative
15. Support the White Water Project in Columbus.	Planning	2013 - 2017	RVRC Local Govt's COC CVB RWS HCC	\$5,000	Member Dues Local Govt's 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	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's COC RWS HCC	\$5,000	Member Dues Local Govt's COC RWS HCC	ED.3 ED.5	LU.O.9	NCRE.16	Work with local governments as requested on this issue
17. Support/assist with the development of a Marina in Georgetown-Quitman County.	Planning	2014 - 2018	RVRC Local Govt's RWS HCC	\$5,000	Member Dues Local Govt's RWS HCC	ED.5	LU.O.9		Postponed due to staff and county government 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	2014-2018	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	Working with the newly established Columbus Local Food Fund to establish local, healthy, sustainable food sources for Columbus and the region Completed the Market Analysis and Urban Redevelopment Plans for Vienna and Butler which give tools and suggestions for accomplishing this. Tour de Farm Seniors Farmer Markets
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	2014-2018	RVRC MS/BHT GDEcD	\$10,000	Member Dues MS/BHT GDEcD	ED.4	ED.O.6 LU.I.6 LU.O.1	EDE.10	Events are promoted on the RVRC Facebook page
20. Market downtowns as attractive places to start new businesses by coordinating with the Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Development Authorities, or	Planning	2013-2017	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 an Urban Redevelopment plan for the City of Vienna – currently working with the City of Butler on a URP Host quarterly work sessions for local businesses and governments to

Better Hometown and Mainstreet Programs, and Economic Development Authorities.									improve downtowns.
21. Assist communities with preservation and adaptive re-use of downtown buildings through programs such as façade improvements, etc.	Planning	2014-2018	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	On-going programs in the Columbus, Richland and Vienna
22. Support the Georgia Made, Georgia Grown initiative and assist local businesses pursuing designation.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Dev Auth GDEcD GDAG USDA	\$20,000	Member Dues Dev Auth GDEcD GDAG USDA	ED.3 ED.5	ED.O.9	EDE.3	- Staff works with local entrepreneurs on this initiative

## Education

<b>Vision Statement</b>	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.
<b>Guiding Principle</b>	
<b>E-1</b>	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.
<b>E-2</b>	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 2013
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	2014-2018	RVRC Fam Conn Local BOE WIA 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	Staff attends Family Connection meetings and tries to assist them as needed and requested
2. Coordinate with local technical colleges to create technical training programs and dual enrollment programs within the Region's high schools.	Review	2014-2018	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	CEDS Committee is working to improve regional workforce via increased dual enrollment in the high schools.
3. Support local community's efforts to attain designation as Certified Literate Communities.	Review	2014-2018		\$15,000	Member Dues Local BOE	E.1	ED.I.1 ED.I.2	EDE.11 EDE.12	No activity in 2013

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	2014 - 2018	Local BOE Local Colleges and Universities	\$20,000	Member Dues Local BOE Local Colleges and Universities	E.1	ED.I.1 P.I.5		No known activities 2013
5. Work with local 4-H Programs and Chambers of Commerce to encourage the development of Youth Leadership Programs.	Review	2014-2018	RVRC COC Ext Svc	\$15,000	Member Dues COC Ext Svc	E.1	ED.I.1 ED.I.2 ED.O.3	ICE.10	Staff is working with the Randolph County 4-h program
6. Promote broadband development within the Region to support distance learning, dual enrollment and virtual learning centers.	Planning	2014 - 2018	RVRC Local Govt's Local BOE DCA GTA Local Colleges and Universities	\$30,000	Member Dues Local Govt's Local BOE DCA GTA Local Colleges and Universities	E.1	ED.O.7 I.I.7		Initiated digital economy plan

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	2014-2018	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	WIA Board / GOWD no longer provides funding for Work Ready testing in High Schools. This activity likely to be deleted from work program as the state has shifted focus
8. Assist in the developing of facilities to address literacy, computer skills and technical skills for people in the region	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local BOE WIA Bd DCA Local Colleges and Universities	\$50,000	Member Dues Local BOE GOWD DCA Local Colleges and Universities	E.2	ED.O.7		WIA opened site in Cordele for GED Plus which provides basic literacy skills remediation.
9. Establish literacy training throughout the region.	Review	2014-2018	RVRC Local BOE WIA Bd Local Colleges and Universities	\$30,000	Member Dues Local BOE GOWD Local Colleges and Universities	E.1	P.I.5 ED.I.1	EDE.11 EDE.12	WIA has two designated site locations (Americus & Cordele) for remediation basic literacy skills.

10. Establish learning centers throughout the region.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local BOE WIA Bd DCA Local Colleges and Universities	\$50,000	Member Dues Local BOE GOWD DCA Local Colleges and Universities	E.1 E.2	ED.I.1 ED.O.11		No known activity in 2013
11. Develop programs within the local school systems that prepare students for the workforce.	Review	2014-2018	RVRC Local BOE WIA 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	No known activity in 2013
12. Support the efforts of regional technical colleges and high schools to provide work force/vocational training in high schools for youth.	Review	2014-2018	RVRC Local BOE WIA 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	CEDS Committee is working to improve regional workforce via increased dual enrollment in the high schools.
13. Educate local industries on the existing training and education programs.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC WIA Bd Local Colleges and Universities	\$30,000	Member Dues GOWD Local Colleges and Universities	E.2	ED.O.3 CF.I.8	EDE.5	WIA staff participates with two area local Employers Committee groups to provide information on WIA services. WIA On-The-Job Training (OJT) Provider works with local employers to market OJT training activities

14. Establish classrooms for area technical training.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC WIA Bd DCA USDA Local Colleges and Universities	\$50,000	Member Dues GOWD DCA USDA Local Colleges and Universities	E.1 E.2	ED.O.3	EDE.1	No known activity in 2013
15. Encourage Technical Colleges to offer training programs in the communities.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC WIA Bd Local Colleges and Universities	\$30,000	Member Dues GOWD Local Colleges and Universities	E.1 E.2	ED.O.3	EDE.1	WIA has participants are enrolled in Technical Colleges
16. Support the establishment of preschool and adult day care centers in the region.	Review	2014-2018	RVRC Fam Conn DFACS DHS	\$60,000	Member Dues Fam Conn DFACS DHS	E.1	P.I.5	CFE.25	No known activity in 2013
17. Support and advocate workforce training for medical healthcare professionals to address critical shortages in rural areas.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local Colleges and Universities	\$40,000	Member Dues Local Colleges and Universities	E.2	ED.I.2 P.I.6		No known activity in 2013
18. Promote the development of additional leadership programs.	Review	2014-2018	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		No known activity in 2013

19. Utilize Plan Assessment meetings to reactivate regional meetings of city and county clerks and managers.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's	\$10,000	Member Dues Local Govt's		ED.O.11 I.I.8	ICE.5	Eight Planning Assessment meetings held in 2013
20. Support the development of children's day care centers with "extended stay" where needed.	Review	2014-2018	RVRC Fam Conn DFACS	\$60,000	Fam Conn DFACS	E.1	P.I.5	CFE.25	No known activity in 2013

## Community Facilities

<b>Vision Statement</b>	
<b>Guiding Principle</b>	
<b>CF. 1</b>	Conduct infrastructure and facility expansions assessment to support future demands.
<b>CF. 2</b>	Keep Hazard Mitigation Plans current to help ensure continued protection of public health and safety.
<b>CF. 3</b>	Use existing facility systems to direct growth to appropriate areas.
<b>CF. 4</b>	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 2013
1. Using GPS technology, capture the various visible and underground components of the region's water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer infrastructure	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's DCA USDA	\$100,000	Member Dues Local Govt's 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	Captured and mapped Arabi water system
2. Assist local governments in their pursuit of funding to maintain and extend utility services, as needed.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's DCA GA RWA GEFA USDA	\$50,000	Member Dues/ Contracts Local Govt's 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	Prepared and submitted 14 FY 2013 CDBG applications for community facility improvements -9 were funded
3. Work with local governments to implement best management practices in relation to storm water management.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's DCA EPD	\$20,000	Member Dues Local Govt's DCA EPD	CF.1 CF.3	CF.I.1		Randolph adopted the GA Stormwater Management Plan.
4. Promote the adoption and utilization of Capital Improvement planning and budgeting in all communities within the region.	Review	2014-2018	RVRC	\$15,000	DCA	CF.1 CF.3 CF.4		CF.I.4	No known activity in 2013

5. Provide technical assistance to local governments in the development of infrastructure improvement plans supported by grant and loan assistance	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC	\$25,000	Member Dues Contracts	CF.1 CF.4		CF. I. 8 I.O.1 P.I.2	No known activity in 2013-no funding
6. Provide grant assistance to local governments in the provision of needed governmental facilities.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC	\$15,000	Member Dues Contracts	CF.4		CF. I. 8 I.O.1 P.I.2	Prepared and submitted 14 FY 2013 CDBG applications for community facility improvements -9 funded
7. Provide planning and technical assistance to local governments in the development of community and regional parks.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC	\$20,000	Member Dues Contracts	CF.1 CF.4		CF. I. 8 I.O.1 P.I.2	Worked with Talbot County on the development of a park in the City of Geneva
8. Provide planning technical assistance in the planning, development and financing of new library facilities.	Planning	2014-2018	Regional Library Rural Library Project	\$10,000	Member Dues Contracts	CF.1 CF.4		CF. I. 8 I.O.1 P.I.2	No known activity in 2013
9. Advocate regional infrastructure planning through the Service Delivery Strategy process and during comprehensive plan updates and Plan Assessment meetings over the	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC	\$25,000	Member Dues	CF.1		ED.O.11 I.O.1 I.O.4	Updating Webster/Stewart SDS for service from Webster to Stewart Updated Randolph/Clay SDS for service from Clay to Randolph Webster plan update included joining

planning horizon.									multi-county development authority
10. Provide planning for special infrastructure needs in identified target areas.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC	\$10,000	Member Dues	CF.1 CF.2 CF.3		I.O.1	Staff works with local governments on infrastructure needs in targeted areas when preparing CDBG applications

## Human Services

<b>Vision Statement</b>	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.
<b>Guiding Principles</b>	
<b>HS-1</b>	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 2013
1. Coordinate with local governments to apply for funding to purchase necessary equipment, make repairs, and update facilities.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's FEMA USDA	\$60,000	Member Dues Local Govt's FEMA USDA	HS.1	I.I.8 P.I.1	ICE.6	Prepared and submitted 14 FY 2013 CDBG applications for community facility improvements- 9 were funded
2. Assist local governments with disaster preparedness activities such as pre-disaster mitigation plans.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's GEMA FEMA	\$40,000	Member Dues Local Govt's GEMA FEMA	HS.1	CF.I.1	LUE.25 L1M.5	Assisted six counties with pre-disaster mitigation plans
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	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's DCA USDA GTA	\$50,000	Member Dues Local Govt's DCA USDA GTA	HS.1	I.I.7 ED.O.7 ED.I.10		Initiated digital economy plan

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	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's Local Colleges and Universities	\$30,000	Member Dues Local Govt's Local Colleges and Universities	HS.1	ED.O.9		No known activity in 2013
5. Provide information, assistance and referrals for older adults, persons with disabilities and caregivers.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRCAAA Fam Conn DHS	\$40,000	Member Dues Fam Conn DHS	HS.1	CF.I.8		2,142 clients served in 2013 Care-Net reactivated in Columbus region; three Powerful Tools (caregiver classes) were taught: 2 classes in local churches; one in senior center
6. Provide information and educational material to caregivers through designated senior centers in the region.	Planning	2014-2018	RRCAAA DHS	\$40,000	Member Dues DHS	HS.1	CF.I.8 ED.O.7		Powerful Tools Class taught in senior center: Randolph County

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.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRCAAA DHS	\$40,000	Member Dues DHS	HS.1	ED.O.9 P.I.5		Two classes held in 2013 on CDSMP and Three on Powerful Tools One lay leader and community CDSMP class taught: Lay Leader: Americus / Community class in Dooly County Matter of Balance class taught regarding fall prevention taught in community: Dooly Senior Center
8. Partner with the Area Agency on Aging to develop walking trails in safe environments for citizens.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRCAAA Local Govt's GDOT	\$20,000	Member Dues Local Govt's GDOT DHS	HS.1	LU.O.10 I.O.3 CF.I.7	TE.1 TE.3 TE.4	Postponed due to lack of staff resources
9. Promote and identify community lay leaders for the advancement of CDSMP and Powerful Tools for Caregivers.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRCAAA DHS	\$50,000	Member Dues DHS	HS.1	CF.I.7 CF.I.8		Taught two lay leaders from Dooly County, One from Sumter and one from Muscogee County /CDSMP
10. 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	2014-2018	RVRCAAA Fam Conn DHS	\$40,000	Member Dues Fam Conn DHS	HS.1	ED.O.9 CF.I.11 LU.I.14	EDE.3	12 Farmers Markets were held at the 12 Senior Centers in the region during the summer of 2013 No additional famers identified

11. Coordinate with the Area Agency on Aging and local hospitals on implementing the Care Transitions program to prevent hospital re-admissions within 30 days of discharge with the same diagnosis.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRCAAA DHS	\$40,000	Member Dues DHS	HS.1	I.I.8 I.O.3 CF.I.7		Work with St. Francis Hospital on Care Transition program Not implemented, continue to attend Community Healthcare Connections meetings
12. Provide planning and technical assistance to local governments in the development of community and regional parks, recreational facilities and community centers.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRC Local Govt's DNR DCA	\$50,000	Member Dues  Local Govt's DNR DCA	HS.1	LU.O.10 T.O.3 T.I.6 CF.I.4 T.I.14	ICE.8	Staff completes this activity as requested
13. Support local health fairs, festivals, bike rides and other wellness initiatives.	Planning	2014-2018	2014-2018 RVRC DHS GDOT	\$30,000	Member Dues DHS GDOT	HS.1	CF.I.8	TE.5 TE.11	Tour de Farm, Mid-Town Bike Around, Ride with Mayor, Bike to Work Day AAA continues to participate in community health fairs: Men and Women's Health Expo; Mayors Cmte. for Persons with Disabilities, SALT: Seniors and Law Together; Veterans Stand-Down Event

## Intergovernmental

<b>Vision Statement</b>	
<b>I.1</b>	Update Service Delivery Strategies to help ensure the efficient delivery of services.
<b>I.2</b>	Share information between local governments to enhance efficiency.
<b>I.3</b>	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 2013
1. Support the update of the Service Delivery Strategy to help ensure the efficient delivery of services.	Planning	2014-2018	RVRCLocal Govt's	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	Performed as part of comprehensive plan update; AAA Annual Area Plan to meet needs in community identified through public hearings and advisory council.
2. Utilize Plan Assessment meetings to improve upon the sharing of information between local governments for greater efficiency and intergovernmental coordination.	Planning	2014-2018	Local Govt's	\$25,000	DCA	I.2	I.O.1 I.I.4 I.I.5	ICE.4 ICE.5 ICE.6 ICE.7 ICE.8	RC staff holds at least eight planning assessment meetings a year
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	2014-2018	Local Govt's	\$1,000		I.3	I.O.1	CFE.5-CFE.16	In newsletter

4. Provide planning and technical assistance to educate local governments on parliamentary procedure (e.g. Roberts Rules of Order, etc.) for conducting public meetings and other legal responsibilities of cities and counties in regards to the duties of elected officials and staff.	Planning	2014-2018	Local Govt's	\$10,000	DCA	I.3	CF.I.8 I.O.1 LU.I.11 LU.I.12	LUE.1 LUE.13 LUE.14 LUE.15	Have not accomplished and don't plan to, training is available through other avenues Deleted from work program
--	----------	-----------	--------------	----------	-----	-----	---------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	---

## 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



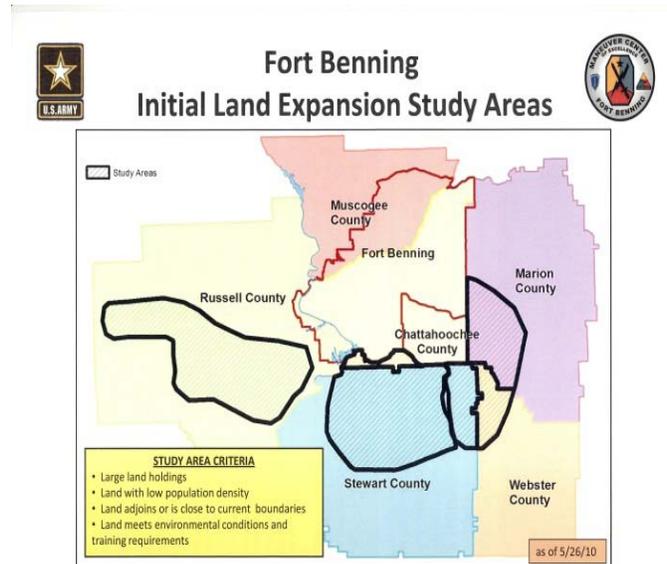
As regional conditions change The River Valley Regional Commission will update the Regional Plan as needed to describe and depict the most logical long range development patterns for the River Valley Region. Factors affecting changes to the Future Development Map may include but are not limited to:

- 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

## 2013 Update of Areas Requiring Special Attention (2014-2018)

### 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 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 almost 150 major facilities. In the most recent BRAC (2005) Fort Benning's military role was expanded with relocation of the Armored Division from Fort Knox in Kentucky. The Pentagon is expected to initiate another BRAC review in 2014 or 2015, and at least one credible news source has posted a report that several parts of base activity is likely to be trimmed or transferred. Lacking any information about which activities may be involved, it is not known whether another realignment will facilitate or preclude a partial or full planned geographical expansion of Fort Benning.

### 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.

## 2013 Update of Areas Requiring Special Attention (2014-2018)

**Update:** There are two, large-scale development projects planned in the region. Groundbreaking for a \$25 million, 475 acre, multi-faceted motorsports complex on Americus' north city limits is expected 2014. Execution of an agreement in 2013 between Cordele Intermodal Services, the state's only (dry) inland port, and the Georgia Ports Authority is expected to increase the pace of development. Operating for a couple years from a 40-acre tract in Cordele's industrial park, 1,200 adjoining acres are targeted for expansion. Neither development will have significant, adverse impact on known natural or cultural/historic resources (state park, historic structure, or river). Both will convert prime farmland from agricultural production, but development at virtually any site in either Crisp or Sumter Counties will convert prime farmland or other agricultural land of statewide importance. In both cases; however, the projects are extensions of development rather than leap-frogged into undeveloped areas. Both sites also affect jurisdictional wetlands, but corrective actions have been/will be taken to mitigate possible negative impacts.

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 telecommunications ordinances.

### Areas of Disinvestment



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



AFTER

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

## 2013 Update of Areas Requiring Special Attention (2014-2018)

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 return on investment so marginal the private sector cannot reverse these economic conditions unilaterally. Several cities have recently initiated efforts to stimulate public and private sector investment in their communities.

Intending to capitalize on powers available through the Georgia Urban Redevelopment Law, six cities have prepared urban redevelopment plans. Americus, Butler, Cordele, Cuthbert, Richland and Vienna have each adopted one or more such plans which provide tools the local government can use to facilitate public initiatives and incentivize private investment in both commercial and residential areas. An even stronger tool is gaining increased attention. Americus and Sumter County have created a land bank authority, Cordele and Crisp County are in serious discussions, Cordele having already resolved to create a land bank authority, and other communities have inquired about the redevelopment tool. Both of these tools will no doubt be vital to redevelopment and infill.

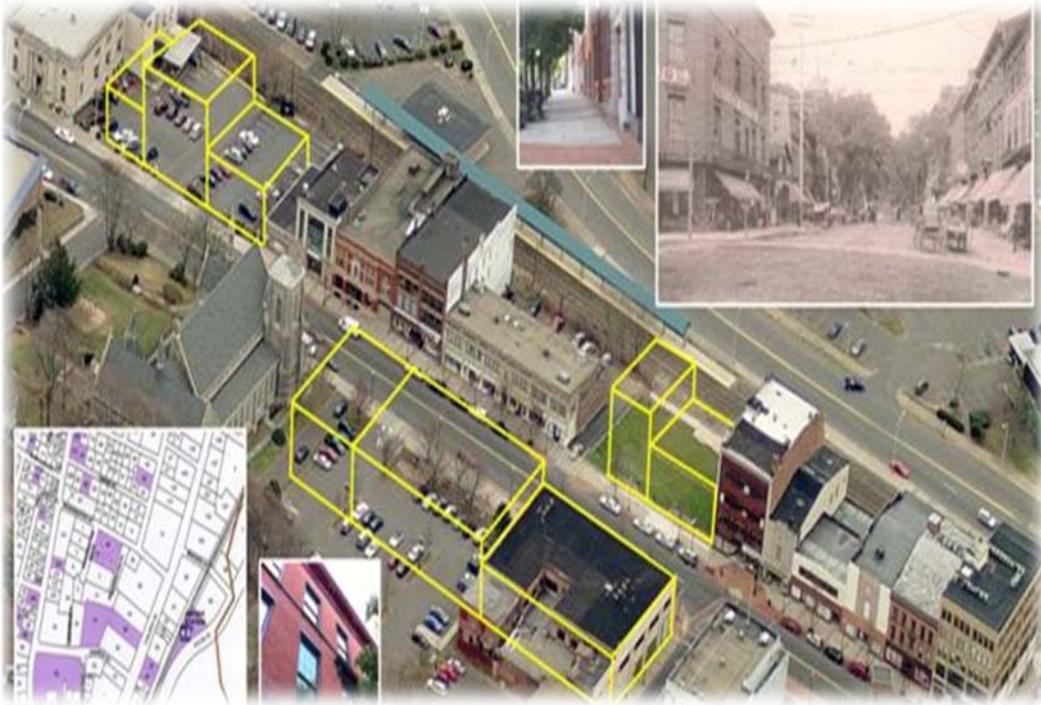
In addition, each year there are approximately fifteen applications submitted from the region for highly competitive Community Development Block Grant funds. These funds are directed into areas with high levels of disinvestment and are intended to benefit their typically low and moderate-income residents.

### **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.

## 2013 Update of Areas Requiring Special Attention (2014-2018)



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 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

## 2013 Update of Areas Requiring Special Attention (2014-2018)

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.

UPDATE: Every incorporated community in the region, regardless of size, has areas in need of redevelopment and infill. Several cities have recently initiated efforts to stimulate public and private sector investment. Intending to capitalize on powers available through the Georgia Urban Redevelopment Law, six cities have prepared such plans. Americus, Butler, Cordele, Cuthbert, Richland and Vienna have each adopted one or more urban redevelopment plans which provide tools the local government can use to facilitate public initiatives and incentivize private investment in commercial and residential redevelopment and infill. An even stronger tool is receiving increased attention. Americus and Sumter County have created a land bank authority, Cordele and Crisp County are in serious discussions, Cordele having already resolved to create a land bank authority, and other communities have inquired about the redevelopment tool. Both of these tools will no doubt be found vital to redevelopment and infill, especially related to brownfields.

In addition, each year there are approximately fifteen applications submitted from the region for highly competitive Community Development Block Grant funds. These funds are directed into areas in need of redevelopment and infill and are intended to benefit their typically low and moderate-income residents.

### **Area 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



## 2013 Update of Areas Requiring Special Attention (2014-2018)

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 the, as troops from the Armor School at Fort Knox are relocated to Fort Benning. The preparations made for the BRAC process have resulted in new jobs and an estimated 23,000 or more new residents in the Columbus area.

UPDATE: 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 2013. The recession that began in 2007/2008 crept along making it even more difficult for an economically disadvantaged region to develop positive momentum. Development of the Americus Motorsports site has been delayed for a couple years, and while some improvements have been made at the inland port site in Cordele the adjoining, unincorporated area will be a few years developing. In both cases; however, the scale and complexity of development had a greater affect on the slow rate of progress than the weak economy. Virtually all such areas are located on the periphery of incorporated areas.

Fort Benning did not see the number of troops and civilians relocate to the area that was projected to result from BRAC 2005. In fact, the base is currently downsizing. The FY 2013 National Defense Authorization Act Section 331 provides authority for Army installations to partner services with regional communities. In November, 2013, Fort Benning hosted a Public-Private Partnership Conference to begin the dialogue and evaluate opportunities with surrounding governments. Four areas are being considered as best opportunities for partnership: Energy (methane processor, compressed natural gas vehicles/fueling station, waste to energy project); Public Works (recycling, refuse collection, redundant municipal services); Emergency Services (911 Call Center, MEDEVAC, shared emergency equipment, communications across jurisdictions); and Recreational Services (co-use of facilities, warrior focused opportunities). Transportation services currently provided by Columbus METRA are being looked at for possible extension to the military base. Partnerships between neighboring communities and Fort Benning are essential to create efficiencies through economies of scale and to enhance the regional environment.

# 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** will be scheduled as soon as possible after adoption of the Regional Agenda with elected officials and chief administrators/managers of each of the region's fifty-one jurisdictions. Planning Assessment meetings were held with Crisp/Arabi/Cordele in May, 2013, with Columbus/Muscogee in June, 2013, and with Harris/Hamilton/Pine Mountain/Shiloh/Waverly Hall in June, 2013, and Webster County as part of their comprehensive plan updates in the fall 2013/winter 2014. Inventories of existing policies and ordinances related to implementation of the regional vision will be taken. This baseline of local governance will be used to determine whether any additional policies and ordinances are needed to achieve the minimum performance standard necessary to maintain state-issued Qualified Local Government Status. If additional measures are needed local officials will be prompted to identify those appropriate to pursue, a schedule which will enable appropriate local action(s) within the mandated three-year timeframe, and how the Commission may facilitate the local effort. A minimum performance standards spreadsheet customized by county was developed by staff for use in the inventory of existing policies and ordinances to determine local government status relative to regional minimum performance standards. The standards were highlighted during the Crisp and Muscogee planning assessment meetings, and were cited specifically during development of the comprehensive plans for Clay County/Bluffton/Fort Gaines, Harris County, Hamilton, Pine Mountain, Shiloh, Waverly Hall and Webster County. Scheduled actions needed to comply with the minimum performance standards for local governance were incorporated into the respective community work programs. Commission staff will request to be notified immediately after local government action ratifying the final options and timeline, with any revisions, and a copy of the approved work scope along with said notification.

The Commission will schedule periodic reviews with each jurisdiction commensurate to the nature and scale of the local government compliance effort. 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. This being the initial year of implementation, the Regional Plan has not yet progressed to the point that periodic reviews are beneficial.

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs 2009 Standards and Procedures for Regional Planning require the River Valley Regional Commission to ensure the 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

## 2013 Evaluation and Monitoring Report (2014-2018)

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 sixteen counties, most of which are reported at monthly meetings of the River Valley Regional Council. Review of the work program is solicited directly from the local governments as part of the report of accomplishments/update process. In absence of comments from stakeholders and local governments, and in light of frequent communications with "responsible parties", the staff's current evaluation is that reasonable progress is being made with plan implementation. Scattered indications the region is emerging from the extended recessionary period that began in 2007/2008 offers hope a stronger economy in 2014 will facilitate more plan progress.