

INTERIM REGIONAL ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Economic Development

- Education level/job skill improvements
- Workforce development
- Technical Colleges
- Infrastructure development to guide/serve growth (water, sewer, telecommunications)
- Transportation network/infrastructure improvements (highways, rail, airport)
- Technology infrastructure/access
- Proximity to ports and coast
- Existing economic base support
- Support/enhance agriculture/forestry
- Attraction of new economic development
- Regional identity/Economic Development marketing strategy enhancement
- Leadership development training/programs
- Regional partnerships
- Downtown/small town revitalization
- Tourism potential/promotion/development (agricultural, natural, and heritage)
- Migrant workers
- Water supply planning

Natural and Cultural Resources

- Natural/cultural resources conservation/protection
- Outdoor recreation opportunities/development
- Protected river corridors
- Compatible economic utilization of natural/cultural resources
- Nature-based/adventure, heritage tourism, and agritourism attraction
- State parks, WMAs, PFAs retention/enhancement/designation and development of additional venues
- Growth management/regulation
- Prime farmland and forest land conservation
- Rural character preservation
- Downtown development through historic preservation
- Enhanced knowledge/promotion of region history/historic sites
- Aesthetics/beautification improvements
- Public education/awareness
- Environmental Conservation ordinance enforcement
- Water quality/TMDLs
- Water supply planning

Community Facilities and Services

- Infrastructure expansion/maintenance/upgrade
- Utilization of infrastructure to guide growth
- Enhance services/provide capacity for growth
- Transportation improvements/upgrades (highways, airports, rail)
- Developmental highways
- Increased road paving/resurfacing
- Public/DHR transit
- Middle Georgia Aviation College (Eastman) continuing development
- Amtrak passenger service retention (Jesup)
- Pedestrian/bike path/state bike route development
- Water and sewer facilities/service upgrades/expansion
- Abundant groundwater
- Telecommunications/technology infrastructure expansion/upgrade
- Public safety services/facilities enhancements (E-911, fire, law enforcement, EMA)
- Maintenance of solid waste service/facility access/affordability
- Recycling program expansion/development of stable markets
- Health care system/facilities improvements/upgrades
- Local hospital retention
- Health care professionals recruitment
- Park/recreational facilities improvements/funding
- Education facilities/services improvements
- Technical college system support/expansion
- Cultural facilities/services enhancements (libraries, auditoriums, museums, arts programs)
- Provision of adequate government facilities/services
- Professionally managed governmental operations support

Housing

- Housing quality improvement
- Affordable housing availability
- Substandard housing/blight elimination
- Diversity of housing mix
- Increased reliance on manufactured housing
- Land use/subdivision/growth management regulations
- Code enforcement
- Community aesthetics/appearance improvements
- Increased utilization of available state/federal assistance programs
- Ample land availability
- Housing rehabilitation
- Special needs housing (senior, disabled, high end)
- Neighborhood revitalization

- Migrant/seasonal housing provision
- Housing program availability/promotion

Land Use

- Coordinated land use management planning regulations
- Alternative land use regulations/zoning
- Adoption/enforcement of Georgia's Uniform Construction Codes
- Managed infrastructure expansion
- Geographic information systems
- Agricultural/forestry land conservation
- Rural character retention
- Natural and cultural resource conservation/preservation and their sensitive utilization
- Community aesthetics/beautification improvements
- Infrastructure expansion to guide growth/protect environment
- Downtown/central business district revitalization
- Economic development infrastructure
- Land values

Intergovernmental Coordination

- Local, regional, and state cooperation
- Services sharing/cooperation/consolidation/joint delivery
- Regional partnerships utilization/participation (HOGARC, Altamaha River Partnership, U.S. 341 Association, Woodpecker Trail, and others)
- Coordinated planning/growth management
- Local government structure/management enhancement

Aging

- Continued support for RC's Area Agency on Aging as focal point for senior services
- Independent living assistance provision
- Healthy lifestyles promotion (diet, exercise, wellness)
- Provision of needed services to address functional limitations of seniors living at home
- Legal and ombudsman services provision
- Public education and advocacy efforts
- Senior Centers