

March 27, 2024

Ms. Lisa Westin
Director, Office of Planning, Research, and Geoanalytics
Georgia Department of Community Affairs
60 Executive Park South, NE
Atlanta, GA

RE: Regional Plan Annual Implementation Program Report Submittal

The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission has completed an annual implementation program report for its regional plan and is submitting it with this letter for review by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

I certify that we have held one required public hearing on March 20, 2024, and have involved regional stakeholders in development of the annual report in a manner appropriate to our region's dynamics and resources and in accordance with the Standards and Procedures for Regional Planning, Chapter 110-12-6. Documentation of the required public hearing has been included with our submittal.

I certify that appropriate regional staff and decision-makers have, at a minimum, reviewed the following planning documents and taken them into consideration in formulating our annual report:

- Georgia's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
- Regional Water Plans: Savannah-Upper Ogeechee, Upper Oconee, and Middle Ocmulgee
- Northeast Georgia Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
- Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Plans: Gainesville-Hall, Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study, Atlanta Regional Commission
- Adjacent Regional Commissions' Plans: Georgia Mountains Regional Commission, Atlanta Regional Commission, Three Rivers Regional Commission, Middle Georgia Regional Commission, Central Savannah River Area Regional Commission

If you have any questions concerning our submittal, please contact Mark Beatty, Director of Planning and Government Services, at mbeatty@negrc.org or (706) 369-5650.

Sincerely,



Burke Walker
Executive Director

BW/MB: jo

c. Mark Beatty, Director of Planning and Government Services, NEGRC

Enclosures

Northeast Georgia Regional Plan
 Annual Implementation Report - **DRAFT**
 Fiscal Year 2024

Northeast Georgia Regional Commission

Fiscal Year 2024 Northeast Georgia Regional Plan Report of Accomplishments 2023-2027

Priority: Provide resources to support local and regional transportation infrastructure improvements		
Strategy: Provide local governments with tools to help plan and budget for complete streets infrastructure		
Action	Implementation Status	Notes
Update NEGRC Complete Streets Guide to include cost-breakdowns for complete streets infrastructure improvements	Scheduled for initiation in FY25	Year 2-3
Strategy: Support development and use of public electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure		
Develop a plan for public EV charging station locations throughout the Region	Scheduled for initiation in FY26	Year 3-4
Strategy: Analyze feasibility of regional water trails and facilities		
Complete a feasibility study identifying public access along the Region’s major rivers and lakes, outline the feasibility of the network, and outline any federal, state, or local policy barriers to implementation	Scheduled for initiation in FY25	Year 2-4
Create an online map of potential future public access point locations identified in regional water trail feasibility study	Scheduled for initiation in FY27	Year 5



Priority: Facilitate cooperative management of natural and cultural resources

Strategy: Identify and make available information about cultural and historic resources within the Region

Action	Implementation Status	Notes
As a foundation for future research by others in the Region, conduct and publish a regional historic Native American resource analysis, identifying historic trading routes and settlements	Scheduled for initiation in FY26	Year 3-5
Create an online map of locations identified during the historic Native American resource analysis	Scheduled for initiation in FY27	Year 5
Develop GIS inventory delineating the boundaries of local and national historic districts and resources within the region	Underway	Year 1-2
Create, manage, and promote a publicly accessible inventory of historic landmarks, festivals and events, tours, and other visitor attractions	Underway	Year 1-2

Strategy: Develop guidance for addressing water and climate challenges during comprehensive planning

Following adoption of updated Regional Water Plans for the Middle Ocmulgee, Savannah-Upper Ogeechee, and Upper Oconee regions (expected 2023), develop guidance identifying opportunities for aligning comprehensive plans with regional water management planning objectives	Not yet initiated	Year 1-2
Develop a guide local governments can refer to for ideas about how to incorporate climate resilience into local plans	Scheduled for initiation in FY27	Year 3-4

Priority: Address needs associated with population growth and changing demographics		
Strategy: Explore options for expanding water supply capacity for growing communities		
Action	Implementation Status	Notes
Evaluate and publish a report on the feasibility, options, and costs of county groundwater surveys	Scheduled for initiation in FY25	Year 2-3
Develop a presentation for decision-makers summarizing groundwater survey options, including costs, benefits, justification, methodological considerations, and other relevant considerations	Scheduled for initiation in FY26	Year 3
Strategy: Explore options for expanding water supply capacity for growing communities		
Create growth-scenario projections of a major urban center or centers in the region	Scheduled for initiation in FY26	Year 3-4
Host regional housing collaborative forum(s), such as a housing roundtable, to promote information sharing and identification of partnership opportunities	Underway	Anticipated to host one forum annually. Staff has completed background research for first forum on housing; forum is scheduled for May 2024.
Strategy: Develop guidance on accessible, inclusive design of public spaces		
Develop and publish a collaborative report providing guidance on designing public spaces that are accessible and inclusive for all ages and physical abilities	Scheduled for initiation in FY26	Year 3-4

Priority: Share information and resources to enhance planning capabilities

Strategy: Create tools and guidance to enhance the region’s planning capabilities, including spatial analysis, public participation, and awareness of funding opportunities

Action	Implementation Status	Notes
Create and publish a Geospatial Strategy to serve as a business-oriented plan defining how the PGS Division of NEGRC will use GIS to increase efficiency, productivity, and collaboration for spatial analysis projects across the region	Underway	Staff have assembled stakeholder committee and participated in two input meetings. Estimated completion FY25.
Hold a manager roundtable featuring examples of public input and engagement best practices from around the region	Scheduled for initiation in FY27	Year 4-5
Develop a working inventory of state and federal funding opportunities, categorized by program activity, for internal use and to share with local governments in the region when needed; use this information to publish an annual report summarizing funding opportunities by type	Completed	Created network folder to utilize/host various program inventories. Staff share opportunities though email listserv regularly as an alternative to publishing an annual report.

Priority: Enhance economic mobility and competitiveness

Strategy: Implement the economic development roadmap laid out in the Northeast Georgia Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2022–2026

Action	Implementation Status	Notes
As part of the CEDS Action Plan for Item 1: Transportation, complete a study to determine the feasibility of a regional transit authority	Underway	Estimated completion August 2024.
As part of the CEDS Action Plan for Item 2: Technology & Energy, offer at least one targeted managers roundtable or educational program on renewable energy	Underway	Staff performing background research in preparation for roundtable.
As part of the CEDS Action Plan for Item 3: Broadband, host one or more broadband education events, including knowledgeable guest speaker(s)	Scheduled for initiation in FY25	Year 2
As part of the CEDS Action Plan for Item 4: Education, perform regional SWOT analysis regarding workforce education and training in the construction and manufacturing sector	Scheduled for initiation in FY26	Year 3
As part of the CEDS Action Plan for Item 5: Equity, perform a regional brownfields analysis as a strategy to reduce greenfield development	Scheduled for initiation in FY27	Year 5
Strategy: Connect employers with skilled and dedicated employees		
Produce region-wide report on link between educational preparation/attainment and existing/future employees	Scheduled for initiation in FY27	Year 5
Develop educational program (materials and workshop) to educate local governments about workforce training programs, internship resources, and incentives for public-private partnerships	Scheduled for initiation in FY25	Year 2

Partner abbreviations used in Work Program table on preceding pages:

CEDS Committee: Northeast Georgia Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee

DCA: Georgia Department of Community Affairs

DOL: Georgia Department of Labor

DNR: Georgia Department of Natural Resources

GARC: Georgia Association of Regional Commissions

GIS Consultants: Geographic Information Systems consultants

GDOT: Georgia Department of Transportation

EPD: Georgia Environmental Protection Division

JDANEGA: Joint Development Authority of Northeast Georgia

WIOA: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act program

SHPO: State Historic Preservation Office

TCSG: Technical College System of Georgia

UGA: University of Georgia

WIB: Workforce Investment Board

Local Government Performance Standards, Fiscal Year 2024

The State of Georgia requires Regional Commissions to provide annual updates on the status of each local government that has not achieved the minimum performance standards laid out in the respective Commissions' regional plans.

The minimum standards per the Northeast Georgia Regional Plan are:

- Update the local Comprehensive Plan, including the Future Development Map and/or Future Land Use Map, at regular intervals, as required by the State of Georgia.
- Utilize the Future Development Map and/or Future Land Use Map to steer new development to appropriate areas of the community.
- Update the Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) and Capital Improvements Element (CIE), where applicable, as required by the State of Georgia.
- Submit potential Developments of Regional Impact (DRIs) to the Regional Commission per the Development Thresholds established by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.
- Comply with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Part V. Environmental planning Criteria of the Georgia Planning Act by adopting appropriate ordinances for water supply watersheds, groundwater recharge areas, wetlands protection, and river corridor protection, where applicable.
- Update the local pre-disaster mitigation plan per the standards established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- Share updated Tax Assessor's data tables and land parcels with the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission annually, where applicable.
- Report annexation and deannexation to the Department of Community Affairs, and forward the GIS shapefiles to the Department of Community Affairs and Reapportionment Office.



As of March 2024, the following NEGRC local governments do not meet the minimum standards:

- Jasper County (CIE: overdue 10/31/2022; overdue 10/31/2023)
- Town of Bishop (Delinquent Reports: 2023 GOMI, FY2021 RLG, FY2022 RLG, FY2023 RLG)
- City of Bowman (Delinquent Reports: FY2021 RLG, FY2022 RLG)
- Town of Buckhead (Delinquent Reports: 2023 GOMI)
- Town of Carl (Delinquent Reports: FY2020 RLG, FY2021 RLG, FY2022 RLG)
- City of Colbert (Delinquent Reports: 2023 GOMI, FY2021 RLG, FY2022 RLG)
- City of Danielsville (Delinquent Reports: 2023 GOMI, FY2021 RLG, FY2022 RLG)
- Elbert County (Delinquent Reports: FY2022 RLG, FY2023 RLG)
- City of Hull (Comprehensive Plan Update 06/30/2023; Delinquent Reports: FY2022 RLG)
- City of Jefferson (Delinquent Reports: 2023 GOMI, FY2022 RLG)
- City of Loganville (Delinquent Reports: FY2023 RLG)
- City of Madison (Delinquent Reports: FY2023 RLG)
- City of Maxeys (Delinquent Reports: FY2020 RLG, FY2021 RLG, FY2022 RLG)
- City of Monticello (Delinquent Reports: FY2023 RLG)
- Morgan County (Delinquent Reports: FY2023 RLG)
- Newton County (Delinquent Reports: FY2023 RLG)
- Town of Porterdale (Delinquent Reports: 2023 GOMI, FY2021 RLG, FY2022 RLG)
- City of Social Circle (Delinquent Reports: FY2023 RLG)
- City of Union Point (Delinquent Reports: FY2022 RLG)
- City of Walnut Grove (Delinquent Reports: FY2023 RLG)
- Walton County (Delinquent Reports: FY2023 RLG)
- City of Woodville (Delinquent Reports: FY2020 RLG, FY2021 RLG, FY2022 RLG)

Press Release:

Area Agency on Aging Development
Local Government Services
Planning
Workforce



305 Research Drive
Athens, GA 30605-3795
Phone: 706-369-5650
Barrie Walker, Executive Director

Press Release

For Immediate Release — February 28, 2024

REGIONAL PLAN ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM REPORT

The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC) announces a regional hearing for the FY24 annual implementation report on the 12-county regional plan. The purpose of the regional hearing is to inform interested parties about the contents of the report and the process by which it will be adopted. The report outlines progress made on the Regional Plan Work Program during the 2024 fiscal year.

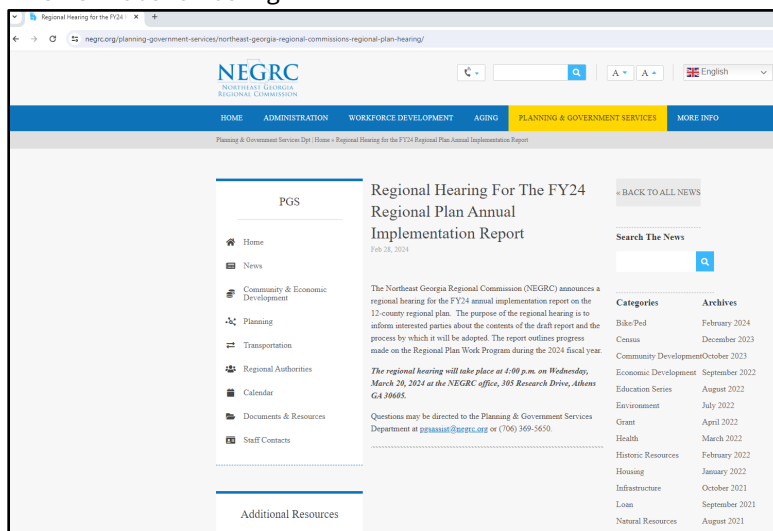
The regional hearing will take place at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at the NEGRC office at 305 Research Drive, Athens GA 30605. Please contact the Planning & Government Services Division at pgsassist@negrc.org or (706) 369-5650 if you have any questions prior to the meeting.

The NEGRC serves Athens-Clarke, Barrow, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Jasper, Madison, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, and Walton Counties.

2/28/2024

Serving the City and County Governments of Barrow, Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Jasper, Madison, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, and Walton Counties.

NEGRC Website Posting:



The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the NEGRC website. The page title is "Regional Hearing For The FY24 Regional Plan Annual Implementation Report" dated Feb 28, 2024. The article text states: "The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC) announces a regional hearing for the FY24 annual implementation report on the 12-county regional plan. The purpose of the regional hearing is to inform interested parties about the contents of the draft report and the process by which it will be adopted. The report outlines progress made on the Regional Plan Work Program during the 2024 fiscal year." It also includes the hearing details: "The regional hearing will take place at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at the NEGRC office, 305 Research Drive, Athens GA 30605." and contact information: "Questions may be directed to the Planning & Government Services Department at pgsassist@negrc.org or (706) 369-5650." The website header includes navigation links for Home, Administration, Workforce Development, Aging, Planning & Government Services, and More Info. A sidebar on the left lists various services like Home, News, Community & Economic Development, Planning, Transportation, Regional Authorities, Calendar, Documents & Resources, and Staff Contacts. A right sidebar contains a search bar, categories, and an archives list.

Public Hearing Agenda:



Area Agency on Aging Development
Local Government Services
Planning
Workforce



305 Research Drive
Athens, GA 30602-2726
Phone: 706.369.6660
Burke Walker, Executive Director

NORTHEAST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION
Regional Hearing for Regional Plan Annual Implementation Report

Meeting Agenda

March 20, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.
305 Research Drive, Athens GA 30605

- I. Purpose of Regional Hearing
- II. Contents of Annual Implementation Report
- III. Review and Adoption Process
- IV. Questions and Comments
- V. Adjournment

Serving the City and County Governments of Barrow, Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Jasper, Madison, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, and Walton Counties.

Sign-In Sheet – 3/20/2024:

	Northeast Georgia Regional Plan Annual Implementation Report Regional Hearing: 4:00p.m., March 20, 2024 305 Research Drive, Athens GA 30605		
	NAME	TITLE	ADDRESS
Mark Beatty	PGS Director	305 Research Drive Athens, GA 30605	mbeatty@negrc.org

