



SOUTHERN GEORGIA  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

# CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

*How Partnerships Deliver Transportation  
Solutions Across Southern Georgia*



Transportation Creates Opportunity.  
**Partnerships Make It Possible.**



**Megan Fowler**

Transportation & VL MPO Director  
Southern Georgia Regional Commission



[www.sgrc.us](http://www.sgrc.us)



[mfowler@sgrc.us](mailto:mfowler@sgrc.us)







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# IMAGINE...

When transportation isn't available,  
every opportunity is farther away.



Your vehicle  
breaks down.



Appointments  
are miles  
away.



Jobs are in  
another  
county.



Classes are  
harder to  
reach.



Family and care  
are harder to  
get to.

**TRANSPORTATION IS ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITY.**



855-360-7475



[www.letsridesouthga.org](http://www.letsridesouthga.org)



[transit@sgrc.us](mailto:transit@sgrc.us)



**Let's Ride**





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# EVERY TRIP TELLS A STORY.



Going  
to Work



Receiving  
Medical Care



Attending  
School.



Buying  
Groceries



Visiting  
Family.

BEHIND EVERY TRIP IS A PERSON.



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Let's Ride







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# ABOUT SGRC.

Regional Leadership. Local Solutions.

## SERVING SOUTH GEORGIA SINCE 1963

The Southern Georgia Regional Commission serves as the regional planning, transportation, and community development organization for one of Georgia's largest geographic regions.

We work alongside **18 counties**, **45 municipalities**, **GDOT**, state agencies, and community partners to improve quality of life through planning, transportation, economic development, and regional collaboration.

## REGIONAL SERVICES



Transportation



Regional  
Transit



Aging  
Services



Community &  
Economic  
Development



Planning



GIS



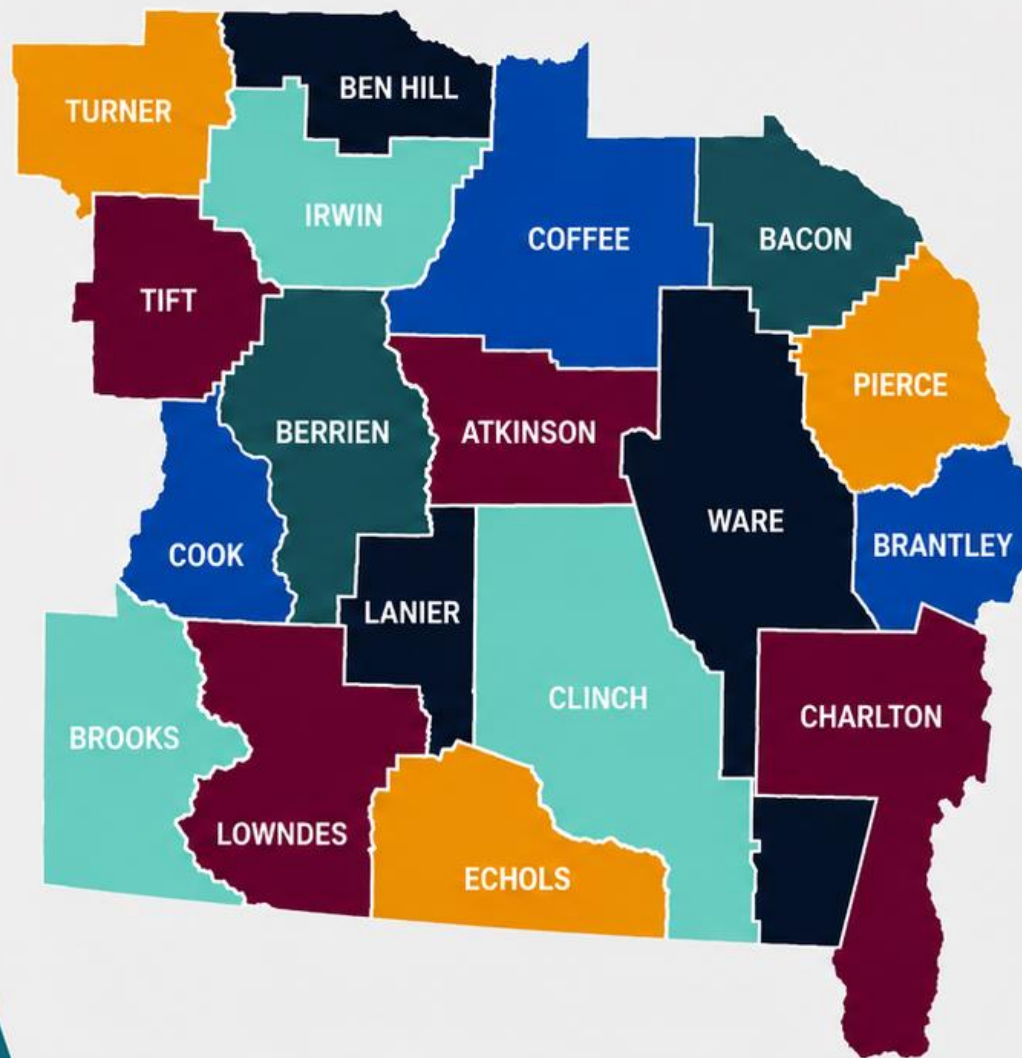
Local Government  
Assistance



Lending



Workforce  
Development



**18**  
COUNTIES



**45**  
MUNICIPALITIES



**1**  
REGIONAL MISSION  
*Connecting communities  
through planning,  
partnerships, and  
opportunity.*

“ Regional challenges require regional solutions. ”



229-333-5277



[www.sgrc.us](http://www.sgrc.us)



[mfowler@sgrc.us](mailto:mfowler@sgrc.us)



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# PARTNERSHIPS MAKE IT POSSIBLE.

Our success depends on strong partnerships built on trust, collaboration, and a shared commitment to the communities we serve.



Projects move  
faster.



Resources  
stretch farther.



Communities  
benefit most.

ONE GOAL. ONE REGION. ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES.



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[mfowler@sgrc.us](mailto:mfowler@sgrc.us)



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# PLANNING TOGETHER.

We listen first, identify shared priorities, and build consensus around practical solutions. Those relationships become the foundation for successful implementation.



Listen  
First



Identify  
Priorities



Build  
Consensus



Develop  
Solutions



Plan for  
Success

*Working together  
for stronger communities.*



229-333-5277



[www.sgrc.us](http://www.sgrc.us)



[mfowler@sgrc.us](mailto:mfowler@sgrc.us)



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# PLANNING TOGETHER.

From Vision to Results.

We bring communities, data, and resources together to develop plans that guide smart investments and move projects forward.

“Great transportation planning doesn’t happen in isolation. It happens when we plan together for the future.”

## A COLLABORATIVE PROCESS THAT DELIVERS RESULTS.

Through a partnership with GDOT and our communities, we develop regional transportation plans, prioritize projects, and advance investments that improve mobility, safety, and quality of life across Southern Georgia.



### OUR GOAL

Advance projects that reflect Southern Georgia's priorities and deliver lasting benefits for our region.

### SOUTHERN GEORGIA 18 COUNTIES • 45 MUNICIPALITIES



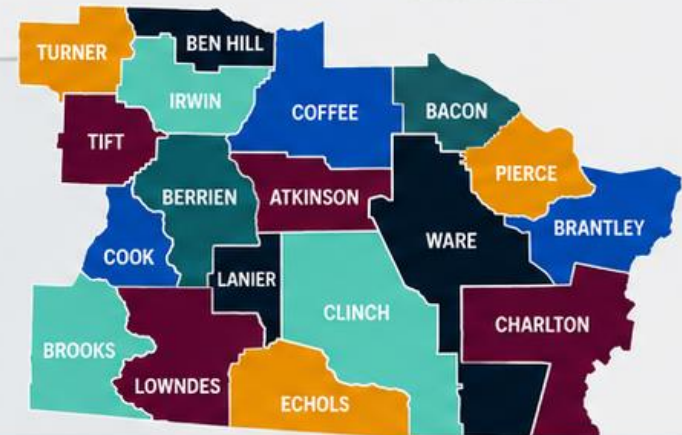
Coordinated planning that represents rural and urban communities.



Local priorities shaping regional solutions.



Strategic investments that create opportunity and improve quality of life.



229-333-5277



[www.sgrc.us](http://www.sgrc.us)



[mfowler@sgrc.us](mailto:mfowler@sgrc.us)



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## HOW THE GDOT PARTNERSHIP WORKS.

*One Team. One Plan. Stronger Results for Southern Georgia.*

Our partnership with GDOT is built on a formal planning contract and a shared commitment to deliver transportation solutions that improve lives and strengthen communities.

“The strength of our partnership allows local priorities to shape state investments and ensures projects that matter most are delivered.”

## A CONTRACT. A COLLABORATION. A COMMITMENT TO RESULTS.

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) partners with Georgia's Regional Commissions through an annual planning contract to provide the resources, guidance, and collaboration needed to advance transportation planning and project development across the state.



### OUR PARTNERSHIP IS BUILT ON:



ANNUAL PLANNING  
CONTRACT



ONGOING COLLABORATION  
& COMMUNICATION



SHARED DATA  
& RESOURCES



TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE



JOINT PLANNING  
& COORDINATION



PERFORMANCE  
& ACCOUNTABILITY



229-333-5277



[www.sgrc.us](http://www.sgrc.us)



[mfowler@sgrc.us](mailto:mfowler@sgrc.us)



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# REGIONAL TRANSIT.

One Transportation Division.  
Multiple Mobility Solutions.

## Moving People, Not Just Vehicles.

Transportation isn't one program—it's a coordinated regional system designed to connect people with healthcare, employment, education, and essential services.



### 5311 REGIONAL TRANSIT

- Demand-response public transportation
- 18-county service area
- Thousands of annual passenger trips



### HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION

- Older adults
- Individuals with disabilities
- Medical transportation
- Nutrition program access



### REGIONAL MOBILITY COORDINATION

- Coordinating multiple providers
- Eliminating duplication
- Filling transportation gaps
- Improving regional access



### TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

- Rural mobility planning
- Corridor studies
- Transit planning
- Future transportation investments



### JOBS

Reliable transportation to work, training, and career opportunities.



### HEALTHCARE

Access to doctors, treatment, and medical services.



### EDUCATION

Connecting students to schools, colleges, and lifelong learning.



### SENIOR SERVICES

Supporting independence and improving quality of life for older adults.



### COMMUNITY LIFE

Connecting to groceries, shopping, recreation, worship, and more.

### REGIONAL TRANSIT

Connecting People.  
Strengthening Communities.



Transportation is not a collection of programs.  
It's one coordinated mobility network serving Southern Georgia.



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mfowler@sgrc.us



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# TRANSIT GROWTH. REAL RESULTS.

More Service. More Places. More Opportunities.

SGRC's 5311 Regional Transit program continues to grow—expanding service to more counties, adding vehicles, and providing thousands more trips that improve access to essential destinations across South Georgia.

## AT LAUNCH (PY22)



**14**  
COUNTIES  
SERVED



**40**  
VEHICLES  
ON THE ROAD



## TODAY (PY25)



**18**  
COUNTIES  
SERVED



**64**  
VEHICLES  
ON THE ROAD

## GROWING TO MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS



Expanding  
service to more  
communities



Connecting  
people to jobs,  
health care,  
shopping, and  
education



Improving  
independence  
and quality  
of life



Supporting  
economic  
development  
across the  
region



## MORE TRIPS. MORE IMPACT.



## WHAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE



Coordinated with human service providers  
and local partners



Demand-response and deviated fixed-route  
options for flexible service



ADA accessible vehicles and senior-  
friendly transportation



Local drivers. Local knowledge.  
Community focused.



EXPANDING ACCESS.  
CHANGING LIVES.



From 14 to 18 counties. | From 40 to 64 vehicles. | Thousands more lives connected.  
WE'RE DRIVING SOUTH GEORGIA FORWARD.



229-333-5277



www.sgrc.us



mfowler@sgrc.us



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# TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT ACT.

Georgia's Local. Regional. State Partnership.

Approved by Georgia voters, the Transportation Investment Act (TIA) provides dedicated funding for transportation projects across the state.

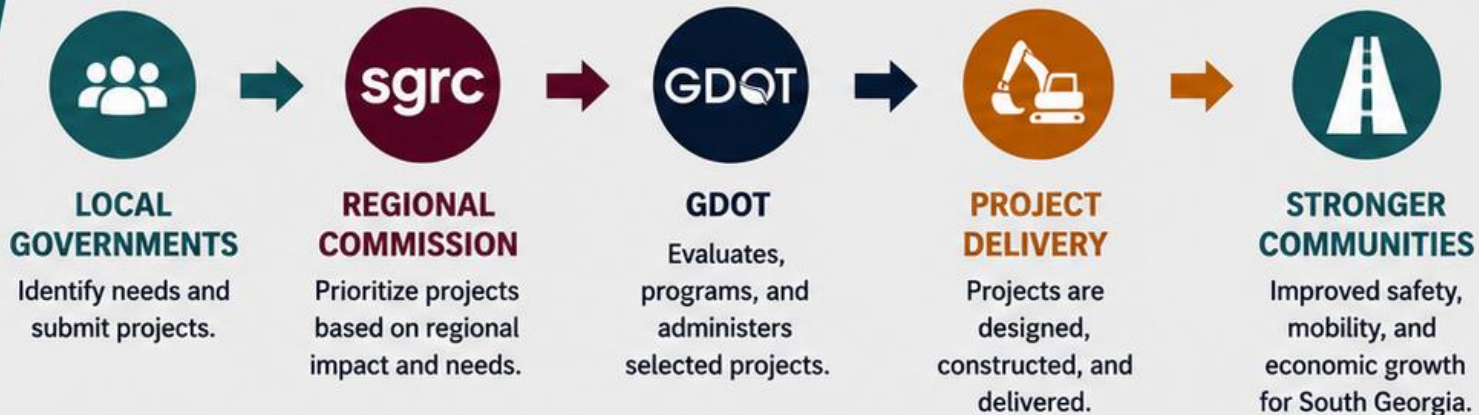
Regional Commissions play a critical role in identifying needs, prioritizing projects, and partnering with GDOT and local governments to deliver results.



**LOCAL KNOWLEDGE.  
REGIONAL PRIORITIES.  
STATEWIDE RESULTS.**

*That's the Georgia model.*

## HOW TIA INVESTMENTS GET DELIVERED



## TIA FUNDING IN SOUTHERN GEORGIA

### TIA I (2015–2022)

**151**

PROJECTS  
AWARDED

**\$408.8**

MILLION  
AWARDED



110+ PROJECTS COMPLETE

**\$203 MILLION INVESTED  
IN OUR COMMUNITIES**

### TIA II (2023–2029)

**\$669**

MILLION  
AVAILABLE  
REGIONWIDE



CONTINUING OUR  
INVESTMENT IN  
SOUTH GEORGIA

BUILDING ON SUCCESS. DELIVERING THE FUTURE.



BRIDGE REPLACEMENT



SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS



COMPLETE STREETS



229-333-5277



[www.sgrc.us](http://www.sgrc.us)



[mfowler@sgrc.us](mailto:mfowler@sgrc.us)



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# TIA SUCCESS STORIES.

Investing in Communities. Delivering Results.

Through the Transportation Investment Act (TIA), Southern Georgia communities are seeing real improvements that enhance safety, mobility, and economic opportunity.



**\$203 MILLION+**  
INVESTED IN OUR COMMUNITIES  
**110+ PROJECTS COMPLETE**  
THROUGH TIA I

## BENEFITS THAT LAST



### IMPROVING SAFETY

Safer roads and intersections for drivers and pedestrians.



### ENHANCING MOBILITY

Smoother traffic flow and improved connections.



### STRONGER ECONOMIES

Better infrastructure supports jobs, business, and growth.



### BETTER COMMUNITIES

Quality-of-life improvements that benefit everyone.

## REAL PROJECTS. REAL IMPACT.

TIA investments are making a difference in communities across Southern Georgia.

### 1 US 84 / SR 135 ROUNDABOUT Waycross, GA



BEFORE



AFTER



Improved safety and traffic flow at a high-crash intersection.

### 2 SR 133 / US 221 INTERSECTION Tifton, GA



BEFORE



AFTER



Enhanced safety and access with improved turn lanes and signals.

### 3 US 82 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT Lowndes County, GA



BEFORE



AFTER



New bridge improves safety, reliability, and emergency access.

### 4 DOWNTOWN STREETScape Douglas, GA



BEFORE



AFTER



Beautification and pedestrian improvements that strengthen downtown and local businesses.

### 5 SR 76 WIDENING PROJECT Coffee County, GA



BEFORE



AFTER



Widened roadway increases capacity, reduces congestion, and improves driver safety.

### 6 SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS Brantley County, GA



BEFORE



AFTER



New sidewalks connect neighborhoods to schools, parks, and community destinations.



TIA investments today create safer roads, stronger communities, and a better future for South Georgia.



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mfowler@sgrc.us



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# LESSONS LEARNED.

Building Stronger Partnerships.  
Delivering Better Results.

Our experience shows that effective state-regional partnerships are built on trust, communication, and a shared commitment to the communities we serve.

“

*When we work together—  
state, regional, and local—  
we turn ideas into impact  
and investment into opportunity.*

”

## LESSONS LEARNED.

WHAT WE WOULD TELL OTHER STATES AND REGIONS

1



### PARTNERSHIPS MATTER MOST.

Strong relationships between GDOT, Regional Commissions, and local governments create the foundation for success.

2



### START WITH LOCAL PRIORITIES.

Projects succeed when they reflect real community needs and are supported by local leaders and citizens.

3



### COMMUNICATION IS CRITICAL.

Consistent, transparent communication ensures alignment, trust, and responsiveness at every stage.

4



### COORDINATE RESOURCES.

Leveraging state programs, federal funding, and local resources maximizes impact and efficiency.

5



### MEASURE WHAT MATTERS.

Tracking results and celebrating successes helps demonstrate value and build continued support for future investments.



Great things happen when  
we move forward—together.



229-333-5277



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# KEYS TO SUCCESS.

Proven Principles.  
Powerful Partnerships.

Our success is built on a shared vision and an unwavering commitment to Southern Georgia. These key elements guide how we work together to plan, invest, and deliver results that last.

“When we align our strengths, communicate openly, and stay focused on our communities, great things happen.”

## STRONG PARTNERSHIPS. STRONGER COMMUNITIES.

### TRUST

We build lasting relationships based on respect, transparency, and reliability.

### ACCOUNTABILITY

We take ownership, follow through, and deliver on our promises to our communities and partners.

### SHARED VISION

We work toward common goals that strengthen communities and create opportunity for all.



TRUST



ACCOUNTABILITY



SHARED  
VISION



COMMUNICATION



LOCAL INPUT



STATE  
PARTNERSHIP

### COMMUNICATION

Open, consistent communication keeps everyone informed, aligned, and moving in the right direction.

### LOCAL INPUT

We listen to local leaders and citizens because no one knows our communities better than they do.

### STATE PARTNERSHIP

Our strong collaboration with GDOT and state agencies leverages resources and turns plans into real projects.



Together, these keys unlock opportunity and create a better quality of life for the people of Southern Georgia.



STRONG TODAY.  
STRONGER TOMORROW.  
SOUTHERN GEORGIA FORWARD.



229-333-5277



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[mfowler@sgrc.us](mailto:mfowler@sgrc.us)



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# THANK YOU. LET'S DRIVE SOUTHERN GEORGIA FORWARD.

Together with our partners, we are building stronger communities, expanding opportunities, and creating a better quality of life for **Southern Georgia.**



18 COUNTIES  
45 MUNICIPALITIES



REGIONAL TRANSIT  
THOUSANDS OF  
TRIPS EVERY YEAR



STRONG PARTNERSHIPS  
LASTING IMPACT



BUILDING OPPORTUNITY  
FOR ALL



## OUR MISSION

Connecting communities through planning, partnerships, and opportunity.



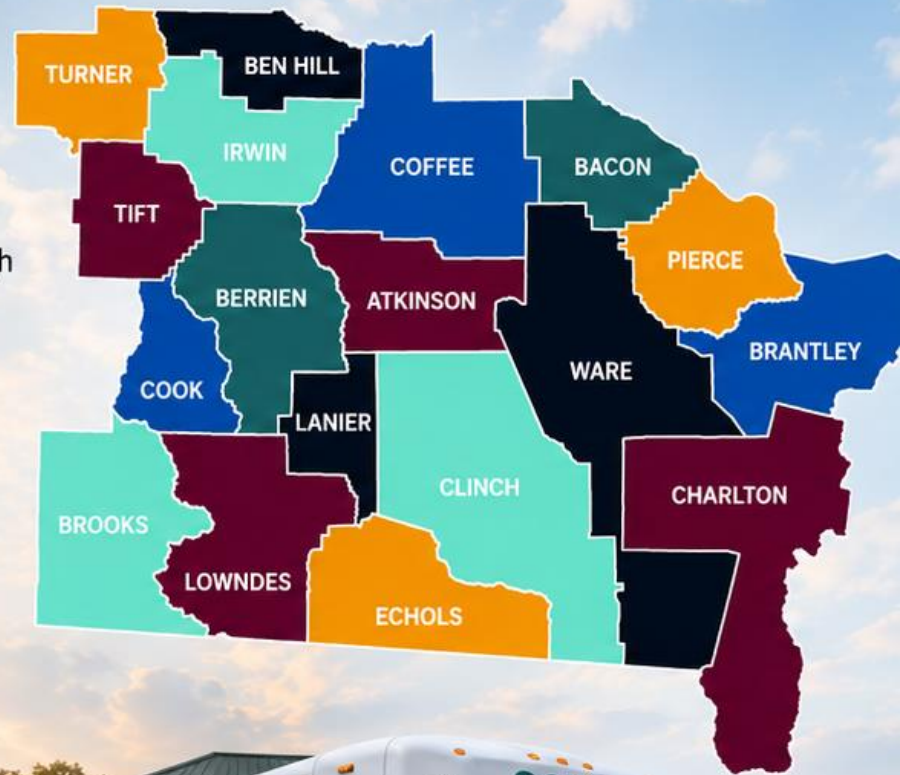
## OUR COMMITMENT

Collaborative. Innovative.  
Results Driven.



## OUR FUTURE

Stronger partnerships.  
Greater impact.  
A brighter tomorrow for  
**Southern Georgia.**



**TOGETHER, WE ARE DRIVING SOUTHERN GEORGIA FORWARD.**  
*Thank you for being a partner in our journey.*



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