

In the REGION

SGRC Council Updates

SGRC Council Member News

During the first meeting of the 2019 calendar year of the Southern Georgia Regional Commission's (SGRC) Council held on January 24th, Chair Joyce Evans swore in the following new members:



(left) Cook County Chairman, Lindsey Parrish; Berrien County Commissioner, Ronnie Gaskins; and Coffee County Chairman, Jimmy Kitchens

(right) Brooks County Chairman, James Maxwell, with Chair Joyce Evans



(left) Blackshear Mayor Pro-Tem, Keith Brooks, Representing Pierce County with Chair Joyce Evans



Regional Calendar

February 2019

⇒ 28 RC Council Meeting, Pearson

March 2019

⇒ 6-8th GMA Newly Elected Officials Institute, Tifton

⇒ 28 RC Council Meeting, Pearson

April 2019

⇒ 26 ACCG Annual Conference, Savannah

⇒ 25 RC Council Meeting, Pearson

Staff Attends World's Largest Transportation Conference



In January, SGRC Director of Transportation and Environmental Programs, Corey Hull, AICP, attended the National Academies' Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. Mr. Hull is the current chair of the TRB's Joint Subcommittee on Transportation in Military Communities. This committee works to identify research topics in local communities that can be studied to improve transportation and mobility to, from and in communities surrounding military installations. This subcommittee met and discussed ways to improve transportation using emerging technologies, like automated vehicles, services

like Uber and Lyft, bike sharing, and drone delivery around military bases; and to provide access for veterans to needed transportation options like jobs and healthcare, especially in rural communities.

Key takeaways from the conference included sessions on the development of GIS-based environmental resource mapping tools, ways to improve transportation performance measure analysis and reporting, and improving outreach to transportation resources for older adults. Over the next few months Corey will be working to implement some of these lessons learned in programs that will impact transportation and environmental programs in southern Georgia.

The conference included 5,000 presentations at nearly 800 sessions and attracted more than 13,000 transportation professionals. For more information about this event or about the SGRC's Transportation and Environmental Programs contact Corey Hull at chull@sgrc.us or at 229-333-5277.



2019 TRB ANNUAL MEETING
CONVENING THE TRANSPORTATION COMMUNITY FOR 98 YEARS
January 13–17, 2019 > Washington, D.C.

SGRC Area Agency on Aging to Provide Home Delivered Meals In Valdosta and Lowndes County



For many years, staff members of the Southern Georgia Regional Commission's Area Agency on Aging (AAA) were unhappy about a major service delivery gap. Seventeen of the area's eighteen counties have home delivered meals programs which are partially funded by the Regional Commission's AAA. However, in Lowndes County, the area's most populous county, the AAA's only home delivered meals presence is a program operated by the City of Hahira for its residents. This leaves the City of Valdosta and most of Lowndes County unserved.

When additional state and federal funding for services was received in FY2019, AAA staff began to seriously explore options for a Lowndes County home delivered meals program. After a few unsuccessful approaches, AAA staff members are excited to report that they are currently in the final stages of contract negotiations with Middle Flint Council on Aging to provide

and deliver frozen meals in the City of Valdosta and in Lowndes County (with the exception of the City of Hahira). The contract's tentative start date is March.

The frozen meals will be delivered once per week to eligible homebound participants who are aged 60 and over. Prior to beginning the program, potential participants will undergo an in-home assessment conducted by a nurse or social worker acting as a case manager. The case manager will determine if the individual meets the state's definition of "homebound." If the client is determined to be eligible, the case manager will make a decision, based on the client's situation, about the number of meals to be delivered each week. Clients will have the ability to choose meals from a menu, which will also include breakfast options. Shelf stable meals will be available for clients without freezer space and/or the ability to heat frozen meals. During the assessment, case management staff will also screen for other potential services if needed and appropriate.

AAA staff only recently began compiling a list of potential home delivered meals clients residing in Valdosta and Lowndes County so the list is small. If you are aware of anyone in the new home delivered meals service area who needs meals and might qualify, please call the Southern Georgia Regional Commission's Area Agency on Aging at 1-888-732-4464 to make a referral.

SGRC Loan Program Celebrates Ribbon Cutting



The Georgia Beer Company celebrated the completion of their production facility in

Valdosta on Thursday, January 31 with a ribbon cutting. The grand opening to the South Georgia public was held Monday, February 4th complete with tours of the brewery, beer sampling, and local food trucks for patrons to enjoy.

The SGRC partnered with Commercial Banking Company, the Valdosta-Lowndes Development Authority and the City of Valdosta to renovate the old water works building in downtown Valdosta. Georgia Beer Company is owned by Chris Jones and J. Ryce Martin. The 10 barrel,

stainless steel brewing plant was manufactured, delivered, and installed specifically for their brewery. Georgia Beer Company will mass produce several popular types of craft beer including India Pale Ales, Stouts, Blondes, Wheats, Bitters, and even some Ciders. Patrons visiting the brewery are encouraged to take a tour led by one of the brew-masters and learn about the brewery and craft beer production from start to finish.

Stop by and check out South Georgia's microbrewery at 109 S. Briggs Street in downtown Valdosta. Tasting Room is currently open 4:00pm-9:00pm Monday-Thursday, 4:00pm-10:00pm Friday, 12:00pm-10:00pm Saturday, and 12:30pm-6:00pm Sunday.

Visit their website at:

<http://www.georgiabeercompany.com/>

or check them out on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/georgiabeerco/>.



Lanier and Atkinson County Transit Development Plans

The Southern Georgia Regional Commission, in coordination with the Georgia Department of Transportation has developed a 5-year Transit Development Plan for Lanier County. The Lanier County Transportation Development Plan (TDP) analyzes socioeconomic data as well as transit data from comparable peer counties to help local officials, staff, and the community better understand the characteristics of public transit and how transit may impact different demographics.

Currently, Lanier and Atkinson Counties do not have a rural public transit system. Each county's Transit Development Plan serves as a guidebook and feasibility study to help local officials when deciding whether or not to implement a single-county public rural transit system. These TDP's also provide information for a regional public transit system as a viable alternative. Should a regional system be implemented, each county would be given the option to opt in or out of the system.

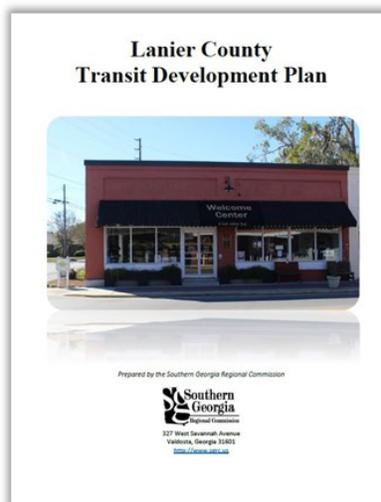
The information provided within the TDP is gathered and analyzed data from the US Census, National Transit Database, and existing service data (Human Services Department). This data is used throughout the TDP and offers a more detailed view of what possible transit trends within the community may look like if a rural transit system is implemented. The data is also used to calculate the projected ridership trend, as well as a 5-year analysis of future need and demand for public transit. Based on potential ridership projections, the

SGRC provides budgetary recommendations specific to Lanier County regarding future capital and operating expenses.

Transit Development Plans are one of the many ways that the Southern Georgia Regional Commission helps local communities understand the benefits of rural public transit service.

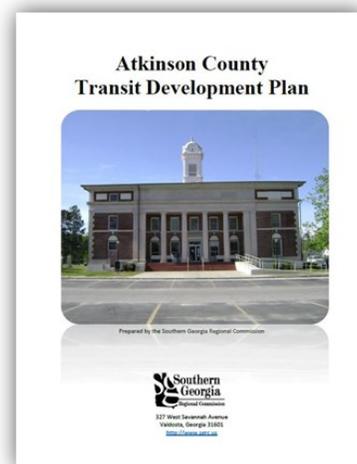
TDP's also provide and analyze various factors, such as the number of residents who are deal-

ing with ambulatory difficulty and who have limited English proficiency, and have limited access to a motor vehicle. Such data helps local elected officials make informed decisions concerning whether or not to

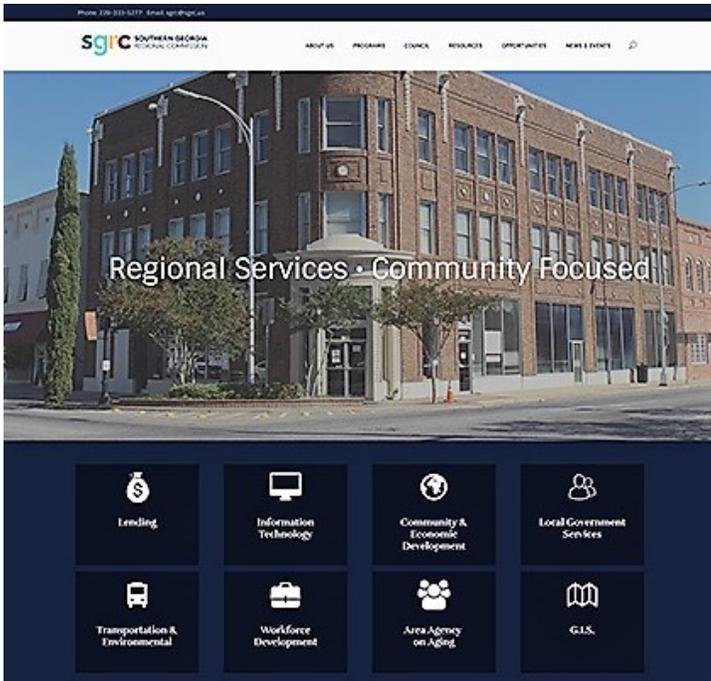


implement a single-county or regional rural public transit system as well as identify issues in existing transit service to better serve the community.

For more information about the Lanier County Transit Development Plan, please contact JD Dillard at jdillard@srgc.us or by phone at 229-333-5277.



SOUTHERN GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION LAUNCHES UPGRADED WEBSITE



The Southern Georgia Regional Commission (SGRC) announces the launch of an upgraded website www.sgrc.us to make it easier for member governments and citizens to explore and connect to the SGRC's programs.

SGRC's website is now mobile friendly, features better navigation and search functionality, and provides a refreshed design of SGRC's programs that serve the 18-county region. Among the service areas highlighted on this new website are local government planning, economic and workforce development, small business lending, G.I.S. community mapping tools, and services for the region's older adults.

"The mission of the Regional Commission is to effectively implement and administer programs that assist our local governments towards a higher quality of life for all Southern

Georgians" explains Lisa Cribb, SGRC Executive Director. "The SGRC's new website ensures that information and resources are easy to access."

The overall goal of the website improvements is to give site visitors access to information in a more user-friendly layout as well as incorporating other features such as an event calendar and connectivity with SGRC's news and social media. SGRC enlisted Fusion Creative Marketing to create the new layout and content for the website.

Visit the website www.sgrc.us to learn more about the SGRC and its programs and follow them on Facebook to stay connected with the latest news and projects that are improving the lives of Southern Georgians.

Southern Georgia Regional Commission is a regional planning and intergovernmental coordination agency which serves 45 municipalities and 18 counties in South Georgia. SGRC's mission is to effectively and efficiently oversee the implementation and administration of programs and services that assist local governments, resulting in an improved quality of life for Southern Georgians. SGRC serves 63 local governments across the counties of Atkinson, Bacon, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brantley, Brooks, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Cook, Echols, Irwin, Lanier, Lowndes, Pierce, Tift, Turner, and Ware.

New Ware County Admin Building Uses Stormwater BMP's for Parking

The ability of concrete, bricks, and asphalt to withstand the elements make these materials excellent for building. Unfortunately, it's that same quality which makes these materials contributors to flooding, surface water pollution, and even erosion. Natural environments provide various porous surfaces for absorption of rainwater. Porous surfaces increase soil saturation, water availability for plants, add to groundwater, recharge aquifers, help filter out pollutants, and reduce the velocity and quantity of water flowing into waterways. In urbanized areas these surfaces are overtaken by non-permeable construction, eliminating natural drainage functions. Urbanized areas require stormwater engineering and yet are still vulnerable to problems with stormwater, to include flooding and pollution of local waterways. Engineers have recognized the benefits of permeable surfaces and are increasingly finding ways to incorporate them into their designs. Such surfaces include turf, gravel, mulched/planting beds, and permeable pavers.

Throughout our region we can expect to see more and more of these permeable surfaces. One such example is the parking lot at the new Ware County administration building. The top picture to the right shows a typical, non-permeable parking area, and to the immediate right, is the new permeable lot. What are your thoughts?

For more information on how your community can implement stormwater best management practices contact Erica McLelland, SGRC Environmental Project Manager at 229-333-5277 or emclelland@sgrc.us.



Pictured above is a typical parking area



Pictured above is a permeable surface lot

Meetings start at 11:00 a.m.
Sports Complex & Civic Center in
Pearson, GA

Thursday, March 28

Thursday, April 25

Thursday, May 23

Thursday, June 27

No Meeting - July

Thursday, August 22

Thursday, September 26

October – No meeting

Area Officials Appreciation Dinner -

Thursday, October 24

(subject to change)

November – No meeting
(combined with December

meeting)

Thursday, December 12

(subject to change)



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