TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Chairman 2
FY 2010 Council 3
FY 2010 Budget 4
Administration 5
Annual Meeting Sponsorship 4-5
Area Agency on Aging 6-7
Economic Development 8-9
Information Technology 10-11
Planning 12-13
Public Administration 14-15
Service Region 16

Middle Georgia Regional Commission

175 Emery Highway, Suite C
Macon, Georgia 31217
(478) 751-6160
(478) 751-6517 FAX
www.middlegeorgiarc.org
A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

By all accounts, FY 2010 was a remarkable year for this organization. Setting the tone was HB 1216, a Bill enacted after the 2008 Legislative Session, which restructured the statewide model for regional planning and development. This law not only changed our name to that of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission, but it also strengthened our ability to serve member local governments more effectively by reaffirming and increasing our existing duties and responsibilities. Per O.C.G.A § 50-8-35, the State now empowers us with the ability to provide local governmental services for, or on behalf of, our member governments. Several counties in Middle Georgia are currently taking advantage of this cost-saving provision by using the Regional Commission to provide GIS-based tax parcel maintenance services for their Tax Assessors’ offices.

While FY 2010 introduced additional challenges to the organization due to a sluggish economy and a resulting series of statewide budget cuts, it did not slow down the activities of the Regional Commission. In fact, I witnessed first-hand a concerted effort on behalf of the staff and its leadership to continue providing the same level of excellence in technical assistance that the member governments have come to expect. I am also pleased to report that the Regional Commission operated efficiently and effectively within its approved budget, having ended the year with a net increase in assets and the fund balance — a remarkable feat, given the fiscal constraints imposed by a difficult economy.

A quick glance to the left of this page highlights just a few of the major initiatives completed by the Regional Commission in FY 2010. I invite you to read and review this Annual Report to learn more about the significant highlights and efforts undertaken by your Regional Commission. In doing so, I think you will discover the tremendous value this organization brings to the region and the State.

Seven Middle Georgia counties of Bibb, Crawford, Houston, Jones, Monroe, Peach, and Twiggs—and their respective municipalities—join together and voluntarily form the Middle Georgia Area Planning Commission.

The Development Corporation of Middle Georgia was created as the small business lending arm of the organization. The DCMG later transitions into Georgia Small Business Lender (GSBL) as it adds more lending programs and goes statewide.

The service boundary of the Middle Georgia RDC is modified to include Baldwin, Jasper, Putnam, and Wilkinson Counties. Later in the year, Pulaski County joins the Middle Georgia RDC as Jasper County becomes part of Northeast Georgia RDC.

The Middle Georgia RDC officially becomes the Middle Georgia Regional Commission in accordance with the requirements set forth by H.B. 1216. The MGRC is one of 12 Regional Commissions serving the State of Georgia.
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.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
- Budget, Audit, and Personnel Committee
- CEDS Committee
- Aging Advisory Committee
- Historic Preservation Advisory Committee

**STANDING COMMITTEES**
- Executive Committee
- Budget, Audit, and Personnel Committee
- CEDS Committee
- Aging Advisory Committee
- Historic Preservation Advisory Committee

**MEETINGS**

**Regular Meetings**
6:00 p.m., second Thursday of each month, excluding July and December.

**Annual Meeting**
Second Thursday of October.
FY 2010 Budget

The Regional Commission is funded by federal, state, and local government contracts. For FY 2010, the total budget for the Middle Georgia Regional Commission was $10,233,442, of which $7,441,415 was pass-through funds. The operating budget for the Regional Commission was $2,792,027. Middle Georgia Regional Commission operates in a fiscally responsible manner and received an unqualified audit opinion with no audit exceptions for FY 2009.

Annual Meeting Sponsorship

GOLD LEVEL
- Central Georgia Joint Development Authority
- Clifton, Lipford, Hardison & Parker, LLC
- Cox Communications
- Flint Energies

SILVER LEVEL
- Carter & Sloope
- Crawford County Development Authority
- Eatonton-Putnam County Chamber of Commerce
- Georgia Foreign Trade Zone 26
- Georgia Power Company
- Georgia Small Business Lender
- Infinity Network Solutions, Inc.
- Ocmulgee Site & Environmental Services, Inc.
- State Bank & Trust Company

BRONZE LEVEL
- Atlantic Southern Bank
- Colony Bank
- ComSouth
- ESRI
- Georgia Duplicating Products
- Northwestern Mutual Benefits
- Sell and Melton
The Administrative Staff of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission often serves as a first point of contact for the agency and provides invaluable support services to the entire organization. Functions for the Administrative Staff are separated into clerical and financial responsibilities. Clerical duties include editing all content and official correspondence from the Regional Commission as well as processing all requests for technical assistance. Administrative staff is also responsible for keeping and transcribing meeting minutes for the Regional Commission Council, Central Georgia Joint Development Authority, the Georgia Small Business Lender, and other Regional Commission/Area Agency on Aging Committees.

Due to the central location of the Regional Commission's office, there are frequent requests for use of the conference rooms for local, state, regional, and federal meetings. All of these meetings are organized and scheduled through Administrative Staff. Lastly, the Department serves as the organization's purchasing department as all procurement is directed through this office.

Managing the day-to-day finances is another primary administrative function. This includes bookkeeping, invoicing, accounting, and payroll for the Regional Commission. Independent financial audits are conducted annually, and it is Administrative Staff's responsibility to coordinate and ensure all records are in compliance with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). Other financial responsibilities include maintenance of all the financial records for the Georgia Small Business Lender. Recently this role was expanded to include this same level of fiduciary support to the Central Georgia Joint Development Authority.
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. As the AAA, the Agency plans and coordinates services and develops resources to assist older and disabled Georgians to remain in their homes for as long as possible; thereby, avoiding premature nursing home placement. The AAA has positioned itself as the single point of entry for older and disabled adults.

Services administered by the AAA include:

- Caregiver Support
- Community Care Services Program (CCSP)
- Congregate Meals
- Elder Abuse/Fraud Prevention
- Elderly Legal Assistance
- GeorgiaCares
- Health Promotion/Wellness
- Home-Delivered Meals
- Homemaker Services
- Information and Assistance
- Kinship Care
- Long-Term Care Ombudsman
- Personal Care
- Respite Care
- Senior Employment Assistance
- Wellness and Nutrition Education

The Agency administers more than five million dollars in federal and state funds provided through the Older Americans Act and the Community Care and Services for the Elderly Act. The largest funded program, the Community Care Services Program (CCSP), is a Medicaid Waiver program. In FY 2010, 744 clients were served in the CCSP, saving more than $17,048 per consumer. The Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) program offers a variety of services to support and assist consumers who are not Medicaid eligible or who opt out of the Medicaid program. In FY 2010, more than 308,053 units of services were provided to these consumers.

2010 Events and Project Highlights

**SENIOR DAY IN THE PARK 2010: Age Strong! Live Long!**

Co-sponsored by the Middle Georgia Area Agency on Aging and Macon Parks and Recreation Department, the 12th Annual Senior Day in the Park was held at Central City Park in Macon. With over 700 seniors in attendance, the day was filled with food, fun, education, and resources for all.

**Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program**

A collaboration between Georgia Department of Community Health, Georgia WIC Program, and Georgia Division of Aging Services, SFMNP provides eligible seniors with checks to purchase fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables. The program expands the awareness and use of farmers’ markets, promotes healthy eating, and increases sales for participating Georgia farmers.
2010 Project Highlights

Processed 45,303 calls through the Gateway/ADRC.

Processed 5,981 requests for information and assistance.

Screened 3,064 persons for services.

Provided funding for 62,579 congregate meals to 433 clients.

Provided funding for 223,879 home-delivered meals to 1,232 frail, homebound clients.

Provided 20,322.5 hours of in-home services (homemaker, personal care, and respite care).

Assisted 682 Medicare beneficiaries in saving $919,746 through the GeorgiaCares Insurance Counseling Program.

Provided case management to 35 individuals on the HCBS waiting list for in-home services, providing 1,338 service hours.

Served 777 persons in the Community Care Services Program (CCSP) at an average cost of $1,214 monthly per person, saving $17,048 per person annually when compared to nursing home care.

Provided education and outreach to 750 seniors and their caregivers during Senior Day in the Park with 30 exhibitors attending.

Conducted 12 Senior Farmers’ Market events, reaching 808 elderly individuals with vouchers to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables.

Standing Left to Right: Todd Gray, Nicole Gaither, Sandra Carson, Merita Evans, Valerie Green, Oretha Dudley, Benae Hogan, Beverly Link

Sitting Left to Right: Julie Hall, Butch Swinney, Ellen Anderson, Geri Ward, Selentria Kendrick, Julia McCutchen, Natalie Prater

Not Pictured Above: Sharon Dawson, Sheila Milikin

Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP)

The CDSMP is an evidence-based program developed by Stanford University, which emphasizes an individual’s role in managing their illness and gives them the confidence and motivation they need to manage the challenges of living with a chronic health condition. Chosen as one of five AAAs in Georgia to receive federal funds for CDSMP, Middle Georgia has implemented CDSMP in Bibb, Peach, and Putnam Counties.

Gateway/ADRC Program

The ADRC is a collaborative effort of the Administration on Aging and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and is designed to streamline access to long-term care services and support for consumers of all ages, incomes, and disabilities, and their families.

Wilkinson County Pilot Breakfast Program

In collaboration with the Board of Commissioners for Wilkinson County, AAA developed and implemented a pilot breakfast program to serve approximately 30 home-delivered meal clients identified as being at high nutritional risk. During the six-month pilot, participants received a cold breakfast meal for the next morning along with the delivery of the hot midday meal. A caregiver of an 80-year-old said, “Sometimes, Granny forgets to eat. The breakfast being delivered helps us to keep her on track.”
Economic Development

The Middle Georgia Regional Commission, designated an Economic Development District by the U.S. Department of Commerce, provides an array of economic development services to its member governments.

The Regional Commission assists member governments and local economic development agencies with estimating the impact of locating a company in a given community utilizing the Local Economic Impact Analysis (LOCI) and the Tax Revenue Impact Model.

Industrial recruitment services offered include providing demographic information requested by prospects; meeting with prospects; mapping of available properties and buildings; negotiating and 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.

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. In addition, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission staff provides targeted economic development strategic planning assistance for member governments.

Support of the region’s largest employer and Georgia’s largest industrial complex, Robins Air Force Base, is also a focus for the Regional Commission primarily through the 21st Century Partnership. The Regional Commission maintains housing, healthcare, and education data associated with Robins AFB and updates the economic impact multiplier annually.

The small business loan programs operated by the RC and its affiliate, Georgia Small Business Lender (GSBL), are another important tool to help promote economic growth in the region. GSBL, created by the RC in 1982, is a private nonprofit corporation and serves as the lending arm of the agency. Designated as a Certified Development Corporation, GSBL is licensed to make SBA loans to businesses throughout Georgia. There are four loan programs, each with different regulatory requirements, but with the same goals of job creation and private investment. In addition to the four programs, GSBL also acts as the servicing agent for the Crawford County Employment Incentive Program (EIP) Revolving Loan Fund.

2010 Events and Project Highlights

- Developed Wilkinson County Economic Development Strategic Plan.
- Secured funding for the Southeastern Regional Headquarters of Little League.
- Secured funding for the Joint Air Cargo project.
- Developed marketing brochure for Twiggs County Industrial Park.
- Established the Middle Georgia Foreign Trade Zone and conducted training for local Economic Development professionals.
- Developed Request for Qualifications (ROQ) for Houston Development Authority Property Assessment.
- Developed and implemented program for the acquisition of incompatible land use surrounding Robins Air Force Base in Houston and Bibb Counties.
- Updated economic impact multiplier for Robins Air Force Base.
Since 1982, Georgia Small Business Lender (GSBL) has made 204 business loans totaling $51,000,000. The businesses assisted have invested $165,665,000 and created or saved over 2000 jobs. In FY 2010, GSBL closed seven loans for a total of $1,418,000. Those businesses invested nearly $4,000,000 and will create 30 jobs.

Small Business Administration 504

The SBA 504 Loan helps small businesses in obtaining financing for hard assets (land, building, and equipment with a useful life of ten years or more). Under the program, a private sector lender lends the applicant up to 50 percent of the eligible project cost. The small business contributes at least 10 percent of the project cost (start-up businesses or special purpose facilities must contribute 15 percent; businesses that are both a start-up and are located in a special purpose facility must contribute 20 percent). The borrower obtains the remaining 30 percent to 40 percent from the SBA. The interest rate on the SBA loan is fixed for the term of the loan; and depending on the collateral, the borrower has a choice of 10 or 20 years for the term.

GA Rural Healthcare Revolving Loan Fund

The goal of the RLF is to sustain and increase access to healthcare, as well as improve the quality of healthcare in rural and underserved areas of Georgia. Providers can obtain financing for primarily hard assets with a useful life of ten years or more. The RLF can finance working capital provided there is sufficient collateral to secure the loan. The private sector lender lends the applicant up to 50 percent of the eligible project cost. The applicant contributes at least 10 percent of the project cost with the RLF lending the remaining 40 percent. The interest rate and term of the loan are determined by the Loan Review Committee and depends on the project and the assets being financed.

US EDA Revolving Loan Fund

The EDA RLF helps businesses in obtaining financing for primarily hard assets with a useful life of ten years or more. Under certain circumstances, the EDA RLF will finance working capital provided there is sufficient collateral to secure the loan. The program partners with private sector lenders to fund projects. The typical funding scenario is the private sector lender lends the applicant up to 57 percent of the eligible project cost. The applicant contributes at least 10 percent of the project cost with the RLF lending the remaining 40 percent. The interest rate and term of the loan are determined by the Loan Review Committee and depends on the project and the assets being financed.

Rural Development Revolving Loan Fund

The Rural Development RLF assists businesses located in rural areas of the region in securing financing for primarily hard assets with a useful life of ten years or more. The RLF will finance working capital provided there is sufficient collateral to secure the loan. The program partners with private sector lenders to fund projects. Typically, the private sector lender lends the applicant up to 50 percent of the eligible project cost. The applicant contributes at least 10 percent of the project cost with the RLF lending the remaining 40 percent. The interest rate and term of the loan are determined by the Loan Review Committee and depends on the project and the assets being financed.

Loan Program Highlights

GSBL began working with Eugina and Rico Smith in 2006 to help them with their dream of opening a daycare facility in Milledgeville. GSBL used the SBA 504 loan program to secure financing to assist with the purchase of the land and the construction of a 5,000-square-foot facility on Blandy Road in Milledgeville.

In the Fall of 2009, Edward and Diane Vogel approached GSBL about their plan to purchase the assets of Georgia School Supply. Georgia School Supply has been in operation since 1968 and at its location for 21 years. The SBA 504 program helped the Vogels purchase the assets of this business.

Dr. Rhonda Thompson is an optometrist in Perry, Georgia. She opened her practice in 2002. Her business grew to the point where she needed to move to a larger facility. GSBL assisted her purchase and renovation of a building using the EDA Revolving Loan Fund.

Imedia has its roots in Macon dating back to 1863 as a printing company. The business has expanded beyond printing to include graphics design, publishing, and web publishing. GSBL used the SBA 504 loan program to help David Canady purchase the business.

GSBL Officers
Gregory J. Dent, President
W. L. Brown, Vice President
Marvin Reid, Secretary/Treasurer

Web Resources:

US Small Business Administration
http://www.sba.gov

USDA Rural Development
http://www.rudev.usda.gov

Small Business Development Center
http://www.sbdc.uga.edu

Georgia Small Business Lender
http://www.gsbl.org
Information Technology

The Middle Georgia Regional Commission provides Information Technology (IT) services to its member governments in the areas of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping analysis, Global Positioning Systems (GPS) data collection, multimedia development, graphical design, printing, and general technical support. In addition, the RC offers a wide range of technology-based consultant services, including training and implementation strategies. This diversity of IT services offered by the RC provides its membership with access to advanced technologies designed to maximize efficiency by enhancing the decision-making process on the local level.

The communities of Middle Georgia make extensive use of Information Technology services. A combination of GIS analysis and GPS data collection techniques provide local governments with access to customized maps, geospatial analytics, and related visualizations of the real world that enhance decision-making. The RC provides a wide range of GIS and GPS services to other entities, including state and federal agencies, whose end products either directly or indirectly benefit its member governments. Geospatial services are provided to aid initiatives in planning, transportation, economic development, asset management, route optimizations, and public safety. Member governments often benefit from using the RC regional GIS/GPS analytical and data management services as they realize cost savings and return on investment (ROI) relating to service provision.

Other technology services include multimedia development, database programming, graphic illustration, and a wide variety of printing services. The RC develops web sites and portals for local government and related entities to disseminate information to the public. In addition, custom content management systems (CMS) are created to permit member governments to maintain and update their own sites. The RC specializes in database administration and integration of incongruent systems into working models. Member governments have access to a broad range of graphics development, custom printing, and digital media distribution services. The RC provides an innovative paperless system for deploying custom applications, including digital reports and data, that offers a greener alternative to hardcopy distribution. Finally, the RC hosts a highly available virtualized server infrastructure based on the Microsoft Hyper-V R2 platform that extends the ability of its member local governments to host and publish digital spatial and related media content via the Internet. This advanced network infrastructure will ensure access to new and emerging technologies for years to come.

2010 Events and Project Highlights

Extending IT into the Region

The RC extended its Information Technology outreach services during FY 2010 by providing technology-based services in the region. RC staff conducted mobile technology workshops in Fort Valley, provided technical assistance to support the AAA-sponsored Georgia Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program, and assisted the City of Perry by renovating its existing website.

Information Technology as an Innovative Solution

When used effectively, GIS can be a strong tool for maximizing efficiency and reducing costs in local government service provision. In FY 2010, the RC used the spatial analysis capabilities of its regional GIS to optimize solid waste collection routes for the City of Macon. Furthermore, the RC entered into a landmark multi-year Enterprise License Agreement (ELA) with ESRI to ensure its continued access to best-of-class GIS software—at no additional cost to member governments.
### 2010 Project Highlights

**Completed the 2010 Decennial Census programs (BAS, PSAP, CCC, New Construction, Review/Appeal Program, and LUCA Closeout Program) for all member governments.**

**Completed a solid waste collection route optimization study for the City of Macon Public Works Department using a combination of GIS mapping and GPS data collection technology.**

**Participated in the negotiation and execution of a regional Enterprise License Agreement (ELA) for the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC).**

**Implemented offline data collection services to provide member governments with the ability to inventory and map features directly into the RC regional GIS database.**

**Acquired the ability to publish online GIS maps using the Web Feature Service (WFS) protocol in compliance with the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) Internet map publishing standard.**

**Created a web-based application to distribute and install digital versions of Hazard Mitigation Plans to member local governments.**

**Designed and printed the following documents: Hodac Strategic Plan, GSBL Annual Report, MGR Annual Report, Milledgeville Parking Brochure, I-16 Corridor Flyer, and Douglass Theatre Advertisements.**

**Worked collaboratively with the Public Administration Department to develop a Water Rate Structure Spreadsheet for the City of Irwinton to enable accurate water usage and billing.**

**Retrofitted the database structure of the online WEL-STROM application to fully comply with the Digital Health Department application used by the State of Georgia.**

**Mapped the Oconee River Corridor with selected historic sites highlighting the greenway and river walk in Milledgeville and sites along the Oconee for the Oconee River Greenway Authority.**

**Assisted the City of Macon by providing maps of boundaries of Shalom Zones—a program designed to empower people to make changes in their community.**

**Designed and published web sites with customized content management systems (CMS) for the Jones County Superior Court, the City of Perry, and the Town of Payne City.**

### Regional Enterprise License Agreement

FY 2010 brought about the culmination of a multi-year negotiation process resulting in the execution of an Enterprise License Agreement (ELA) between the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) and the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC). This landmark agreement is the first ever of its kind between a regional development organization and ESRI—one of the leading GIS software vendors in the world. Benefits of the ELA include three-year unlimited access to best-of-class GIS software and instructor-led training for each RC in the State of Georgia. Most importantly, the overall impact of the regional ELA will be the increased levels of mapping and spatial analysis services provided to the RC member governments.

### Server Virtualization Infrastructure

The RC significantly upgraded its computer network during FY 2010. The infrastructure upgrade involved the migration of all physical network servers to a two-node virtualization environment based on the Microsoft Hyper-V R2 platform. The newly virtualized network was designed to reduce the chances of catastrophic data loss caused by hardware failures. The new system is greener and is expected to reduce the total carbon footprint of the RC via decreased power consumption, lower labor-based maintenance costs, and server resource maximization. Most importantly, the new system will build capacity to implement future technologies—particularly those involving a movement to cloud-based computing.
The Middle Georgia Regional Commission’s Planning Department provides a wide variety of planning-related services to its member local governments. Employing both local and regional approaches, the Regional Commission provides short and long-range planning services in the areas of land use, transportation, historic preservation, and environment. Through the provision of these services, the Planning Department assists local governments in their efforts to maintain community character and enhance livability while accommodating growth and development.

In the area of land use, the Planning Department provides local comprehensive planning assistance and review to include the update of existing plans, Short-Term Work Programs (STWP), and Service Delivery Strategies (SDS). Regional efforts include annual update of the Regional Agenda, preparation of a Regionally Important Resources (RIR) Plan, and reviews of all Developments of Regional Impact (DRIs).

In Partnership with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), the Planning Department assists local governments in the areas of Rural Public Transit Planning, Scenic Byways Program, Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning, Transportation Enhancement Program, Safe Routes to School Program, and Historic Resources.

Additionally, the Planning Department administers the Department of Human Services (DHS) Coordinated Transportation Program in the 11-county Middle Georgia region. The Regional Commission is responsible for ensuring the provision of subcontracted transportation services for consumers of the Division of Aging Services, Family and Children Services, Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities/Addictive Diseases, Public Health, and the Department of Labor’s Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program.

The Planning Department also partners with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Historic Preservation Division and the Environmental Protection Division in order to afford local governments services and capabilities related to historic preservation and environmental planning.

**2010 Events and Project Highlights**

**Enduring Farmlands Scenic Byway**

Staff prepared a Corridor Management Plan for the proposed Enduring Farmlands Georgia Scenic Byway that runs from the City of Hawkinsville in Pulaski County into neighboring Wilcox County and through the Cities of Abbeville, Pineview, and Rochelle. This important initiative involved partnering with the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission to assist participating communities through the entire designation process.

**Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plans**

Working collaboratively with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA), staff revised and updated Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plans for Bibb, Houston, Jones, Monroe, and Pulaski Counties. Staff also prepared Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant applications for update and revision of plans for six additional Middle Georgia communities: Baldwin, Crawford, Peach, Putnam, Twiggs, and Wilkinson Counties.
2010 Project Highlights

Amended Floodplain Management Regulations for Pulaski County and the City of Hawkinsville as necessitated by issue of a new FEMA Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), ensuring continued community eligibility in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Provided assistance with the consolidation of the Crawford County and City of Roberta Zoning and Land Development Regulations.

Assisted with facilitation of the Annual Jones County People Looking Ahead Now (PLAN) Retreat.

Prepared Multi-Modal Transit Assessments for Baldwin and Houston Counties.

As Advisory Committee members, staff provided technical guidance and recommendations for the GDOT-initiated Southwest Georgia Multi-County Transportation Study, which includes Peach County.

Provided Transportation Enhancement Program support for 15 projects in nine communities.

Completed an update to the Socio-Economic Database for the Warner Robins Area Transportation Study (WRATS).

Supported Bibb County’s Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program by participating in Appling Middle School’s walk-to-school event and rally.

Provided assistance and recommendations to GDOT consultants during update of the Statewide Coordinated Public Transit—Human Services Transportation Plan.

Developed a Strategic Plan and Short-Term Work Program for the Crawford County Historical Society.

Prepared a National Register Nomination for the Georgia Post building located in the unincorporated Knoxville area of Crawford County.

Prepared Preserve America Community Designation applications for the City of Hawkinsville and Crawford County.

Conducted a series of training workshops for the Hawkinsville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) on a variety of preservation-related topics.

Working with the Middle Georgia Historic Preservation Advisory Committee (HPAC), updated and extensively expanded the Historic Middle Georgia web site.

Contracted with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division (EPD) for preparation of two Watershed Improvement Plans for impacted stream segments in the Middle Georgia Region.

Amended Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinances for Baldwin County, Pulaski County, and the City of Hawkinsville to ensure compliance with the recently amended Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act.

Completed an in-depth review of all local Comprehensive Plans for identification of water management practices in support of the Georgia Comprehensive Statewide Water Management Plan.

Provided assistance to the Upper Oconee and Middle Ocmulgee Water Planning Councils.

Important regional planning documents such as the Regional Plan and the Regionally Important Resources Plan are available at the Regional Commission’s web site: [www.middlegeorgiarc.org](http://www.middlegeorgiarc.org)

Other helpful links:
- Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian [www.middlegeorgiabikeped.org](http://www.middlegeorgiabikeped.org)
- Historic Middle Georgia [www.historicmiddlegeorgia.org](http://www.historicmiddlegeorgia.org)
Public Administration

Through the technical assistance process, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission’s Public Administration Department provides professional and tailored services to meet the needs of our diverse communities in a timely manner. The Department serves as an extension of local governments’ staff in community development, personnel services, grant writing, project administration, and general local government operational assistance.

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 standard of living for citizens.

Regional Commission staff assists local governments with Personnel Administration through the development of job descriptions, policies, and salary surveys, as well as the selection of candidates for local government positions.

Staff is available not only to assist in the development of projects and plans, but also to assist local governments in researching potential funding sources, grant writing, and project administration. Grant services are not limited to state and federal programs such as Community Development Block Grant and Recreational Trails but include private foundations as well. During FY 2010, $4,947,229 was awarded to cities and counties for grant applications prepared with the assistance of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission.

As an extension of local government staff, the Regional Commission is available to assist local governments with specialized technical assistance. Such assistance is greatly varied, reaching from general budget preparation to researching the practices and policies of other local governments.

The Department also serves as a repository for demographic data relevant to the Middle Georgia Region. This information includes plans, studies, population data, housing information, educational data, labor/economic statistics, and other data sets.

2010 Events and Project Highlights

Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH)

During 2010, staff assisted the Cities of Hawkinsville and Eatonton and Jones County during various stages of the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH). This Program offers communities a three-year collaboration and technical assistance related to housing and community development.

Hodac Strategic Planning Retreat

At the request of Houston County, MGRC staff worked with Hodac, Inc. to develop a five-year strategic plan. The strategic planning process included facilitation of a Board retreat, which was hosted at the Regional Commission offices, followed by the development of goals and strategies for the next five years.
2010 Project Highlights

Established Eatonton Opportunity Zone, Redevelopment Plan, and Revitalization Area Strategy.

Prepared Woofolk Recreation Feasibility Study for the City of Fort Valley.

Completed housing assessment for the City of Hawkinsville.

Prepared workforce housing strategy for Milledgeville.

Prepared Revitalization Area Strategy application for Hawkinsville.

Completed analysis of parking in downtown Milledgeville.

Assisted Monroe County Sheriff’s Department with CALEA certification.

Assisted the City of Perry with Personnel Policy Revisions.

Recruited and interviewed candidates for Crawford County Recreation Director.

Completed revisions to the pay plan for Crawford County.

Prepared six CDBG applications.

Assisted City of Irwinton with a funding strategy to repair primary municipal well.

Prepared a Water Ordinance for the City of Allentown.

Analyzed potential impact on the proposed locations of the Bibb County Courthouse.

Developed Five-Year Strategic Plan for Hodac, Inc.

Prepared Annexation Plan for the City of Irwinton.

Established Road Prioritization Program for Putnam County.

Developed and implemented Request for Proposals process for the Georgia-Robins Aerospace Maintenance Partnership (G-RAMP project).

Prepared Five-Year Consolidated Plan for the City of Warner Robins.

Researched transit system operations in Georgia on behalf of Bibb County.

Prepared and published the Middle Georgia Economic Profile.

Developed Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for solid waste collection in Crawford County.

Developed Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Monroe County administrative building.

Provided training for local government officials in Northeast Georgia on Redevelopment Plans and Opportunity Zones.

Assisted Baldwin County with the recruitment and selection of a County Attorney.

Grant Awards

While the PA Department serves the Middle Georgia Region in many different facets, one of the Department’s most visible services is grant writing and administration. A total of 53 grant applications were submitted on behalf of 22 communities during FY 2010.

Middle Georgia communities, with the help of RC Staff, successfully secured $4,947,229. Approximately 72% of the funding was Federal with the remaining 28% allocated at the State level. Additionally, the Department provided administration for 11 grant-funded projects.
MGRC Service Region

Counties
Baldwin
Bibb
Crawford
Jones
Houston
Monroe

Peach
Pulaski
Putnam
Twiggs
Wilkinson

Cities
Allentown
Byron
Centerville
Culloden
Danville
Eatonton
Forsyth
Fort Valley
Gordon
Gray
Hawkinsville
Irwinton
Ivey
Jeffersonville
Macon
McIntyre
Milledgeville
Payne City
Perry
Roberta
Toomsboro
Warner Robins
This Annual Report was produced by the Middle Georgia Regional Commission.

175 Emery Highway, Suite C | Macon, Georgia 31217
(478) 751-6160 | (478) 751-6517 FAX
www.middlegeorgiarc.org