RESOLUTION TO ADOPT
REGIONAL WORK PROGRAM (RWP)

WHEREAS, the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) is required to annually review and update the Regional Work Program and;

WHEREAS, a copy of the Southwest Georgia RC's Annual Regional Work Program has been submitted to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for review; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs has found the Community Work Program to meet the Regional Planning Standards.

WHEREAS, the Regional Commission Council is required to officially adopt the Community Work Program after its approval by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission does hereby adopt the annual update of the Regional Work Program for 2015-2019.

Adopted on the 29th day of October 2015.

By: _____
Danny Palmer, Chairman

Attest: _____
Robert McDaniel, Executive Director

2015 – 2019

Southwest Georgia

Regional Work Program

Southwest Georgia Regional Work Program 2015-2019

Housing

Activity	Category (Planning or Review)	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)	Guiding Principles Addressed	Issues & Opportunities Addressed
Work with Housing Task Force to develop cooperation and sharing of ideas on a regional basis through regular meetings.	Planning	2015-2019	RC, RPN, HTF,	$2,000	DCA contract, Agency budgets	H6, H7, H14	H2, H3, H4, H5, H6, H11
Seek funding sources for regional Housing Task Force operation.	Planning	2015-2019	RC, RPN, HTF	N/A	N/A	H1	H2, H3, H4, H5, H6, H11
Provide Planning and technical assistance to the Housing Task Force, existing community development organizations and local governments to develop an affordable housing strategy.	Planning	2015-2019	HTF, RC,	N/A	N/A	H6	H5, H7, H9
Host regional housing conference/summit targeting local governments, developers and nonprofits which highlights best practices that encourage collaborative partnerships that increase the supply of affordable housing	Planning	2015-2019	HTF, RC,	$500	DCA contract, Agency budgets	H1, H8, H9, H10, H11, H12, H13	H5,H11, H7
Host community development workshops to educate employers, bankers, real estate developers, faith based organizations, non-profits and government entities about community development programs and housing resources.	Planning	2015-2019	HTF, RC,	$1,000	RC, RCDI, local governments, NPO, local banks	H1, H6	H3, H5
Work with Credit Counseling agencies to host, coordinate workshops that educate first-time homebuyers on barriers to homeownership and provide available housing resources.	Planning	2015-2019	RC, HTF, FC	$2,000	RC, DCA, Grants, Local Banks	H2	H2, H5
Coordinate financial educational classes for high school students, in-school, out of school youth that focus on responsible credit management.	Planning	2015-2019	RC, HTF, Schools, FC	N/A	RC, School Boards, Local Banks	H2, H6	H2
Work with the Housing Task Force to maintain the regional, comprehensive web-based source of housing information, housing resources and related issues.	Planning	2015-2019	RC,	$500	RC, DCA	H6, H14	H5, H3

Utilize federal and state rehabilitation programs, loans or grants 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.	Planning	2015-2019	RC, local governments, USDA, SOWEGA CAC	Dependent upon project	CDBG, CHIP, local governments	H1	H2, H3
Provide technical assistance and planning to Credit Counseling agencies to find new funding opportunities and develop a tracking system that prevents duplication and provides greater efficiency and accountability.	Planning	2015-2019	HTF, RC,	Dependent upon project	local governments matching funds	H6	H2, H3, H9
Provide technical assistance to local governments that desire programs for maintaining affordable housing stocks	Planning	2015-2019	RC, HTF,	Varies	Agency Budgets	H10, H11	H4
Explore the feasibility of a Regional Land Bank	Planning	2015-2019	RC	$5,000	Agency budgets	H1	H8, H11
Provide regional training events that build capacity and promote best practices in housing and community development.	Planning	2015-2019	RC	$6,000	DCA Contracts,	H6	H12
Work with the Regional Collaborative to develop cooperation and sharing of ideas on a regional basis through regular meetings.	Planning	2015-2019	RC, RPN, HTF,	$2,000	DCA contract, Agency budgets	H6, H7, H14	H2, H3, H4, H5, H6, H11

Transportation

Activity	Category (Planning or Review)	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)	Guiding Principles Addressed	Issues & Opportunities Addressed
Work with local governments to identify potential transportation programs to meet public transportation needs.	Planning	2015-2019	RC, Local Governments, HS Agencies	$2,000	DHR Admin. GDOT Contract	T4, T5, T6	T3, T4, T5
Support the development of pedestrian and bicycle plans to be included in local comprehensive plans.	Planning	2015-2019	RC,	$20,000	RC Dues, Fee For Service, DCA Contracts, GDOT Planning	T4, T5	T2, T3
Support regional transportation planning.	Planning	2015-2019	RC, Local Governments	$2,000	GDOT and, DCA Contracts, RC Dues	T7, T8, T9	T3, T4, T6

Enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the coordinated transit program to provide access to medical facilities and services.	Planning	2015-2019	RC	Unknown	DCH/DOT/DCA	T8	T3, T4
Work with interested citizens and local governments to designate scenic byways.	Planning	2015-2019	RC, Local Governments	$2,000	GDOT Planning Contract	T9	T7
Provide assistance in the development and administration of transportation enhancement programs.	Planning	2015-2019	RC	$5,000	GDOT Planning Contract	T7	T2

Community Facilities

Activity	Category (Planning or Review)	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)	Guiding Principles Addressed	Issues & Opportunities Addressed
Promote the adoption and utilization of Capital Improvement planning and budgeting in all Southwest Georgia communities.	Review	2015-2019	RC,	Varies	RC, DCA	C1, C2, C3, C5, C6	C1, C5
Provide technical assistance in Capital Improvement Planning and budgeting for local government officials	Planning	2015-2019	RC,	Varies	RC, DCA	C1, C2, C3, C5, C7	C1, C6
Provide technical assistance to local governments in the development of infrastructure improvement plans supported by grant and loan assistance.	Planning and Review	2015-2019	RC	Varies	RC Dues	C1, C2, C3, C5, C6	C1, C3
Provide technical assistance in the development of grants, loans, facilities and programs as identified to help implement public safety programs.	Planning	2015-2019	RC	Varies	RC Dues	C2	C6
Provide technical assistance to local governments in the provision of general governmental services, operations and facilities.	Planning	2015-2019	RC, State Agencies, Colleges	Varies	RC Dues, Fees,	C1, C2, C3, C5, C5	C5,C6,C7
Generate support for bike routes during the local comprehensive planning process.	Planning	2015-2019	RC, Local governments	Part of comp plan	Local	C2, C7	C2
Provide planning technical assistance in the planning, development and financing of new library facilities.	Planning and Review	2015-2019	Regional Library, Rural Library Project	N/A	Regional Library	C1	C2, C4
Advocate regional infrastructure planning through the Service Delivery Strategy process and during comprehensive plan updates over the planning horizon.	Planning and Review	2015-2019	RC Dues	$2,000	RC	C1, C2	C1, C7

Provide planning and technical assistance to regional human service agencies through RPN to develop human infrastructure by partnering and sharing resources for greater efficiency and service provision; highlighting best practices for duplication.	Planning	2015-2019	RC, RPN, CLCP, Human Services Agencies	$5,000	RC fees, DCA Contract, Grants	C1, C7, C8	C2, C4

Intergovernmental Coordination

Activity	Category (Planning or Review)	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)	Guiding Principles Addressed	Issues & Opportunities Addressed
Encourage the sharing of information between local governments for greater efficiency.	Planning	2015-2019	Local Governments	None	N/A	I1, I2	I1, I3, I4
Work with local government officials to identify training opportunities offered by Carl Vinson, Georgia Municipal Association, Association of County Commissioners of	Planning	2015-2019	Local Governments	None	N/A	I3	I1, I2, I3

Economic Development

Activity	Category (Planning or Review)	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)	Guiding Principles Addressed	Issues & Opportunities Addressed
Provide technical assistance in the preparation of Employment Incentives Program (EIP), Small Business Administration (SBA) 504 Loan, Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) and other program applications for business expansion or start up.	Planning	2015-2019	RC	$75,000	EDA	E1, E3	E4
Promote the use of Economic Development Administration (EDA) planning studies, which identify compatible industrial mixes.	Planning	2015-2019	SWGA COC, RC, DecD	$500	EDA	E3	E4, E8
Support and promote all types of tourism activities within the region	Planning	2015-2019	RC, RPN, SWGATA	$1,000, depending on agency	Dues, operating budgets	E4, E5	E12
Acquire funding to increase RLF funding capacity when feasible.	Planning	2015-2019	RC	$500	Grants, EDA	E6	E4

Educate local governments, economic development agencies and local bankers on EIP, RLF and other economic development tools through one on one meetings.	Planning	2015-2019	RC, DEcD	$2,000	EDA	E6	E4

Provide technical assistance and preparation of One Georgia, EIP and EDA grant applications	Planning	2015-2019	RC	$1,500	EDA	E3, E7	E4, E6, E9
Promote the development of current Business Retention and Expansion Program (BREP) reports for each county to increase business retention activities in the Region.	Planning	2015-2019	BOS, RC, DEcD	$1,000	DCA	E6	E4, E9
Promote the use of Georgia Tech's Local Government Fiscal Impact Analysis (LOCI) and Univ. of Ga.'s computer models for cost benefit analysis of potential business ventures.	Planning	2015-2019	RC, DEcD	$500	EDA, agency budgets	E1	E9
Support initiatives for technology-based economic development in rural areas.	Planning	2015-2019	RC; DEcD, GA Tech	NA	Agency Budget	E3,E7, E8	E6, E7, E9
Facilitate planning and provide technical assistance in the preparation of economic development grants for multi-county development projects.	Planning	2015-2019	RC, COC's, DEcD,	varies	Grant	E6	E9, E13
Increase the capability of GIS as a tool for economic developers in the Region.	Planning	2015-2019	RC, ITOS	$35,000	Dues, Contracts	E3	E7, E9
Seek Regional Assistance Program grants or other resources that could be utilized for business expansion, infrastructure, etc., needed to develop the area.	Planning	2015-2019	RC; DEcD, local governments	Varies	Local Governments	E6	E9, E13
Provide technical assistance in developing revitalization plans, regulations and programs.	Planning	2015-2019	RC, Forestry Comm.	$3,000 yr.	HPD Contract	E5	E3, E9
Provide resources through a conference for high school students on economic development annually	Planning	2015-2019	RC, DOL, Albany Tech, other agencies	$5,000	DCA Contract, Grants and Sponsorhip	E3, E8	E1, E7, E9
Collaborate with state agencies to provide training and technical assistance to the public and private agencies to increase capacity and create an economic vision and plan.	Planning	2015-2019	RC; DEcD, local governments	Varies	RC fees, DCA Contract, Grants	E1, E3,	E1-E9

Land Use

Activity	Category (Planning or Review)	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)	Guiding Principles Addressed	Issues & Opportunities Addressed
Provide technical assistance to local governments pursuant to the development and implementation of land use plans and regulations.	Planning and Review	2015-2019	RC	Varies	DCA Contract,	L3, L5	L1, I3
Work with local planning commissions, the Southwest Georgia Historic Preservation Advisory Committee, Georgia Trust, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), local governments and private property owners to designate scenic byways.	Planning	2015-2019	RC, TALL TIMBERS, GA Conservancy, Local Planning Depts.	$1,000 YR.	SHPO Contract, Dues, Agency budgets	L5	L4, L7
Review local land use plans to identify potential land use conflicts and provide technical assistance in resolving the issues of incompatible uses or zoning districts when requested.	Review	2015-2019	RC	$5,000	DCA, Dues, Quality Growth Program	L3	L3
Host a workshop with a professional Land Use Attorney on land use planning and procedures.	Planning	2015-2019	RC,	$4,000	Grants, Sponsors, GPA/DCA	L5, L6	L1
Work with individual planning commissions to educate members on the relationship between planning and zoning.	Planning	2015-2019	RC	None	None	L5, L6	L1, L4

Natural and Cultural Resources

Activity	Category (Planning or Review)	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)	Guiding Principles Addressed	Issues & Opportunities Addressed
Prioritize potential nominations and participate in developing nominations for the National Register.	Planning	2015-2019	RC, HPAC	$3,000	HPD Contract, DCA, Dues, Fees	R5	R2

Provide technical assistance in the nomination of historic main streets to the National Register.	Planning	2015-2019	RC	$5,000	HPD Contract	R5, R6	R3
Assist local marketing and retail recruitment programs of chambers of commerce through education and technical assistance.	Planning	2015-2019	RC	$1,000	HPD Contract	R6	R2
Assist local governments in creating and following preservation plans for significant historic resources within their jurisdiction.	Planning	2015-2019	RC	$5,000	DCA, HPD Dues, Fees	R5, R6	R3
Assist all existing historic preservation commissions to maintain, and utilize their HPD Certified Local Government status, or if not certified, become a HPD Certified Local Government (CLG).	Planning	2015-2019	RC	$3,500	HPD, Dues	R5, R7	R4

Regional Work Program

Report of Accomplishments

Report of Accomplishments 2013-2017

Housing

Activity	Category (Planning or Review)	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)	Guiding Principles Addressed	Issues & Opportunities Addressed	STATUS
Work with Housing Task Force to develop cooperation and sharing of ideas on a regional basis through regular meetings.	Planning	2013-2017	RC, RPN, HTF,	$2,000	DCA contract, Agency budgets	H6, H7, H14	H2, H3, H4, H5, H6, H11	Ongoing - Monthly meeting continue to be held with multiple counties.
Seek funding sources for regional Housing Task Force operation.	Planning	2013-2017	RC, RPN, HTF	N/A	N/A	H1	H2, H3, H4, H5, H6, H11	Upcoming - Project to be initiated in 2016.
Provide Planning and technical assistance to the Housing Task Force, existing community development organizations and local governments to develop an affordable housing strategy.	Planning	2013-2017	HTF, RC,	N/A	N/A	H6	H5, H7, H9	Upcoming - Project to be initiated in 2016.
Host regional housing conference/summit targeting local governments, developers and nonprofits which highlights best practices that encourage collaborative partnerships that increase the supply of affordable housing	Planning	2013-2017	HTF, RC,	$500	DCA contract, Agency budgets	H1, H8, H9, H10, H11, H12, H13	H5,H11, H7	Ongoing - Annual conference held with multiple counties participating.
Host community development workshops to educate employers, bankers, real estate developers, faith based organizations, non-profits and government entities about community development programs and housing resources.	Planning	2013-2017	HTF, RC,	$1,000	RC, RCDI, local governments, NPO, local banks	H1, H6	H3, H5	Upcoming - Project to be initiated in 2016.
Work with Credit Counseling agencies to host, coordinate workshops that educate first-time homebuyers on barriers to homeownership and provide available housing resources.	Planning	2013-2017	RC, HTF, FC	$2,000	RC, DCA, Grants, Local Banks	H2	H2, H5	Upcoming - Project to be initiated in 2016.
Coordinate financial educational classes for high school students, in-school, out of school youth that focus on responsible credit management.	Planning	2013-2017	RC, HTF, Schools, FC	N/A	RC, School Boards, Local Banks	H2, H6	H2	Upcoming - Project to be initiated in 2016.
Work with the Housing Task Force to maintain the regional, comprehensive web-based source of housing information, housing resources and related issues.	Planning	2013-2017	RC,	$500	RC, DCA	H6, H14	H5, H3	Upcoming - Project to be initiated in 2017.
Utilize federal and state rehabilitation programs, loans or grants 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.	Planning	2013-2017	RC, local governments, USDA, SOWEGA CAC	Dependent upon project	CDBG, CHIP, local governments	H1	H2, H3	Ongoing - CDBG and CHIP applications submitted annually for multiple local governments.
Provide technical assistance and planning to Credit Counseling agencies to find new funding opportunities and develop a tracking system that prevents duplication and provides greater efficiency and accountability.	Planning	2013-2017	HTF, RC,	Dependent upon project	local governments matching funds	H6	H2, H3, H9	Upcoming - Project to be initiated in 2016 & 2017.
Provide technical assistance to local governments that desire programs for maintaining affordable housing stocks	Planning	2013-2017	RC, HTF,	Varies	Agency Budgets	H10, H11	H4	Upcoming - Project to be initiate in 2017
Explore the feasibility of a Regional Land Bank	Planning	2013-2017	RC	$5,000	Agency budgets	H1	H8, H11	Ongoing - currently working with several interested governments
Provide regional training events that build capacity and promote best practices in housing and community development.	Planning	2013-2017	RC	$6,000	DCA Contracts,	H6	H12	Ongoing - Project to be initiated in 2017.
NEW Work with the Regional Collaborative to develop cooperation and sharing of ideas on a regional basis through regular meetings.	Planning	2013-2017	RC, RPN, HTF,	$2,000	DCA contract, Agency budgets	H6, H7, H14	H2, H3, H4, H5, H6, H11	Ongoing - currently y working with collaboratives and meeting on a quarterly basis

Transportation

Activity	Category (Planning or Review)	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)	Guiding Principles Addressed	Issues & Opportunities Addressed	
Work with local governments to identify potential transportation programs to meet public transportation needs.	Planning	2013-2017	RC, Local Governments, HS Agencies	$2,000	DHR Admin GDOT Contract	T4, T5, T6	T3, T4, T5	Ongoing as requested
Support the development of pedestrian and bicycle plans to be included in local comprehensive plans.	Planning	2013-2017	RC,	$20,000	RC Dues, Fee For Service, DCA Contracts, GDOT Planning	T4, T5	T2, T3	Ongoing - Working on the Regional Bike and Ped Plan Revisions
Support regional transportation planning.	Planning	2013-2017	RC, Local Governments	$2,000	GDOT and, DCA Contracts, RC Dues	T7, T8, T9	T3, T4, T6	Ongoing - Working with Decatur County and Lee County with Rural Transit Plans
Enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the coordinated transit program to provide access to medical facilities and services.	Planning	2013-2017	RC	Unknown	DCH/DOT/DCA	T8	T3, T4	Ongoing
Work with interested citizens and local governments to designate scenic byways.	Planning	2013-2017	RC, Local Governments	$2,000	GDOT Planning Contract	T9	T7	Ongoing, Waiting on DOT to approve the Dixie Highway Scenic Byway and this is no longer a DOT contract item so the RC will work with sponsors on a limited basis.
Provide assistance in the development and administration of transportation enhancement programs.	Planning	2013-2017	RC	$5,000	GDOT Planning Contract	T7	T2	Ongoing
Provide technical assistance to local governments to develop retroreflectivity signage plan.	Planning	2013-2017	Local Governments	Varies	GDOT Planning Contract	T2, T4	T2	Not Accomplished. State/Federal funding may have been cut. No talk anywhere of this program continuing.

Community Facilities

Activity	Category (Planning or Review)	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)	Guiding Principles Addressed	Issues & Opportunities Addressed	
Promote the adoption and utilization of Capital Improvement planning and budgeting in all Southwest Georgia communities.	Review	2013-2017	RC,	Varies	RC, DCA	C1, C2, C3, C5, C6	C1, C5	Ongoing for Thomas and Lee Counties
Provide technical assistance in Capital Improvement Planning and budgeting for local government officials	Planning	2013-2017	RC,	Varies	RC, DCA	C1, C2, C3, C5, C7	C1, C6	Ongoing for Thomas and Lee Counties
Provide technical assistance to local governments in the development of infrastructure improvement plans supported by grant and loan assistance.	Planning and Review	2013-2017	RC	Varies	RC Dues	C1, C2, C3, C5, C6	C1, C3	Ongoing as requested
Provide technical assistance in the development of grants, loans, facilities and programs as identified to help implement public safety programs.	Planning	2013-2017	RC	Varies	RC Dues	C2	C6	Ongoing as requested. Fire grants were done this year. COPS grants were not done this year due to a lapse in the grant cycle.
Provide technical assistance to local governments in the provision of general governmental services, operations and facilities.	Planning	2013-2017	RC, State Agencies, Colleges	Varies	RC Dues, Fees	C1, C2, C3, C5, C5	C5,C6,C7	Ongoing as requested
Generate support for bike routes during the local comprehensive planning process.	Planning	2013-2017	RC, Local governments	Part of comp plan	Local	C2, C7	C2	Ongoing
Provide planning technical assistance in the planning, development and financing of new library facilities.	Planning and Review	2013-2017	Regional Library, Rural Library Project	N/A	Regional Library	C1	C2, C4	Ongoing
Advocate regional infrastructure planning through the Service Delivery Strategy process and during comprehensive plan updates over the planning horizon.	Planning and Review	2013-2017	RC Dues	$2,000	RC	C1, C2	C1, C7	Ongoing
Provide planning and technical assistance to regional human service agencies through RPN to develop human infrastructure by partnering and sharing resources for greater efficiency and service provision; highlighting best practices for duplication.	Planning	2013-2017	RC, RPN, CLCP, Human Services Agencies	$5,000	RC fees, DCA Contract, Grants	C1, C7, C8	C2, C4	In progress.

Intergovernmental Coordination

Activity	Category (Planning or Review)	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)	Guiding Principles Addressed	Issues & Opportunities Addressed	
Encourage the sharing of information between local governments for greater efficiency.	Planning	2013-2017	Local Governments	None	N/A	I1, I2	I1, I3, I4	Ongoing
Work with local government officials to identify training opportunities offered by Carl Vinson, Georgia Municipal Association, Association of County Commissioners of Georgia to enhance leadership skills and meet achieve/meet performance standards.	Planning	2013-2017	Local Governments	None	N/A	I3	I1, I2, I3	Ongoing

Economic Development

Activity	Category (Planning or Review)	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)	Guiding Principles Addressed	Issues & Opportunities Addressed	
Provide technical assistance in the preparation of Employment Incentives Program (EIP), Small Business Administration (SBA) 504 Loan, Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) and other program applications for business expansion or start up.	Planning	2013-2017	RC	$75,000	EDA	E1, E3	E4	Ongoing as requested.
Promote the use of Economic Development Administration (EDA) planning studies, which identify compatible industrial mixes.	Planning	2013-2017	SWGA COC, RC, DecD	$500	EDA	E3	E4, E8	Ongoing as requested.
Support and promote all types of tourism activities within the region	Planning	2013-2017	RC, RPN, SWGATA	$1,000, depending on agency	Dues, operating budgets	E4, E5	E12	Ongoing as requested.
Acquire funding to increase RLF funding capacity when feasible.	Planning	2013-2017	RC	$500	Grants, EDA	E6	E4	Ongoing loans are made to eligible applicants as funding permits.
Educate local governments, economic development agencies and local bankers on EIP, RLF and other economic development tools through one on one meetings.	Planning	2013-2017	RC, DEcD	$2,000	EDA	E6	E4	Ongoing as requested.
Provide technical assistance and preparation of One Georgia, EIP and EDA grant applications	Planning	2013-2017	RC	$1,500	EDA	E3, E7	E4, E6, E9	Ongoing as requested.
Promote the development of current Business Retention and Expansion Program (BREP) reports for each county to increase business retention activities in the Region.	Planning	2013-2017	BOS, RC, DEcD	$1,000	DCA	E6	E4, E9	Ongoing as requested.
Promote the use of Georgia Tech's Local Government Fiscal Impact Analysis (LOCI) and Univ. of Ga.'s computer models for cost benefit analysis of potential business ventures.	Planning	2013-2017	RC, DEcD	$500	EDA, agency budgets	E1	E9	Ongoing as requested.
Support initiatives for technology-based economic development in rural areas.	Planning	2013-2017	RC; DEcD, GA Tech	NA	Agency Budget	E3,E7, E8	E6, E7, E9	Ongoing as requested.
Facilitate planning and provide technical assistance in the preparation of economic development grants for multi-county development projects.	Planning	2013-2017	RC, COC's, DEcD,	varies	Grant	E6	E9, E13	Ongoing as requested and projects are identified.
Increase the capability of GIS as a tool for economic developers in the Region.	Planning	2013-2017	RC, ITOS	$35,000	Dues, Contracts	E3	E7, E9	Upcoming - Project to be initiated in 2017.
Seek Regional Assistance Program grants or other resources that could be utilized for business expansion, infrastructure, etc., needed to develop the area.	Planning	2013-2017	RC; DEcD, local governments	Varies	Local Governments	E6	E9, E13	Ongoing as requested.
Provide technical assistance in developing revitalization plans, regulations and programs.	Planning	2013-2017	RC, Forestry Comm.	$3,000 yr.	HPD Contract	E5	E3, E9	Ongoing as requested, currently updating one community's plan.
NEW Provide resources through a conference for high school students on economic development annually	Planning	2013-2017	RC, DOL, Albany Tech, other agencies	$5,000	DCA Contract, Grants and Sponsorship	E3, E8	E1, E7, E9	Ongoing annual regional conference scheduled for May 2015.

Collaborate with state agencies to provide training and technical assistance to the public and private agencies to increase capacity and create an economic vision and plan.	Planning	2013-2017	RC; DEcD, local governments	Varies	RC fees, DCA Contract, Grants	E1, E3,	E1-E9	Ongoing

Land Use

Activity	Category (Planning or Review)	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)	Guiding Principles Addressed	Issues & Opportunities Addressed	
Provide technical assistance to local governments pursuant to the development and implementation of land use plans and regulations.	Planning and Review	2013-2017	RC	Varies	DCA Contract,	L3, L5	L1, I3	Ongoing. Significant work was done with Mitchell County but the future status of that committee is unknown
Work with local planning commissions, the Southwest Georgia Historic Preservation Advisory Committee, Georgia Trust, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), local governments and private property owners to designate scenic byways.	Planning	2013-2017	RC, TALL TIMBERS, GA Conservancy, Local Planning Depts.	$1,000 YR	SHPO Contract, Dues, Agency budgets	L5	L4, L7	Ongoing, Waiting on DOT to approve the Dixie Highway Scenic Byway and this is no longer a DOT contract item so the RC will work with sponsors on a limited basis.
Review local land use plans to identify potential land use conflicts and provide technical assistance in resolving the issues of incompatible uses or zoning districts when requested.	Review	2013-2017	RC	$5,000	DCA, Dues, Quality Growth Program	L3	L3	Ongoing
NEW Host a workshop with a professional Land Use Attorney on land use planning and procedures.	Planning	2013-2017	RC,	$4,000	Grants, Sponsors, GPA/DCA	L5, L6	L1	Will be completed 2/18/15. David Kirk, FAICP will present "The Legal In's & Out's of zoning"
Work with individual planning commissions to educate members on the relationship between planning and zoning.	Planning	2013-2017	RC	None	None	L5, L6	L1, L4	Ongoing

Natural and Cultural Resources

Activity	Category (Planning or Review)	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)	Guiding Principles Addressed	Issues & Opportunities Addressed	
Prioritize potential nominations and participate in developing nominations for the National Register.	Planning	2013-2017	RC, HPAC	$3,000	HPD Contract, DCA, Dues, Fees	R5	R2	Ongoing as requested
Provide technical assistance in the nomination of historic main streets to the National Register.	Planning	2013-2017	RC	$5,000	HPD Contract	R5, R6	R3	Ongoing as requested
Assist local marketing and retail recruitment programs of chambers of commerce through education and technical assistance.	Planning	2013-2017	RC	$1,000	HPD Contract	R6	R2	Ongoing as requested
Assist local governments in creating and following preservation plans for significant historic resources within their jurisdiction.	Planning	2013-2017	RC	$5,000	DCA, HPD Dues, Fees	R5, R6	R3	Ongoing as requested
Assist all existing historic preservation commissions to maintain, and utilize their HPD Certified Local Government status, or if not certified, become a HPD Certified Local Government (CLG).	Planning	2013-2017	RC	$3,500	HPD, Dues	R5, R7	R4	Ongoing as requested

Evaluation & Monitoring

Evaluation and Monitoring

The **Evaluation and Monitoring Plan** specifically details how the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) will evaluate the regional progress in achieving the Regional Vision by means of the items detailed in the Regional Work Program. These activities were evaluated and monitored annually in accordance with state planning requirements; making sure that the plan is accomplishing the desired results and that no changes or amendments are needed. The RC conducted three successful webinars and one regional meeting with governments to discuss the local comprehensive plan and the regional plan and to provide technical assistance needed so that municipalities can meet the minimum performance standards, where possible. RC staff is also meeting individually with governments upon request to further address these requirements.

Performance standards have two achievement thresholds, a Minimum and an Excellence Standard. These standards are met by identifying ordinances, programs, or requirements that maybe implemented by local governments in order to realize the Regional Vision and/or address the Regional Issues and Opportunities. Minimum Standards are activities that have been approved regionally by all local governments. All local governments in the region are expected to attain the Minimum Standard within three years of adoption of the region plan (2015), or risk losing Qualified Local Government status.

Several governments are well on their way to meeting the performance standards within the three year period. RC staff has worked individually with a small number of governments that have challenges in meeting the performance standards. Baseline data was collected to enable the local government and Regional Commission to determine a starting point and begin the process.

The performance standards have been thoroughly reviewed with governments and many are aspiring to meet the Excellence Standards. RC staff developed a checklist that contains acceptable evidence that each standard has been met. A copy of this checklist was provided to the local government at the time of the initial review and is used by RC staff during regular updates. Governments are informed at the time of review and updates of deficiencies and corrective actions.

The RC staff sends out email reminders and letters to local governments; in addition to phone calls reminding them of upcoming deadlines. The Annual Work Program and Evaluation and Monitoring procedures are conducted throughout the year. On a monthly basis the Planning staff meets with the Executive/Planning Director and other departments to discuss the Community Work Program (RWP) in addition to current and future projects. RC staff is constantly looking for ways to fully integrate the RWP and are continuously assessing the region for issues of importance. There were only minor revisions in the RWP that are the result of changing regional conditions, funding opportunities and local planning priorities.

Areas Requiring Special Attention

The RC has surveyed local governments in the region and there have been minimal changes and development in the region; governments are effectively implementing their plan and there have been no changes in the identified areas requiring special attention nor have any new areas developed.

Regional Hearing

As required, a regional hearing was conducted on February 6, 2015. There were no comments, additions or revisions received as a result of the regional hearing.

Assessment of Regional Plan's Effectiveness

The RC was successful in accomplishing the majority of the strategies outlines in the Community Work Program. As the report of accomplishments demonstrates, the RC has generally been successful in achieving the goals, objectives and strategies in the Community Work Program.

The RC continues to undertake informal assessment of the Plan's effectiveness through feedback from local governments and stakeholders during webinars, regional and individual meetings.

Report of Accomplishments:

In accordance with DCA 110-12-6-.05(2)(d)3., the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission has conducted the required regional hearing and is pleased to submit the following Regional Work Program and Report of Accomplishments for FY 2015.

Performance Standards Achievement Status

Regional Plan Performance Standard Achievement Status

Local Government	Minimum Performance Standard Status (met/unmet)	List specific Action Steps taken to Assist Government Not Meeting Minimum Standards
Baker County	Met	
Newton	Unmet	RC staff worked with council member and he is scheduled to go to training in 2015.
Calhoun County	Met	
Arlington	Met	
Edison		
Leary	Unmet	
Morgan		City Clerk's certification – RC staff will continue to work with City to certify Clerk (i.e. notify of scheduled trainings and work with training institute as needed).
Colquitt County	Met	
Berlin	Met	
Doerun	Met	
Ellenton	Met	
Funston	Met	
Moultrie	Met	
Norman Park	Met	
Riverside	Unmet	City is not interested in participating in the Comprehensive Planning process plan because of low number of citizens (35). RC will continue to make contact and encourage participation and explore possibility of incorporating with the City of Moultrie.
Decatur	Met	
Attapulgus	Met	
Bainbridge	Met	
Brinson	Unmet	Clerk not certified; codes not unified. RC staff will continue to work with City Clerk to attain certification and will offer our services to unify codes.
Climax	Unmet	Clerk not certified; RC staff will continue to work with City to certify Clerk (i.e. notify of scheduled trainings and work with training institute as needed).
Dougherty County	Met	
Early County	Met	

Blakely	Met	
Jakin	Met	
Damascus	Unmet	The City has no Clerk, No Mayor and City Council disbanded, Council member working to regain functioning local government. RC staff has been available to assist as needed and will be available once an election/appointment of Mayor has taken place.
Grady County	Met	
Cairo	Met	
Whigham	Met	
Lee County	Met	
Leesburg	Met	
Smithville	Met	
Miller County	Met	
Colquitt	Met	
Mitchell County	Met	
Baconton	Met	
Camilla	Met	
Pelham	Met	
Sale City	Met	
Seminole County	Met	
Donalsonville	Met	
Iron City	Met	
Terrell County	Met	
Bronwood	Met	
Dawson	Met	
Parrott	Met	
Sasser	Met	
Thomas County	Met	
Boston	Met	
Coolidge	Met	
Meigs	Met	
Ochlocknee	Met	
Thomasville	Met	
Worth County	Met	
Poulan	Met	
Sumner	Met	
Sylvester	Met	
Warwick	Met	