Report of Accomplishments 2026

Economic Development								
Strategy	**Action**	**Partners**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**2027**	**Status**
Priority: Diversify and Strengthen the Region's Economy								
Support the Recruitment, Retention and Expansion of transportation Businesses in the region.	Facilitate at least 1 local loan annually from the revolving loan fund.	RVRC Dev Auth	$5,000	$5,000	$5,000	$5,000	$5,000	RVRC is meeting with potential applicants on a regular basis and is re-financing a loan.
Foster Community Leadership	Provide technical assistance to the Council of Governments (Stewart, Randolph, Quitman, and Clay).	RVRC DCA EDA Local Chambers Clay EDC	$2,500	$2,500	$5,000	$5,000	$5,000	This organization has not met in a year. RVRC continues to work with the individual local governments.
Priority: Provide quality, genuine places and experiences for visitors								
Market special events and the unique aspects of the region.	Participate in regional tourism entities (Presidential Pathways, Scenic Southwest GA, and associated tourism groups).	RVRC Local Dev Auth Tourism Assn DNR GA Council of Arts Private Lenders Colleges & Univ.	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	Met with U.S. Hwy. 27 Association that is looking to expand from north Georgia.
	Provide technical assistance to partner with local bicycle groups and eco-tourism businesses to increase the region's capacity for tourism by identifying potential greenway and blueway trails and writing grants for infrastructure projects.	RVRC 3RiversRC Local Dev Auth Tourism Assn DNR GA Council of Arts Private Lenders Colleges & Univ.	$5,000	$5,000	$5,000	$5,000	$5,000	• Working with One Sumter on developing a blue way trail. • Working with Visit Columbus, UGA, and SE Crescent Regional Commission to develop a marketing and branding strategy.
Priority: Promote the Chattahoochee Valley as an ideal location for a regional hub for semiconductor manufacturing.								
Promote the Chattahoochee Valley as an ideal location for a regional hub for	Partner with the C4C Coalition to provide technical assistance, participate in the	RVRC Local Govts Colleges & Univ. Local Businesses	$5,000	$5,000	$5,000	$5,000	$5,000	C4C Coalition has become Choose Columbus. We

semiconductor manufacturing.	planning process, and write grants to increase infrastructure capacity (i.e., workforce housing, public transit, water/wastewater) in preparation for investment.	Chamb. Of Comm. Local Banks GDEcD DCA USDA						continue to participate in planning efforts.
Housing and Neighborhood Development								
Strategy	**Action**	**Partners**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**2027**	**Status**
Priority: Provide safe, standard, and affordable housing options for all residents of the region.								
Develop a regional housing program.	Apply for funding to hire a housing specialist to create a regional housing program.	RVRC Local Govts DCA		$5,000				Secured a housing consultant.
Support local housing efforts through planning and technical assistance.	Assist 2 local governments to identify GICH team community partners.	RVRC DCA	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000			Completed: Stewart County Taylor County
	Meet with 2 local governments to identify locally driven housing solutions.	RVRC DCA	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000			Completed: Cuthbert Unadilla
	Write grant applications for 2 local governments to implement locally driven housing solutions.	RVRC DCA USDA GICH Local Govts Local Hsg Auth	$5,000 Per application	$5,000 Per application	$5,000 Per application			3 CHIP applications

Community Facilities and Services								
Strategy	**Action**	**Partners**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**2027**	**Status**
Priority: Improve Broadband/Internet Capacity.								
Identify and address telecommunications deficiencies in the region.	Write Broadband Ready ordinances for local governments.	RVRC DCA Local Govts USDA EDA DOD Fed. Grants/Loans		$50,000	$50,000	$50,000		This program is shifting from DCA to GTA. However, each community comp plan has a required broadband element.
	Monitor funding sources for use in broadband infrastructure build out.	RVRC Local Govts USDA EDA DOD Fed. Grants/Loans	$5,000	$5,000	$5,000	$5,000	$5,000	Completed
	Monitor the Broadband Coverage Map for changes to regional coverage and/or providers	RVRC Local Govts USDA EDA DOD Fed. Grants/Loans	$5,000	$5,000	$5,000	$5,000	$5,000	Completed
Priority: Improve Old or Inadequate Infrastructure Systems.								
Assist local governments to identify and address deficiencies of infrastructure systems.	Write grant applications for 10 local governments for identified community needs.	RVRC Local Govts DCA GEFA USDA EDA DOD Fed. Grants/Loans	$5,000 Per application	$5,000 Per application	$5,000 Per application	$5,000 Per application	$5,000 Per application	• 6 CDBGs in 2025 (DCA) • DOD DCIP • 1 Keep GA Beautiful (DCA)

Transportation								
Priority: Road Maintenance and Expansion.								
Strategy	**Action**	**Partners**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**2027**	**Status**
Assist local governments to identify key transportation needs and issues.	Provide 2 Complete Streets training.	RVRC GA Bikes GDOT Local Govts		$25,000	$25,000	$25,000	$25,000	Complete streets trainings are incorporated into comprehensive planning process
	Provide technical assistance annually to 2 communities that have adopted Complete Streets policies to implement the program.	RVRC GA Bikes GDOT Advocacy Grps Local Govts	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000	Provided technical assistance to Americus for a repaving project and served as stakeholder for development of Columbus Safety Action Plan.
	Write a bicycle and pedestrian plan for 1 community.	RVRC GDOT Local Govts BID/TAD Local Businesses Advocacy Grps				$20,000		No activity; will resume once Rural ATP is complete.
	Update the RVRC Regional Bicycle Pedestrian Plan.	RVRC GDOT Local Govts BID/TAD Local Businesses Advocacy Grps		$50,000				No activity; will resume once Rural ATP is complete.
	Verify road data from local sources and provide to GDOT including intersection type, geometry, and number of legs; roundabouts' inscribed diameter; median type at intersections; edge line presence and condition.	RVRC GDOT ITOS		$60,000	$60,000	$50,000	$50,000	Completed under REVAMP contract with GDOT

Transportation (continued)								
Strategy	**Action**	**Partners**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**2027**	**Status**
Priority: Increase Awareness of Rural Transit Options.								
Improve the region's mobility by offering alternative means of transportation.	Host 4 Regional Transit Coordinating Council meetings annually.	RVRCAAA DHS	$25,000	$25,000	$25,000	$25,000	$25,000	Quarterly RTCC meetings held in FY2025
	Develop 1 regional transit plan per year.	RVRC GDOT	$25,000	$25,000	$25,000	$25,000	$25,000	FY2025 RTP submitted to GDOT

Transportation (continued)								
Strategy	**Action**	**Partners**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**2027**	**Status**
Priority: Promote initiatives aimed at the development and implementation of alternative transportation options as a means of increasing connectivity, walkability, bike-ability, and healthy living.								
Host events to encourage the development of safe walking and cycling environments for all the region's residents.	Facilitate public forums for Bicycle Columbus, Sumter Cycling, Taylor Ramblers, and other local groups to promote alternative transportation and safety.	RVRC CVA SORBA IMBA Local Govts	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000	Completed
	Coordinate 2 Bike Rodeo events annually.	RVRC Local Govts Local BOE GDOT	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000	Sumter County Kids Bike Fest
	Complete walkability audits for 2 schools annually.	RVRC Local BOE GDOT	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000	Reached out to SRTS for scheduling
	Plan a Bike to School Day event for 1 school annually.	RVRC Local BOE GDOT	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000	Planning an event for Sumter County – Furlow Charter School for April 2026
	Update ActiveValley.org website monthly to show new events and partnerships.	RVRC	$5,000	$5,000	$5,000	$5,000	$5,000	Completed
	Coordinate 2 local Bike-to-Work week events and 5 regional Bike rides	RVRC Local Govts GDOT NPS GA State Parks & Historic Sites Local Businesses Local Cycling Groups	$50,000	$50,000	$50,000	$50,000	$50,000	Bike to Work activities completed in Americus (Sept 2025) & planned for Columbus (May 2026); RIDES: Pedaling for Pups Ride, Prison to Peanuts Ride, Columbus Art Ride, Plains Peanut Festival Ride, Carter Butts Memorial Ride, Americus Civil Rights Bicycle Tour all completed; Columbus Juneteenth Ride planned

Transportation (continued)								
Strategy	**Action**	**Partners**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**2027**	**Status**
Develop and expand trail networks to connect the region's green and blue infrastructure.	Review bike connections between Harris and Muscogee County.	RVRC GDOT Local Govts MPO	$5,000	$5,000	$5,000	$5,000	$5,000	Pursuing funding for development of Harris-Muscogee Trails Connector. Assisted communities with Rural and Tribal Assistance Program grant applications: Americus, Harris County, and Multi-County Trail Development (Chattahoochee, Marion, Schley, Sumter) Helped Hamilton and Butler apply for TA grant funding. Helped Americus prepare BUILD grant application for Multimodal Transportation Plan. Coordinating GDOT, Genesee & Wyoming RR, and PATH Foundation to explore Cusseta rail trail development. Helping Chattahoochee County administer SEID grant funding for Cusseta Trail. Working with Conservation Fund and Norfolk Southern for acquisition of inactive rail line for trail use.
Work with GDOT officials to monitor the second TIA tax.	Work with 51 local communities to market the successes of the current TIA program through printed materials, media articles, and presentations.	RVRC GDOT BIL Local Govts		$10,000				Completed
	Provide funding updates to regional local governments quarterly.	RVRC GDOT	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000	Completed

Land Use								
Strategy	**Action**	**Partners**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**2027**	**Status**
Priority: Update Ordinances, Land Use Regulations, and Guidelines.								
Develop tools to assist local governments manage development.	Update 2 zoning ordinances to comply with current laws and to allow for more compact and mixed-use development.	RVRC Local Govts DCA	$40,000	$40,000				Quitman, Clay, and Stewart Ordinances are in the process of being updated.
	Provide zoning administration technical assistance and training to 6 local governments.	RVRC DCA CVIOG	$30,000	$30,000	$30,000	$30,000	$30,000	Completed: Chattahoochee, Clay, Pine Mountain, Quitman, Stewart, Talbot
Provide technical assistance to local governments in their preservation activities.	Provide monthly technical assistance and staff review for Certificate of Appropriateness to the Columbus Board of Historic and Architectural Review.	RVRC Local Govts DNR DCA	$30,000	$30,000	$30,000	$30,000	$30,000	Completed
	Provide information and present 2 programs educating the general public of the benefits of historic preservation.	RVRC DNR DCA		$10,000				Presented HP101 trainings to Cordele HPC and Plains HPC
	Provide staff review of CDBG funded housing rehab and demolition for the City of Columbus.	RVRC Local Govts		$15,000	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000	Programmatic Agreement between Columbus and RVRC for this has been placed on hold.

Natural and Cultural Resources								
Strategy	**Action**	**Partners**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**2027**	
Priority: Preservation of Prime Agricultural/Forestry Lands.								
Educate local elected officials, industries, developers, youth, and the public on the importance of natural resource protection.	Write local government comprehensive plans.	RVRC Local Govts DCA DNR EPD DOD	$30,000 (2 plans)	$90,000 (6 plans)	$30,000 (2 plans)	$30,000 (2 plans)	$60,000 (4 plans)	Completed: Talbot Marion Chattahoochee Schley Macon
Priority: Grow the Agricultural Resources in the Region.								
Promote the production and sale of locally grown foods.	Provide technical assistance to local ag. businesses to develop capacity in farm to market economy.	RVRC GDAg USDA Farm Bureau UGA Extension GDEcD Georgia Grown Georgia Organics		$25,000		$25,000		AAA facilitates local farmers markets in all 16 counties.
Priority: Protection of Groundwater Recharge Area/Aquifers.								
Increase education and outreach programs directed toward improving water quality.	Coordinate 2 training opportunities for the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream program.	RVRC GAAAS UGA Extension GAEPD	$10,000	$10,000				Completed
	Share information about water quality monitoring and BMP installations on RVRC social media accounts and website to raise awareness about water quality issues.	RVRC GAAAS UGA Extension GAEPD	$10,000	$10,000				Completed

Natural and Cultural Resources (continued)								
Strategy	**Action**	**Partners**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**2027**	**Status**
Priority: Maintain environmental integrity in the region								
Create a balance between protection of natural resources and development.	Administer a regional brownfield assessment grant for 4 local governments.	RVRC Terracon GBA USEPA Local Govts		$20,000				Completed
	Implement Watershed Management Plan for Pataula Creek Phase II.	RVRC GAEPD GCSU Golden Triangle RC&D GASWCC USDA NRCS Local Govts	$220,424	$220,424				Completed
	Write a brownfield site reuse plan for a site that has a completed Phase II environmental site assessment.	RVRC Terracon GBA USEPA Local Govts	$10,000	$10,000				Completed

Aging and Human Services								
Strategy	**Action**	**Partners**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**2027**	**Status**
Priority: Ensure older Georgians, persons with disabilities, caregivers and families have access to information about resources and services that is accurate and reliable.								
Increase the number of First-Time contacts to the ADRC	Maintain Database at a 90% update rate or higher to ensure confidence in the information provided.	Family Connections Hispanic Outreach Coalition Churches RVRCAAA	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	Completed
	Attend health fairs to promote the ADRC.	Family Connections Hispanic Outreach Coalition Churches RVRCAAA	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	Completed
	Provide speakers for groups upon request.	Family Connections Hispanic Outreach Coalition Churches RVRCAAA	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	Completed
Priority: Expand Efforts to Provide Evidence Based Programs to Individuals to allow them to Remain in Their Desired Residence as Long as Possible								
Increase Number of Evidence Based Programs taught.	Increase number of instructors/lay leaders/coaches by 5%.	RVRCAAA PSOA (Professionals Serving Older Adults) Senior Centers	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000	Completed
	Market the programs to Assisted Living Communities which will pay $25/person to attend the classes.	RVRCAAA PSOA (Professionals Serving Older Adults) Senior Centers	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000	We no longer charge for classes, but we still do marketing for the classes.

Aging and Human Services (continued)								
Strategy	**Action**	**Partners**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**2027**	**Status**
Priority: Increase Professional Capacity of Georgia's Aging Network to Better Meet the Needs of Family Caregivers and At-Risk Adults								
Increase support Family Caregivers	Continue to staff and support the River Valley Care-Net which meets quarterly to support family caregivers.	RVRCAAA DAS Rosalynn Carter Institute (RCI) Care-Net	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000	Completed

Workforce Development								
Strategy	**Action**	**Partners**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**2027**	**Status**
Priority: Train the Regional Workforce.								
Provide GED prep and soft skills development services.	Provide basic literacy skills, financial literacy education, and follow-up services to 40 individuals 17-24 yrs. age.	RVRC Fam Conn Local BOE WIOA Bd	$100,000	$100,000	$100,000	$100,000	$80,000	Active – On going
Provide On the Job Training (OJT).	Provide OJT services for 10 individuals each year.	RVRC WIOA Bd Colleges & Univ.	$40,000	$40,000	$40,000	$45,000	$30,000	Active – On going
Provide work-based learning services (WEX) for individuals with limited work history to enhance existing skills.	Provide hands-on work experience with local area participating businesses/ employers for 30 individuals.	RVRC WIOA Bd Providers	$60,000	$60,000	$50,000	$60,000	$50,000	Active – On going
Individual Training Accounts	Provide ITA's for 45 individuals each year.	RVRC WIOA Bd Colleges & Univ.	$60,000	$60,000	$60,000	$60,000	$60,000	Active – On going

Regional Cooperation								
Priority: Create a Balanced Sustainable Region.								
Strategy	**Action**	**Partners**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**2027**	**Status**
Work with local governments, community organizations, and businesses to improve efficiency in delivery of services.	Host quarterly meetings of regional city and county managers.	RVRC Local Govts	$2,500	$2,500	$2,500	$2,500	$2,500	Completed
	Utilize the SDS update to ensure the efficient delivery of services.	RVRC Local Govts	$42,000 (14 plans)	$30,000 (10 plans)	$21,000 (7 plans)	$21,000 (7 plans)	$36,000 (12 plans)	Completed
	Facilitate Plan Assessment meetings for 8 counties a year.	RVRC Local Govts	$16,000	$16,000	$16,000	$16,000	$16,000	No activity due to staffing levels. Will resume 2026-27.
	Update the Regional Plan as needed.	RVRC Local Govts					+/- $100,000 (full plan)	Public participation and Data analysis are underway.
Priority: Support Fort Benning								
Provide after-grant support to local governments that participated in the RVCCD project.	Provide technical assistance to local governments and businesses to implement recommendations from the RVCCD plan and develop capacity in eco and heritage tourism economy.	RVRC Local Govts UGA DCA USDA EDA DOD	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000	Working with UGA and Fort Benning on 2 initiatives.

Local Government Performance Standards Update 2/13/2026		
Local Government	**Minimum Performance Standard(s) Not Met**	**Specific Action Steps taken to Assist Government** (Optional: Also, identify resources that may aid LG achievement)
Chattahoochee County	Groundwater Recharge Area Ord Wetlands Protection Ord River Corridor Protection Ord	Sample ordinances have been sent to local government
Byromville (Dooly) *	Groundwater Recharge Area Policies Wetlands Protection Policies	Included in new community work program
Dooling (Dooly) *	Groundwater Recharge Area Policies Wetlands Protection Policies	Included in new community work program
Lilly (Dooly) *	Groundwater Recharge Area Policies Wetlands Protection Policies	Included in new community work program
Unadilla (Dooly)	Subdivision Regulations	New community work program calls for wholesale update of zoning ordinance which has an elemental subdivision component
Oglethorpe (Macon)	Flint River Protection Ord River Corridor Protection Ord	Not a local priority; River considered "inaccessible"
Lumpkin (Stewart)	Groundwater Recharge Area Ord Wetlands Protection Ord	Reportedly adopted but signed official documents not found
Richland (Stewart)	Groundwater Recharge Area Ord Wetlands Protection Ord	Reportedly adopted but signed official documents not found
DeSoto (Sumter) *	Groundwater Recharge Area Policies Wetlands Protection Policies	Included in new community work program
Reynolds (Taylor)	Groundwater Recharge Area Ord Wetlands Protection Ord Subdivision Regulations Implement State Building Codes	Included in new community work program
**Jurisdiction is below the regional plan population threshold (1,000) for Minimum Performance Standards to apply.*		