

In the REGION

Kimberly Hobbs Elected to the National Association of Development Organizations Board of Directors

Washington, DC, May 30, 2024 – Kimberly Hobbs, Executive Director of the Southern Georgia Regional Commission, was recently elected to the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Board of Directors for the 2024-2026 term. Kimberly represents the Southeast Region on the 66-member Board.

The NADO Board of Directors oversees the association’s budget and operations and develops policy on issues affecting Regional Development Organizations (RDOs). The organization was founded in 1967 to provide training, information, and representation for RDOs throughout the United States. Today, NADO member organizations serve local governments and the public within their regions through various programs focused on diversifying local economies, assisting businesses, creating jobs, and providing social services.

“We are honored to have Kimberly Hobbs serve on NADO’s Board of Directors. Kimberly brings a wealth of expertise, knowledge, and leadership on regional community and economic development issues to the national



Kimberly Hobbs

level,” stated NADO Executive Director Joe McKinney. “Most importantly, Kimberly is focused on helping our nation’s local communities pursue comprehensive regional strategies for remaining economically competitive in today’s rapidly changing global environment.”

NADO’s Board includes members that represent a broad section of the United States including the Eastern, Central, Midwestern,

continued on next page

The Southern Georgia Regional Commission proudly serves Atkinson, Bacon, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brantley, Brooks, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Cook, Echols, Irwin, Lanier, Lowndes, Pierce, Tift, Turner, and Ware Counties.

SOUTHERN GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Kimberly Hobbs Elected to the National Association of Development Organizations Board of Directors (continued)

Southeastern, Southwestern and Western regions. The 2024-2026 term runs through the association's Annual Business Meeting held in conjunction with NADO's Annual Training Conference in Reno, NV in October 2026.

To contact Kimberly Hobbs, email kkhobbs@sgrc.us or call 229-333-5277. Visit www.sgrc.us to read more about the Southern Georgia Regional Commission. To learn more about NADO's Board of Directors, visit nado.org/board.

About NADO

The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) promotes public policies that strengthen local governments, communities, and economies through the regional strategies, coordination efforts, and program expertise of the nation's regional development organizations. Learn more about NADO at www.nado.org.



National Association of Development Organizations

122 C Street NW, Suite 830 | Washington, DC 20001

nado.org

Area Agency on Aging

SGRC-AAA Staff Attend 2024 Healthy Aging Conference



Attendees from the SGRC-AAA are pictured (Left to Right)

Tyler Hayes and Sabrina Carver, Aging and Disability Resource Connection Counselors, Angela Swinford, Community Transitions Program Manager, Linda Gail, Aging Program Manager, Shawn Taylor, Assistant Director of Aging Services

Southern Georgia Regional Commission – Area Agency on Aging (SGRC-AAA) staff recently attended the 2024 Georgia Department of Human Services- Division of Aging Services – “Healthy Aging Conference.” The Conference held at the Atlanta Evergreen Lakeside Resort in Stone Mountain on June 3rd – 5th provided numerous education and training sessions regarding aging programs and resources.

Shawn Taylor received two prestigious awards during the Conference for her contributions to the aging network. She received the Excellence in Sustainability Award and the Arnisha Norman Award, which recognizes a person who has shown excellence in wellness and nutrition programs during the past year.



Transportation Planning/VLMPO

TSPLOST Renewed in the Southern Georgia Region

T-SPLOST Southern GA May 21, 2024 Vote				
County	YES Votes	NO Votes	TOTAL	% YES
Atkinson	311	115	426	73.00%
Bacon	1139	667	1806	63.07%
Ben Hill	1579	963	2542	62.12%
Berrien	1641	851	2492	65.85%
Brantley	948	1230	2178	43.53%
Brooks	933	691	1624	57.45%
Charlton	961	771	1732	55.48%
Clinch	1013	516	1529	66.25%
Coffee	3904	2808	6712	58.16%
Cook	1133	670	1803	62.84%
Echols	316	244	560	56.43%
Irwin	1226	599	1825	67.18%
Lanier	919	541	1460	62.95%
Lowndes	4974	4644	9618	51.72%
Pierce	1580	1242	2822	55.99%
Tift	1650	1154	2804	58.84%
Turner	962	596	1558	61.75%
Ware	1777	2248	4025	44.15%
Totals:	26966	20550	47516	56.75%

During the special election held on May 21, 2024, Southern Georgia residents voted to renew the Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST). This TSPLOST is expected to begin in 2026. The tax rate will remain at 8% as this is a renewal and not a new tax.

TSPLOST is a part of the Transportation Investment Act (TIA) and provides a special process for regions in Georgia to fund community-selected transportation projects. The process for the upcoming TIA for the Southern Georgia region began in November of 2022 with the majority of counties in South Georgia

passing a resolution to initiate the TIA process.

The SGRC Transportation Department worked closely with the stakeholders to develop the Final Investment List. The total project investment for the second TSPLOST will be \$669.9 million. 75% of the region's proceeds will be used to fund projects identified on the Final Investment List and 25% of the collected revenue will go towards local discretionary funds. There will be a continuation of the LMIG match at 10%. Discretionary funds can be used for transportation projects of a local government's choosing, including airports, roads, bike lanes, and more. For more information concerning TSPLOST or any other Transportation initiative, please feel free to contact Torrence Weaver, Transportation Planner, at tweaver@sgrc.us or Amy Martin, Transportation Director, at amartin@sgrc.us.



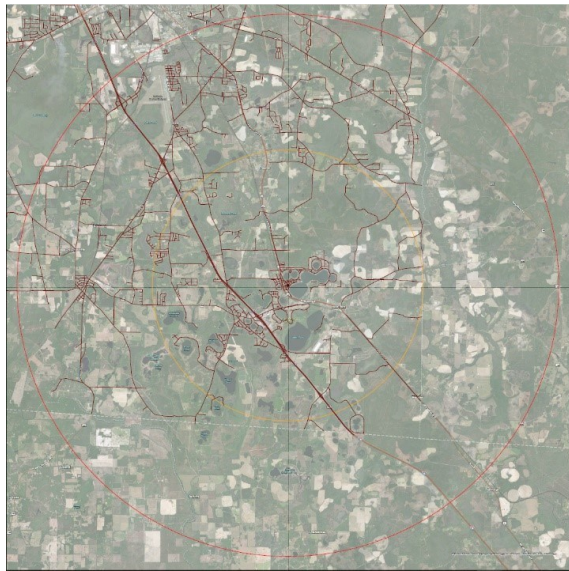
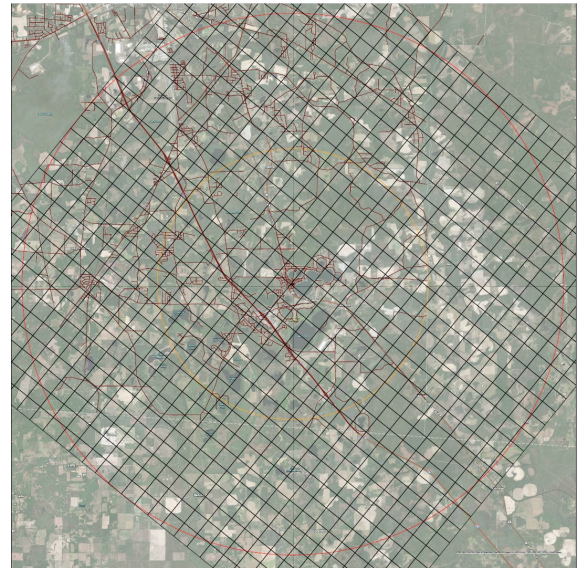
Pictured Right - SGRC Transportation Director Amy Martin shows a location map representing the Special District for the TSPLOST. Martin is pictured with SGRC Planner Torrence Weaver.

Geographic Information Systems

GIS Assists in Search and Rescue

Did you know that GIS assists with Search and Rescue? Since the start of 2024, SGRC's GIS Team has been called upon twice to assist in the location of missing persons. At the request of local law enforcement, the GIS team quickly mobilized and was able to prep, print and be on site to assist in the search and rescue efforts.

The first incident occurred on a Monday morning, as an individual was missing at Ulmer's Pond in South East Valdosta. First responders contacted GIS for mapping and drone support in the early morning hours, as they renewed the search for the missing person. Arriving quickly, GIS provided maps of the target area with grid cell overlays that would enable search and rescue to quickly search the pond's floor. They also provided drone support during the search.



On the second occasion, GIS was prompted to quickly prep and print maps for the search of a missing individual with dementia. Among other items, the maps included points of interest, roads, labels, and utilities. The GIS team had the maps ready within 10-15 minutes of the request.

As a standard procedure, a secondary map is created with all requested items along with a grid of either default, a requested cell size, or a cell size that is reasonable and catered to the mission on hand. These grid maps enable teams to search more efficiently by allowing them to clear areas that had already been searched.

In both instances, the quick turnaround of materials, maps and assistance was a benefit to local law enforcement. The GIS team will continue to support these efforts by refining its response to Search and Rescue requests. If you would like to learn more about this and other GIS programs please contact GIS Director, Rachel Strom at rstrom@sgrc.us.

Community & Economic Development

Local Cities Awarded Community Home Investment Program (CHIP) Funds

On May 9, 2024, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) awarded over \$13 million in grant funds to nineteen (19) local communities around the state through the Community HOME Investment Program (CHIP). CHIP funds are part of annual allocation of HOME Investment Program funds received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to be administered by DCA.

“Affordable housing is a critical need in Georgia” said DCA Commissioner Christopher Nunn. “I am proud of these communities for thoughtfully seeking solutions for affordable housing.”

CHIP funds are awarded to communities through a competitive and collaborative effort that reviews and scores applicants who demonstrate their commitment to providing safe, decent, and affordable housing.

The City of Homeland was awarded \$500,000 to replace seven (7) owner-occupied mobile homes. The City of Waycross was awarded \$500,000 to rehabilitate eight (8) owner-occupied homes. Both cities will receive a “big check” during the FY2024 CDBG Summit to be hosted in Athens, GA in October.

The Southern Georgia Regional Commission Community and Economic Development Division prepared these applications for the cities and will serve as the grant administrator for both

projects. In efforts to improve housing conditions within the communities, the Cities of Homeland and Waycross will provide project oversight, as well as waive all permitting and inspection fees.

The Cities of Homeland and Waycross both have areas of low-moderate income residents that live in substandard and dilapidated housing. Families in these areas will now be given the opportunity to improve their quality of life through housing rehabilitation that will create a safer and more affordable living environment. For more information about the CHIP program and other funding programs, please contact SGRC Community and Economic Development Director, Tonia Hendricks, at (912) 285-6097.

Right: A home within the Homeland Target Area in need of replacement.

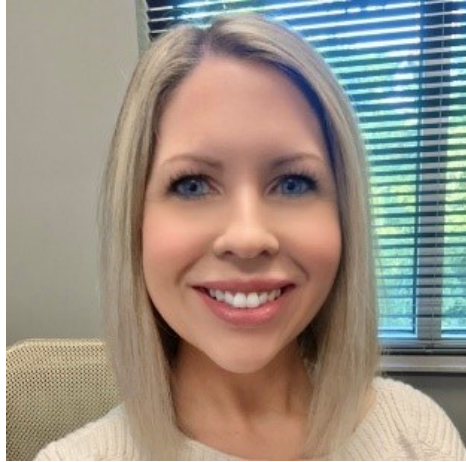


Left: A home within the Waycross Target Area in need of rehabilitation.

Staff Highlights

Welcome

**Small Business Lending
Welcomes New Staff Member
Tiffany Lasecki**



**Justin Jacobs, Regional GIS Coordinator,
Celebrates 20 years of Employment with
the SGRC.**

Contact the SGRC

Upcoming Events

SGRC Council Meeting

No Meeting in July

August 22, 2024 – 11:00 am

SGRC Waycross Office

Valdosta-Lowndes MPO

Citizens Advisory Committee

September 3, 2024 – 3:00 pm

SGRC Valdosta Office

Technical Advisory Committee

September 4, 2024 - 9:00 am

SGRC Valdosta Office

Policy Committee

September 4, 2024 - 10:30 am

SGRC Valdosta Office

Workforce Development Board

August 21, 2024 – 11:00 am



**SOUTHERN GEORGIA
REGIONAL COMMISSION**

Valdosta Office

1937 Carlton Adams Drive
Valdosta, GA 31601

You can reach us by phone:

(229) 333-5277

You can reach us by fax:

(229) 333-5312



Waycross Office

1725 South Georgia Parkway West
Waycross, GA 31503

You can reach us by phone:

(912) 285-6097

You can reach us by fax:

(912) 285-6126

Email:

sgrc@sgrc.us

Web Address:

www.sgrc.us

Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/SouthernGeorgiaRC)

[SouthernGeorgiaRC](https://www.facebook.com/SouthernGeorgiaRC)



sgrc | REGIONAL TRANSIT
855-360-7475