The Regional Planning and Development Agency Serving Communities of Middle Georgia
The Middle Georgia Regional Commission extends sincere appreciation to the following corporations, foundations and organizations for supporting our 2014 Annual Meeting.*

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**SunMark Community Bank**
**Tri-County EMC**

* As of September 26, 2014
On behalf of the Council and staff of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission, I am pleased to present the 2014 Annual Report. This report highlights the projects, programs, and accomplishments of the Regional Commission for the past fiscal year.

During the year, the Regional Commission continued to provide high-quality services to the citizens and governments in Middle Georgia in a variety of functional areas. Examples of services include the provision of Aging services to more than 11,000 seniors, the creation of new websites and GIS projects, the acquisition of funding for critical infrastructure projects, and the coordination of transportation services. FY 2014 also marked the first year of Workforce Development as a program area for the Regional Commission. This is a natural complement to the Economic Development programs of the MGRC, and I am pleased to report that we met or exceeded every one of the performance measures in this program area.

The work of the Regional Commission was recognized by several organizations for its financial excellence and program innovation. For the nineteenth year, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. Two major initiatives of the past year were recognized by the National Association of Development Organizations as 2014 Innovation Award winners. The Macon-Bibb County Consolidation and the Middle Georgia Readiness Analysis were large-scale projects that presented new challenges for staff and will help to shape the region for years to come. Also, Middle Georgia Regional Commission received world-wide recognition by Esri for a Special Achievement Award in GIS. This is a very prestigious award recognizing Middle Georgia Regional Commission’s leadership in the field of GIS. This is what excellence in service looks like on the front line! All of these things were accomplished as staff maintained routine, on-going programs at an exceptionally high level.

I am certain that the year ahead will present both new opportunities and challenges for the region. Our Middle Georgia Regional Commission is adaptive and well-positioned to meet the future with confidence.

Chairman’s Message

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Councilman Richard Mullins
Mr. Bill Millians*
Mr. Matt Poyner
Councilperson Denese Shinhoister

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Ms. Judye H. Sellier
Mr. Charles Sims

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR APPOINTMENT
Vacant

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE APPOINTMENT
Mr. Travis Blackwell

* Executive Committee Member

CHARGE
The Regional Commission Council is responsible for establishing policy and direction of the organization and the component units in accordance with state and federal laws.

STANDING COMMITTEES
Aging Services
Budget, Audit, and Personnel
CEDS
Executive
Rural and Human Services Transportation

MEETINGS
REGULAR MEETINGS: 6:00 p.m., second Thursday of each month, excluding July and December.

ANNUAL MEETING: Second Thursday of October.
The Budget, Audit and Personnel Committee of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission provides leadership and oversight for the financial management of the organization. This standing committee develops the annual budget, monitors performance, and reports regularly on the Regional Commission’s financial condition.

The Middle Georgia Regional Commission is funded by federal, state, and local governments, with dues from local governments accounting for the smallest percentage of revenue received. For FY 2014, the total budget was $11,990,884 of which $7,171,074 was pass-through funding for the Aging and Transportation Programs and other agencies. The operating budget for the Regional Commission was $4,819,810, which covers personnel and operating expenses such as supplies, telecommunications, training, and contracts for professional services.

Each year, the Regional Commission produces a comprehensive financial report, which is audited for compliance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and the U.S. Office of Management and Budget’s Circular A-133 Audits of State, Local Governments and Non-Profit Organizations. The Middle Georgia Regional Commission continues to operate in a fiscally responsible manner and received an Unqualified Audit Opinion with no audit exceptions for the 2013 fiscal year. Additionally, for the past nineteen years, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission has been recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada with the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.
Area Agency on Aging

The Middle Georgia Regional Commission is the designated Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) for Middle Georgia.

The Regional Commission is responsible for planning, coordinating, administering and developing resources for a comprehensive service delivery system designed to assist older and disabled Georgians to remain in their homes for as long as possible thereby avoiding premature institutionalization. The ADRC concept establishes a “no wrong door” approach through meaningful involvement of consumers and other stakeholders and provides awareness, information, assistance and access to resources for older adults, individuals with disabilities, their caregivers and professionals working with these populations.

The Middle Georgia Regional Commission sponsors, conducts and hosts numerous events throughout the region focused on the needs of older adults and individuals with disabilities. In 2014, the MGRC hosted or conducted 109 events reaching 11,427 persons across the region. Among these events, the MGRC hosted an inaugural caregiver conference focused on training the faith-based community titled “Caring through Generations.” The conference was well received with 157 faith-based professionals in attendance.

The annual Senior Day Expo, held May 15 in observance of Older Americans Month, was a successful event, attracting over 700 seniors, vendors, and volunteers. The Expo occurs in large part due to the dedication of our partners including: Georgia Power, AARP, Medicare Advantage Plan providers, Social Security Administration, hospice agencies, home health agencies, and agencies serving persons with disabilities.

Balancing Incentive Program

Beginning May 1, 2014, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission began the implementation of a new Department of Community Health initiative. The Balancing Incentive Program targets individuals that are currently living in the community but are at risk of entering a nursing facility. The program offers information and access to all long-term Home and Community-Based Medicaid Waiver services as options to institutionalization. The Regional Commission conducts the initial screenings and make referrals to the appropriate program. The goal of the initiative is to improve access for individuals requiring in-home services and support; thereby, reducing the number of individuals dependent on institutional placement.
The Middle Georgia Regional Commission changes the lives of older adults and individuals with disabilities throughout the region.

CERTIFIED HOME EQUITY CONVERSION MORTGAGE COUNSELORS
HECM counselors provided 116 sessions to seniors across the United States.

MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON
MFP is a program for seniors and disabled adults who reside in nursing homes but would like to return to the community. In the second year of the program, 46 clients were successfully transitioned.

NURSING HOME OPTIONS COUNSELING
The AAA Options Counselor works one-on-one with individuals to explore options for community-based resources. 502 clients received counseling services last year through this program.

AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER GATEWAY
65,528 requests for information and services were received through the ADRC/Gateway - the AAA’s single point of entry to aging and disability resources. That equates to 5,461 requests per month.

WELLNESS PROGRAM
- Right Bite for Diabetes – 46 seniors received training.
- Tai Chi for Arthritis – 98 seniors participated in classes.
- Chronic Disease Self-Management Program – 205 received training.
- A Matter of Balance – 51 seniors received training.
- Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program – 699 received nutritious fruits and vegetables.

HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES
- Congregate Meals: 53,315 meals to 322 people.
- Home-Delivered Meals: 206,652 meals to 1,134 people.
- Homemaker, Personal Care, and Respite Services: 23,482 service hours to 181 people.
- HCBS Case Management: 1,397 service hours to 43 people.

POWERFUL TOOLS FOR CAREGIVERS
There were 22 caregivers who completed the Powerful Tools for Caregivers workshop, equipping them with skills to reduce the level of stress associated with caregiving.

COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES PROGRAM
1,200 individuals received CCSP in-home services valued at $11,724,551. The average cost each month per consumer in CCSP is $1,051, representing a 50 percent cost reduction to Medicaid.

GEORGIA CARES
1,857 individuals received counseling through the GeorgiaCares Program, representing $2,388,441 in savings.

Questions or concerns regarding services to the elderly or disabled?
Contact our AAA staff toll-free at the ADRC Gateway.
(888) 548-1456
The Regional Commission supports member governments and local economic development agencies by providing demographic information requested by prospects; meeting with prospects; mapping available properties and buildings; structuring deals; assisting with the industrial site certification process; serving as a liaison between federal, state, and local economic development resources; and assisting with site selection and development. In addition, the Regional Commission maintains and updates the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), which outlines the short- and long-term goals and objectives for economic growth throughout the region.

MGRC engages with the region’s largest employer and Georgia’s largest industrial complex, Robins Air Force Base (RAFB), primarily through the 21st Century Partnership. During FY 2014, the Regional Commission completed the series of Middle Georgia Readiness Analysis Reports which were initiated in 2013. These reports provided critical baseline data to the Middle Georgia region on a variety of topics that are often used during the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process. The Middle Georgia Regional Commission also maintains and updates the economic impact multiplier for Robins AFB annually and serves as the fiscal conduit for local contributions to the 21st Century Partnership.
Another important component to economic growth is access to capital for the private sector. This is accomplished through the small business loan programs operated by the RC and its affiliate, the Georgia Small Business Lender (GSBL). GSBL, created by the RC in 1982, is a private nonprofit corporation and serves as the lending arm of the Regional Commission. Designated as a Certified Development Corporation, GSBL is licensed to make SBA loans to businesses throughout Georgia. There are five different loan programs, each with different requirements, but with the same goals of job creation and private investment. GSBL always partners with a bank or financial institution to provide long-term project financing for land, buildings, and fixed assets.

**GSBL Loan Programs**

- SBA 504
- EDA Revolving Loan Fund
- Microloan Program
- Rural Development Revolving Loan Fund
- Rural Healthcare Revolving Loan Fund

**Middle Georgia Digital Economy**

In FY 2014, Middle Georgia Regional Commission partnered with the Georgia Technology Authority for the development of a Digital Economy Plan for Middle Georgia. The Regional Digital Economy Plan is designed to examine the region’s ability to participate in the Digital Economy and identify important resources, organizations, leaders, programs and investments that already exist, which can be leveraged in the future. The plan also identifies the region’s gaps in infrastructure, workforce and access to capital and then aligns, prioritizes and converts these gaps into actionable projects with goals that can be measured. The most important value of the plan is to increase awareness, develop community and regional collaboration, prioritize objectives and establish plans to use the region’s assets and strengths to be more competitive.

As part of the Digital Economy project, the Regional Commission learned about the Maker movement through visits to three Georgia cities where makerspaces are vibrant assets to their communities. These centers of innovation and creativity provide valuable insight to leaders as plans are made for the establishment of makerspaces in Middle Georgia in FY 2015.

**Project Highlights**

- Developed a standardized incentive schedule for Putnam County.
- Prepared an economic impact study on the football program at Fort Valley State University.
- Conducted Regional Sales Team Training in partnership with Georgia Power and Middle Georgia Economic Alliance.
- Funded a daycare center, medical complex, car wash, urban grocery store, funeral home, convenience store, wire manufacturer and an insurance agency.
- Hosted Economic Development Training for leaders.
## MGRC Services

### Area Agency on Aging

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<th>Program Implementation</th>
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<td>• Congregate and Home Delivered Meals</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Senior Farmers Market Nutrition</td>
<td>• In-Home Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Medication Management</td>
<td>• Long-Term Care Ombudsman</td>
<td>• Options Counseling</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Tai Chi Exercise</td>
<td>• Elder Abuse and Fraud Prevention</td>
<td>• Money Follows The Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Matter of Balance (Fall Protection)</td>
<td>• Information and Assistance</td>
<td>• Reverse Mortgage Counseling</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Economic Development

<table>
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<th>SBA 504 Loans</th>
<th>Economic Impact Analysis</th>
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<td>• EDA Revolving Loan Fund</td>
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<td>• Prospect Inquiries</td>
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<td>• Prospect Site Visits</td>
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<td>• Site Certifications</td>
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### Public Administration

<table>
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<td>GA Planning Act Compliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Grant Preparation and Administration</td>
<td>Land Use Regulations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Technology Services

- Geospatial Analysis (GIS Mapping)
- GPS Data Collection
- Tax Parcel Maintenance Services
- Multimedia and Graphics Design
- Website Development
- Printing Services
- Data Management
- Cloud Services
- Census Preparation and Coordination

### Transportation

- Rural Public Transportation
- Human Services Transportation
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning
- Regional Mobility Management
- Complete Streets Planning
- River Corridor Planning
- Safe Routes to Schools
- WRATS and MATS Assistance
- Transit Development Plans
- Sidewalk Inventories / Plans

### Workforce Development

#### Business and Industry
- Workforce Needs Analysis
- Labor Market Information
- Talent Identification
- Customized Training
- On-the-Job Training

#### Youth Programs
- Career Pathways
- Dual CTAE Enrollment
- Graduation and GED Attainment
- Employment Preparation Workshops

#### Adult Programs
- Education and Training
- Industry Certifications
- Employment Workshops
- Targeted Job Fairs
- Re-employment Services
Public Administration

Through the technical assistance process, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission provides professional and tailored services to local governments in community development, human resources, grant writing, project administration, planning, and a wide array of projects.

Community Development describes the programs, policies, and initiatives undertaken by community leaders to improve the socio-economic conditions of an area. It typically includes redevelopment/reinvestment, housing, public safety, and other local government initiatives to improve the community. From planning to policy development and implementation, Regional Commission staff provide expertise and assistance in a broad range of community initiatives.

Regional Commission staff supports local governments with human resources administration through the development of job descriptions, personnel policies and handbooks, and salary surveys, as well as the recruitment of candidates for critical local government positions. The Regional Commission also designs and updates classification and compensation systems.

Through a partnership with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Historic Preservation Division, the Regional Commission supports local efforts for the preservation and planning for historic resources, the creation of local historic districts, development of design guidelines, and technical assistance with nominating properties and districts to the National Register of Historic Places.

Middle Georgia Regional Commission works with local governments to address issues related to the environment. This is accomplished by preparing watershed improvement plans and conducting testing of impaired streams. In 2014, the Regional Commission worked with the Middle Ocmulgee and Upper Oconee Regional Water Planning Councils to prepare implementation status reports to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division.

Staff is available not only to assist in the development of projects and plans, but also to support local governments in seeking and acquiring project funding. Grant development and administration services are available for local, state, and federal programs, public and private.

Project Highlights

- Assisted in the formation of the Pulaski-Wilcox Agritourism Alliance.
- Prepared and administered CDBG grants for local governments.
- Facilitated joint Putnam County-City of Eatonton Comprehensive Plan Review Work Sessions.
- Developed the Macon-Bibb County Age Friendly Plan.
- Facilitated Baldwin County and City of Centerville planning retreats to identify community goals, objectives, and related action steps.
- Completed personnel classification system updates for Macon-Bibb County, Crawford County, City of Gray and Jones County.
- Conducted plan implementation meetings with local governments to discuss local comprehensive plans and the regional plan.
- Developed Urban Redevelopment Plans for the Cities of Byron and Forsyth, Jones County, and Monroe County.
- Prepared public safety grants for three counties.
MGRC Receives NADO Innovation Awards

The Middle Georgia Regional Commission received two Innovation Awards given by the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO). This marks the 16th straight year that Middle Georgia has been recognized, bringing a total of 19 awards received to date.

MIDDLE GEORGIA READINESS ANALYSIS

Middle Georgia relies heavily on Robins Air Force Base (RAFB) for employment opportunities, private investment, associated economic development, and overall community stability. Through support from the 21st Century Partnership, the Middle Georgia Readiness Analysis sought to analyze the relationship between RAFB and the region, identify opportunities and challenges facing the base, and compare and contrast the reliance with twelve similar military installations and defense communities across the nation. The final report and analysis was presented to community leaders in economic development, education, healthcare, and public safety, among others. Moving forward, the Regional Commission will continue to assist the 21st Century Partnership and the region in addressing the challenges and opportunities identified through the analysis.

MACON-BIBB COUNTY CONSOLIDATION

Assisting a 15-member Transition Task Force, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission helped facilitate the Macon-Bibb County Consolidation. The July 2012 referendum charged the Transition Task Force with planning and preparing the consolidation to become effective January 1, 2014, but did not provide any specific guidance how it should be accomplished. MGRC coordinated all meetings of the Task Force (and its committees), developed duties and responsibilities of committees, worked with city and county staff on recommended actions, served as the fiscal/contracting agent for the Task Force, and provided direct service to the Transition Task Force to facilitate smooth implementation of consolidation.

The Regional Commission also served as the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) for the Task Force. In this capacity, MGRC developed and facilitated the implementation of work plans necessary to bring the new consolidated government into full compliance with a new Public Administration based Enterprise Resource Program (ERP). The Regional Commission worked with IT staff from the city and county to install a new and virtualized multi-node server platform, designed with fault resistance and disaster recovery features, to serve as the technology backbone for the new government. The MGRC’s role in navigating the creation of the newly created government presented a unique opportunity for the Middle Georgia Regional Commission.
Technology Services

The Middle Georgia Regional Commission provides a wide variety of Information Technology (IT)-based services to member governments, including the use and analysis of geospatial (GIS) data and services, global positioning system (GPS) data collection, multi-media and web development, graphic design, printing, and general systems administration support.

Middle Georgia Regional Commission has entered into contracts with five member counties for the maintenance and updating of GIS-based tax parcel mapping systems. This data is utilized in a variety of local government services including property valuation, planning and zoning, and infrastructure planning.

MGRC has deployed a cloud-based mapping system to host Internet maps and other geospatial mapping services. This state-of-the-art system is centrally hosted and managed by the RC and is available to member governments, giving them the ability to edit online maps, map booklets, and other geospatial data services to the Internet. Other cloud-based mapping deployments can be used to generate on-the-fly analytics, including demographic snapshots, asset inventories, routing applications, environmental assessments, and other geospatial analyses.

The RC also offers technology-based consultation services in the areas of network design, database administration, technical training, data analysis, and related technology implementation strategies. The diverse range of IT services offered by the RC provides its membership with access to advanced technologies designed to maximize efficiency and enhance locally-driven, decision-making processes.

WEB DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

This year, the Technology Services Division restructured its web development services to better meet the needs of member local governments and partner agencies. The Middle Georgia Regional Commission expanded services to include web-hosting and domain management. In addition, web development services are now a subscription-based model that expands the partnerships in web development.
In FY 2014, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission received a Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) Award for exceptional application of geospatial technology. With this award, MGRC was recognized for its application of GIS technology in the service of its member local governments. The Regional Commission was also recognized for its lead role in the establishment of an Enterprise License Agreement (ELA) between Environmental Systems Research Institute (Esri) and the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions. Through access to advanced GIS software products, the ELA significantly expanded the GIS capabilities of the Regional Commissions in Georgia and, by extension, all the local governments of Georgia.

Statewide Geospatial Information Officer (GIO) Initiative

The Middle Georgia Regional Commission spear-headed an initiative among the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions, Georgia Department of Community Affairs, Georgia Technology Authority, and other agencies to implement a Geospatial Information Officer for the State of Georgia. This office will provide greater coordination among all levels of government that utilize GIS technology and establish standards for the quality of geospatial data. It is also anticipated that Georgia will be able to better compete for statewide grant opportunities that could make high-quality geospatial data products such as aerial imagery and LiDAR more affordable and accessible. As this project moves forward in 2015, MGRC will continue to provide leadership on this project.

Project Highlights

- Designed and launched new websites for the City of Forsyth, the Georgia Small Business Lender, Central Georgia Joint Development Authority, and the Putnam Development Authority and redesigned the Middle Georgia Regional Commission website.
- Developed numerous online, web-based mapping applications as a way to provide GIS features, information, and analysis to non-technical users. Applications developed have been used to support economic and community development, strategic planning, land use planning, transportation management, public information and community engagement.
- Provided GIS-based tax parcel editing and mapping services for Baldwin County, Bibb County, Monroe County, Pulaski County, and Putnam County.
- Developed and implemented a Conservation Use Valuation Assessment (CUVA) model to significantly improve efficiency in the Tax Assessor Offices in Bibb and Monroe Counties.
- Initiated the upgrade of the regional GIS database to SQL Server RDBMS to improve the efficiency, performance and security of MGRC web services.
Transportation

Middle Georgia Regional Commission (MGRC) provides transportation planning and coordination services through a variety of federal, state and local agencies, all focused on facilitating the movement of people and goods as well as promoting the development of transportation alternatives.

Through a contractual agreement with the Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS), the Middle Georgia Regional Commission serves as prime contractor and administrator of the DHS Coordinated Transportation Program in the 11-county Middle Georgia region. This program serves the most vulnerable citizens of Middle Georgia by providing safe, reliable public transportation to meet basic needs. Utilizing two subcontractors, MGRC ensures the provision of transportation services for consumers of the Division of Aging Services, Family and Children Services, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Public Health, and the Department of Labor’s Vocational Rehabilitation Program.

The Middle Georgia Regional Commission also partners with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to assist local governments in several areas of transportation planning. Through this program, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission:

m Collaborates with local governments to develop bicycle and pedestrian plans, programs, and facilities.


m Facilitates student safety activities under the Safe Routes to School Program Support, including the development of Safety Travel Plans, organizing Walk and Bike to School activities, and securing grants for infrastructure improvements.

![Image of transportation service provider]

Trips provided to Middle Georgia DHS clients: 133,379

Total investment in DHS transportation services: $1,807,068

Rural public transit trips provided to Middle Georgia citizens: 75,082

Miles traveled by twenty rural public transit vehicles: 588,627
COMPLETE STREETS BLUEPRINT

In recognition of the state’s new approach to transportation planning, the City of Milledgeville adopted an ordinance promoting the use of Complete Streets concepts where applicable within the city. A part of this initiative included the development of a comprehensive planning document, a planning document prepared by the Regional Commission. MGRC provided assistance to the city to develop a transportation network to serve the needs of diverse citizens, including bicyclists, pedestrians, transit users and motorists. This effort will increase connectivity between downtown, adjacent neighborhoods and recreational amenities by proactively planning for the development of both the destinations themselves and their accessibility.

REGIONAL MOBILITY MANAGEMENT

In the second year of the Regional Mobility Management Program, the MGRC continued its efforts toward improving current levels of coordination, increasing cost-effectiveness, and maintaining or improving existing levels of service. One such tool developed to aid in this effort is the Regional Mobility Coordination Plan. This plan serves as a preliminary needs assessment and planning tool for community stakeholders in regards to the provision of transit services throughout the region. It also presents a strategic guide for rural human services and public transportation in Middle Georgia.

Under the Mobility Management Program, Middle Georgia Regional Commission facilitated semi-annual meetings of the Regional Rural and Human Services Transportation Advisory Committee. The Regional Commission also engaged in transit-related outreach and education and awareness efforts with site visits to county senior centers, rural transit operations, area colleges and universities, Chambers of Commerce, and County Commissioners’ meetings.

Project Highlights

- Updated Rural Transit Development Plans for Crawford County and Putnam County.
- Served on several committees related to GDOT studies, including the Eatonton West Bypass Case Study Project Advisory Committee, the I-75 South Corridor Study Steering Committee, and the State Route 49 Bridge Replacement Concept Team.
- Provided technical assistance to the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition (MGCAC) with development of a 2014/15 Strategic Plan.
- Coordinated with National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) on information for inclusion in a NPCA Field Report on river corridor connectivity efforts in Middle Georgia.
- Completed a Resource Bundling Feasibility Study which examines the benefits and drawbacks of directing all rural and human services transportation funding to a regional coordinating entity.
- Assisted Milledgeville in the application process to be designated as a Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists.
FY 2014 is the inaugural year for Workforce Development as a service area for the Middle Georgia Regional Commission. Mayor Robert Reichert, as the Chief Local Elected Official of Workforce Investment Area 10, designated MGRC as the fiscal agent/grantee of the Macon–Bibb County Workforce Program. The Regional Commission is responsible for carrying out the mission of the Macon–Bibb County Workforce Investment Board. The Board, authorized under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), is appointed by the CLEO and consists of public and private sector individuals. Services are provided to youth, adults and dislocated workers of Macon–Bibb County as outlined by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

The Youth Program serves young people ages 16 to 21 years of age who are low-income and need assistance with completing their education and gaining employability skills. A variety of services are provided to assist young people with succeeding in school and entering into career paths. Youth may receive services such as counseling, leadership development, mentoring, internships, tutoring, GED classes, and supportive services.

Serving people who are 22 years and older, the Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs are focused on increasing employment and retention, earnings, and occupational skills of residents of Macon-Bibb County. The focus of the programs are to improve the quality of the workforce, reduce welfare dependency, and enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the Middle Georgia economy. Priority of services is given to low-income individuals and veterans or veteran spouses, which is consistent with state and federal guidelines. The programs provide a range of services for adults seeking employment, which may include skills assessment, labor market information, and job search and placement assistance.

For the Adult and Dislocated Worker programs, MGRC conducted 97 hour-long orientation sessions reaching 1,239 persons this program year. The Regional Commission conducted 776 initial meetings with individuals to discuss opportunities for their educational and career paths. While 574 individuals completed full WIA assessments, the program had 124 new enrollments. 277 individuals received services throughout this program year. 122 individuals completed all services and exited the program.
RAPID RESPONSE

The Regional Commission has responsibilities to provide and coordinate Rapid Response services to businesses experiencing lay-offs or closures. Through a number of community partners, employers are able to bring re-employment resources on site when a lay-off or closure occurs. During 2014, MGRC initiated work with the more than 270 employees of the Boeing Company who will be impacted by the completion of the production contract for the C-17 aircraft.

Total New Wages Earned
$1,315,408

Performance

Each Workforce Investment Area has performance measures that are negotiated with the Georgia Department of Economic Development Workforce Division. These measures track the percentage of participants to enter and retain employment, average six-months earnings and educational attainment across all program areas. For 2013, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission exceeded seven of the nine performance measures and satisfactorily met the other two.

Program Highlights

ADULT & DISLOCATED WORKER

Students completing WIA services this program year have become gainfully employed at 27 different Georgia employers such as Bluebird, Medical Center of Central Georgia, First Quality, GEICO, Harrison Electric Services, LLC and Central Georgia Technical College.

YOUTH

Paxen Learning Corporation is the contract service provider for the in-school and out-of-school youth programs. Through both programs, Paxen provided workforce services to 117 youth throughout 2014.

For out-of-school youth, Paxen specializes in an accelerated GED program participants must complete in five weeks. 253 students completed the pre-assessment and 98 were referred to other.

For in-school youth, Paxen focused its programs on students at Northeast, Rutland, Southwest, and Westside High Schools in Macon-Bibb County. Through assistance provided by Paxen, 21 students graduated high school and 26 students were promoted to high school seniors. Students continuing their education are currently enrolled at the following post-secondary institutions including: Central Georgia Technical College, Savannah College of Art and Design, Albany State College, and Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts.