

Southwest Georgia Regional Plan 2011

Moving 14 & 44...FORWARD



Q: What is the Regional Plan?

A: The Plan describes a vision for Southwest Georgia that will involve all interested stakeholders in the region, help generate pride in the region, engage the interest of local policy makers, and provide a guide for decision-making by regional leaders.

Q: What information is included in the Plan?

A: The Plan contains three main sections: the Assessment, the Stakeholder Involvement Program, and the Agenda. The Assessment will be written by Regional Commission staff, and is an objective look at regional issues and opportunities. Through public participation described in the Stakeholder Involvement Program, the Assessment is refined into the Agenda. The Agenda outlines the policies and procedures that will address the issues identified during the development of the plan.

Q: What kinds of issues are addressed in the Plan?

A: The protection of cultural and natural resources, economic development, tourism, literacy, transit and workforce readiness benefit from a regional approach.

Q: How can we participate?

A: There are many ways to participate in the development of the plan. In addition to attending one of the regional meetings, visit the Regional Commission website at www.swgrc.org or the Southwest Georgia Regional Plan page on facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/reqs.php#!/group.php?gid=327095724446>.



Q: Why is it important to participate in the development of the Plan?

A: In order to create a document that meets the needs of local residents, we need your feedback! Tell us what is important to you and what you think should be in the plan.

Q: How is this plan different from planning documents previously prepared by the Regional Commission?



A: Much like other planning documents, this Plan will articulate a vision, and contain recommendations for local decision-makers to achieve that vision. However, unlike other documents, this document describes Performance Standards that must be met all local governments in the region.

Q: What are “Performance Standards?”

A: Performance standards are specific ordinances, programs or requirements that local governments must meet in order to address the Regional Vision and/or address Regional Issues & Opportunities. The intent of these standards is to ensure consistency across the region and promote a unified approach to common interests and obstacles. The Minimum Standard describes the minimum set of standards that all local governments will be expected to achieve within three years of adoption of the Plan. An Excellence Standard describes desirable best practices for local governments to pursue if they choose to.

Q: How will the Regional Commission know if the Performance Standards are being met?

A: The Regional Commission will be required to conduct periodic surveys and assessments with local governments to ensure that the Plan is accomplishing the desired results.