



Meeting Minutes

October 27, 2022

I. Call to order

Jacob Bearden called to order the regular meeting of the Greater Dalton Metropolitan Planning Organization at 10:01 A.M. on October 27, 2022.

II. Presentations

a) **Thrive Regional Partnership** –

Thrive Regional Partnership members were present to discuss the services Thrive offers, and the work completed in the region. The work is devoted to economic and community development, however, the preservation of natural resources is vital to maintain the overall characteristic of the Southern Appalachian Cradle. The presentation can be found in Appendix I.

b) **Local Project Updates** –

Samantha Henry presented the following updates for GDOT:

SR 52 Bridge Rehabilitation – Project was LET in July. The work will include an overlay of the bridge decking, joint replacement, painting of steel beams, repair of super and sub structures, armoring the footings for scour, and epoxy injections.

Bridge Preservation on SR 2 – Project will LET in August. Project is over Norfolk Southern Railroad 719700X and another bridge over Coahulla Creek. Project will LET in FY 2023.

Roundabout SR 225 @ SR 52 Alt & @ CR 48/Spring Place Smyrna Rd – Project will LET FY 2023. Right of way plans have been submitted for approval.

Bridge Replacement on SR 61 @ Perry Creek – Project is north of Crandall and no detour will be utilized.

SR 52 @ Market Street – Andrew Parker requested an update on the project and Samantha Henry later followed up with the quick response plans (Appendix I).

Greater Dalton

Metropolitan Planning Organization

Chad Townsend presented the following updates for the City of Dalton:

Underwood Street Bridge – Pond & Company recommended that the bridge be replaced. The City of Dalton will seek grant funds to help alleviate the local costs.

East Morris Street Corridor Improvements – Curb and gutter is being installed and contractors are working on pavement improvements. The project is anticipated to be completed in a couple of months.

Market Street Phase I and II – The City of Dalton is still working to acquire easements for the work. The LET date for Phase I is expected to occur in 2023. Phase II is still under design phase.

Jake Bearden presented the following updates for Whitfield County:

5 Bridges to be Rehabilitated – The work is ongoing and on schedule. Most of the work is currently focused on the bridge decks.

Intersection Improvements – Design work is underway to improve the intersection of Beavertown Road, Boyles Mill Road, Good Hope Road, and Dawnville Beavertown Road. The intersection of Mt. Vernon Road and Houston Valley Road is under design for a signal to replace a stop sign.

- c) **Administrative Report** – Jacob Bearden discussed the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Grant. Whitfield County submitted a grant on behalf of the Town of Cohutta. If successful, the grant will help fund the design for sidewalks/streetscaping along Wolfe Street. Next, Whitfield County will be applying for capital improvements at Prater’s Mill. Gresham Smith will be consulting on the project.

III. Open Discussion

IV. Adjournment

Jacob Bearden adjourned the meeting at 11:10 A.M.

Minutes submitted by: Jacob Bearden – GDMPO Coordinator

Minutes approved by:

Kent Benson, Policy Committee Chairman

Appendix I

DRAFT



THRIVE

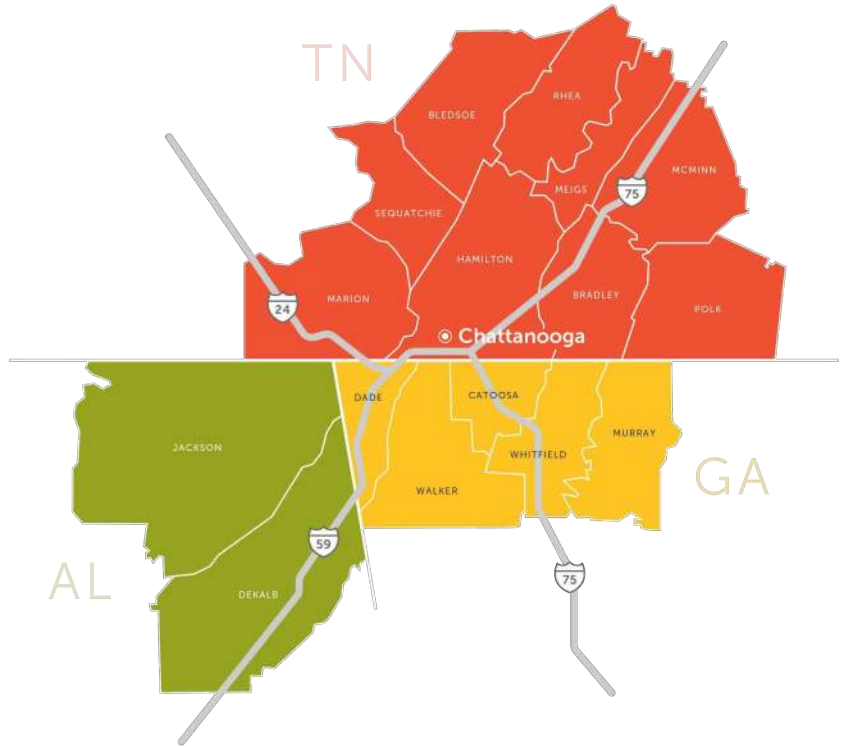
Regional Partnership

Mission

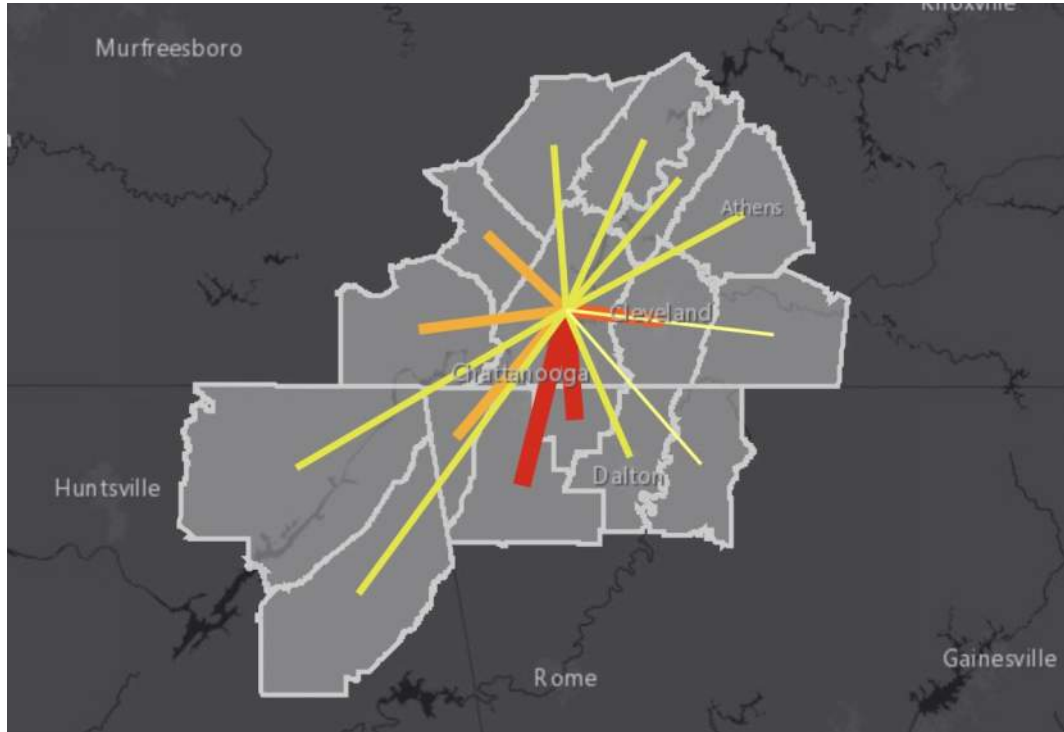
Thrive Regional Partnership inspires responsible growth through **conversation**, **connection**, and **collaboration** in the tri-state Chattanooga region.

We convene stakeholders across the region to ensure that as we grow in industry, prosperity, and population, we also preserve community and natural character for generations to come.

Our footprint includes **16 counties** across **northeast Alabama**, **northwest Georgia**, and **southeast Tennessee**.



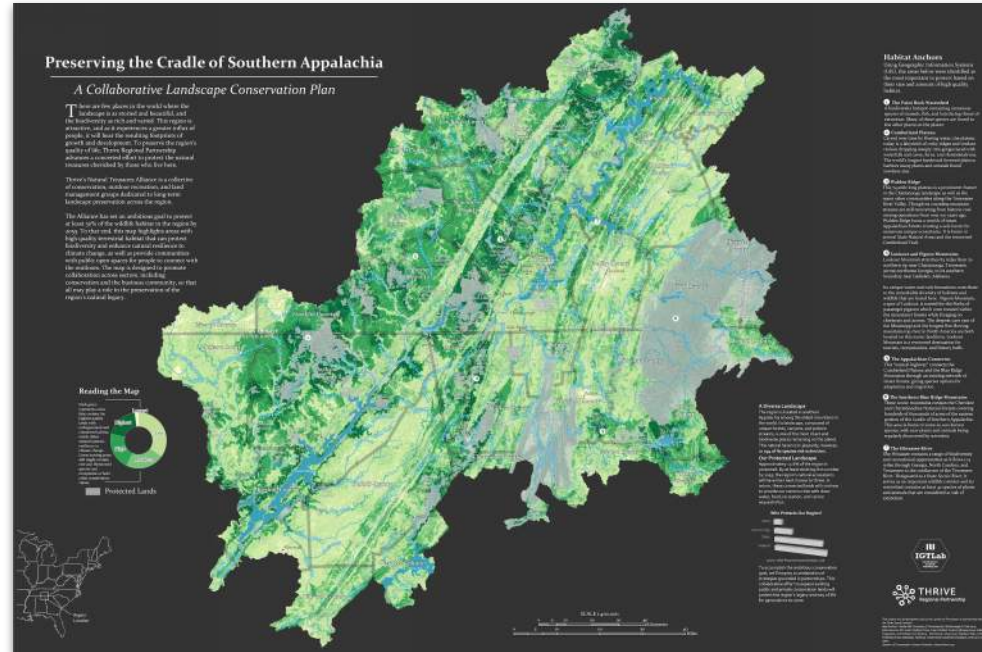
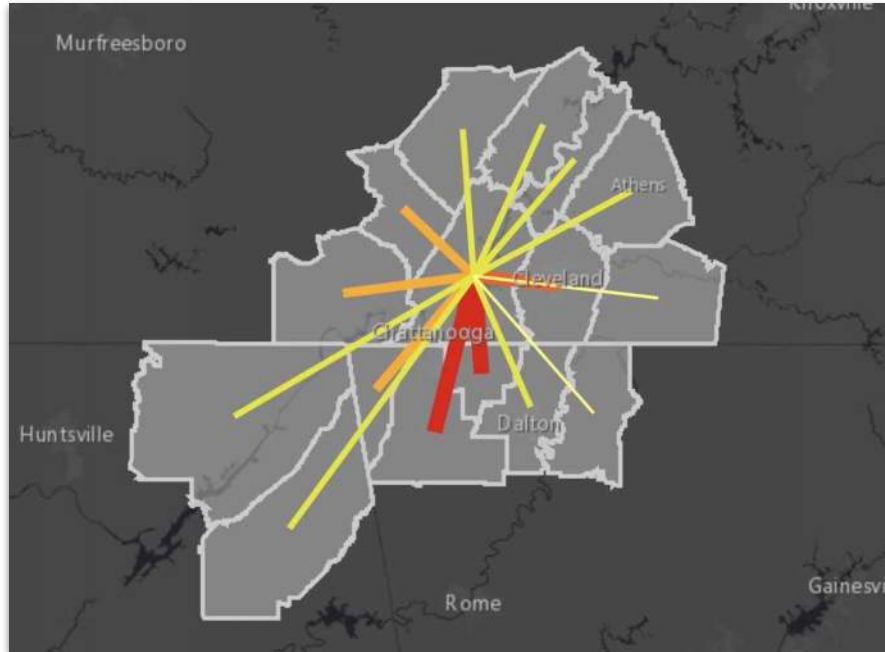
Why 16 Counties?



Data from ACS Commuting Flows (2011-15). Map by Nysa Hunt, UTC IGTLab.



Why think regionally?

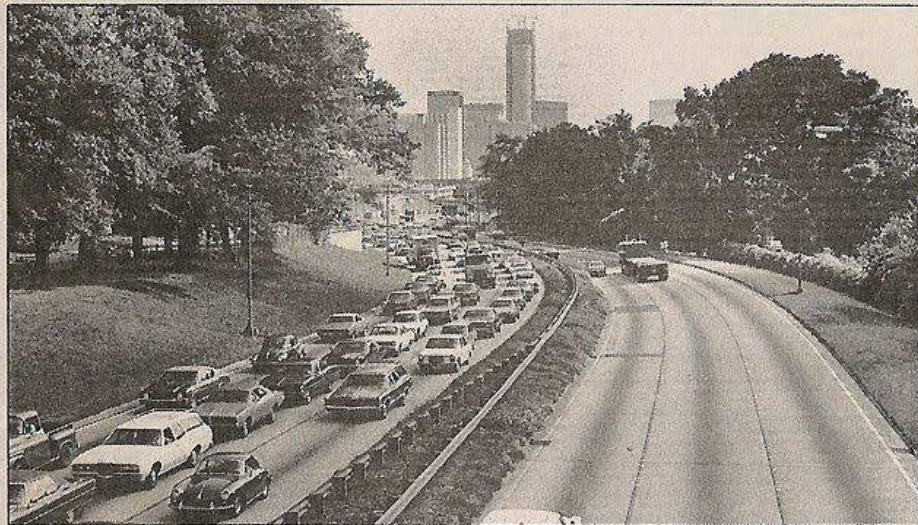


What is responsible growth?





What a Difference ...

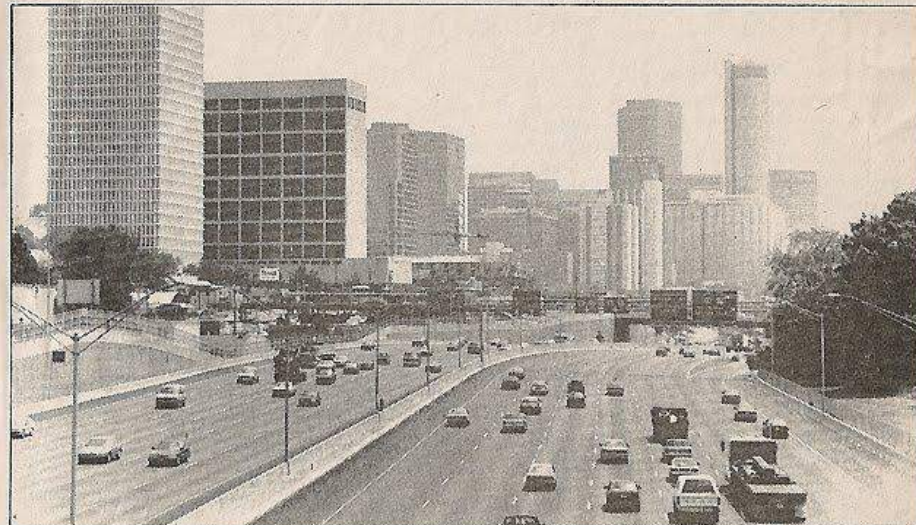


File

Traffic headed to the suburbs in 1980 fills the northbound lanes of the six-lane Downtown

Connector. Expansion of the freeway system was begun soon after it was completed in 1976.

... Nine Years Make



DWIGHT ROSS JR./Staff

Near the same spot last week, motorists found plenty of lanes and free-flowing traffic on the

newly widened connector. But officials expect a return to bumper-to-bumper traffic by 1996.





...officials expect a return to bumper-to-bumper traffic by 1996.”

—The Atlanta Journal Constitution
May 1989



So how then do we inspire responsible growth?

Not this...



So how then do we inspire responsible growth?

...But, instead, more of this!



Jacob Boomsma / shutterstock.com



www.downtowndalton.com



Impact Areas

Transportation & Infrastructure



Community Prosperity

Natural Treasures



Impact Areas

Community Prosperity



**Transportation &
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THRIVE
REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

THRIVING COMMUNITIES

*A vision for economic and community development solutions
in the greater Chattanooga region*

TN | AL | GA





'Perfect day' for first Pop Up Downtown

By SHAKA L. COBB

Music, food, fun and smiling faces. Pop-Up Downtown had all that and more at a special event Saturday afternoon "On the Green" in Dalton.

Dalton was chosen to participate in Thrive 2035's "Thriving Communities" program, which seeks to use arts and culture to drive economic growth. Officials with Dalton's program said they received over 1,500 responses to emails requesting more community events.

"What has done is brought us all together. It's not one organization, we made that very clear in everything that we've done," Amanda Boone, executive director of the Creative Arts Guild, said.

"We all worked together to make these types of things happen and were able to pull that off in two weeks... I consider this very successful," she said.

Hundreds of people attended the three-hour event at the former Lee Printing site at 101 S. Hamilton St. Bands played for free and Thrive committee members led tours of downtown.

Mayor Dennis Meek was there with family enjoying some dogs and dog treats from one of the vendors, Not Just Dogs.

"It's a perfect day and event," Mike and Nancy Green brought along their two daughters.

"It's fun and good to see people that we haven't seen at other community events actually come out and enjoy it," Nancy Green said.

"It's very kid-friendly with lots for them to do."



PHOTOS BY MARY HAMILTON/The Daily Citizen

In the photo above, Camp Carpenter, 10, plays in downtown Dalton Saturday during the "Pop Up" event at the old Lee Printing site. In the photo below, cousins Parker Roberts, left, and Dallas Perkins, both 8, draw with chalk.

Tyree Goodlett, a Dalton city councilman, said he thought that it was a great turnout for a first-time event.

"I think if they get more input from the community we might have an even bigger turnout at the next one," he said.

Deanna Mathis, one of the five committee members of Dalton's Thriving Communities, said she's hoping for more events like the Pop Up.

"We had several meetings on how can we use arts and culture to drive economic and make improvements in our community," she said.

The committee was made up of a diverse group of people from



➤ Please see EVENT, 3A





“The Thriving Communities program rewired people’s capabilities. It made our community ready for the opportunities that came our way.”

—David Aft

President of Community Foundation of Northwest Georgia
and Thriving Communities Dalton Team Lead.



Impact Areas

**Transportation &
Infrastructure**



Community Prosperity

Natural Treasures



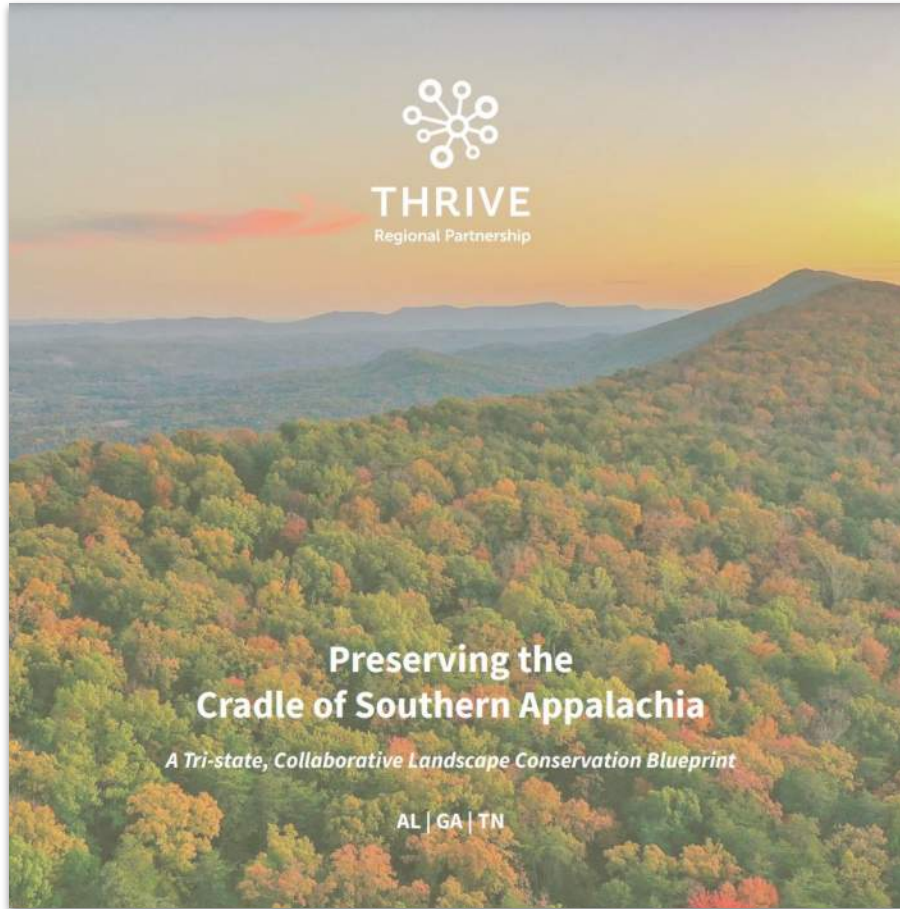


THRIVE
Regional Partnership

**Preserving the
Cradle of Southern Appalachia**

A Tri-state, Collaborative Landscape Conservation Blueprint

AL | GA | TN



Preserving the Cradle of Southern Appalachia

A Collaborative Landscape Conservation Plan

There are few places in the world where the landscape is as storied and beautiful, and the biodiversity as rich and varied. This region is attractive, and as such experiences a greater influx of people, it will bear the resulting pressures of growth and development. To preserve the region's quality of life, Thrive Regional Partnership advances a concerted effort to protect the natural treasures cherished by those who live here.

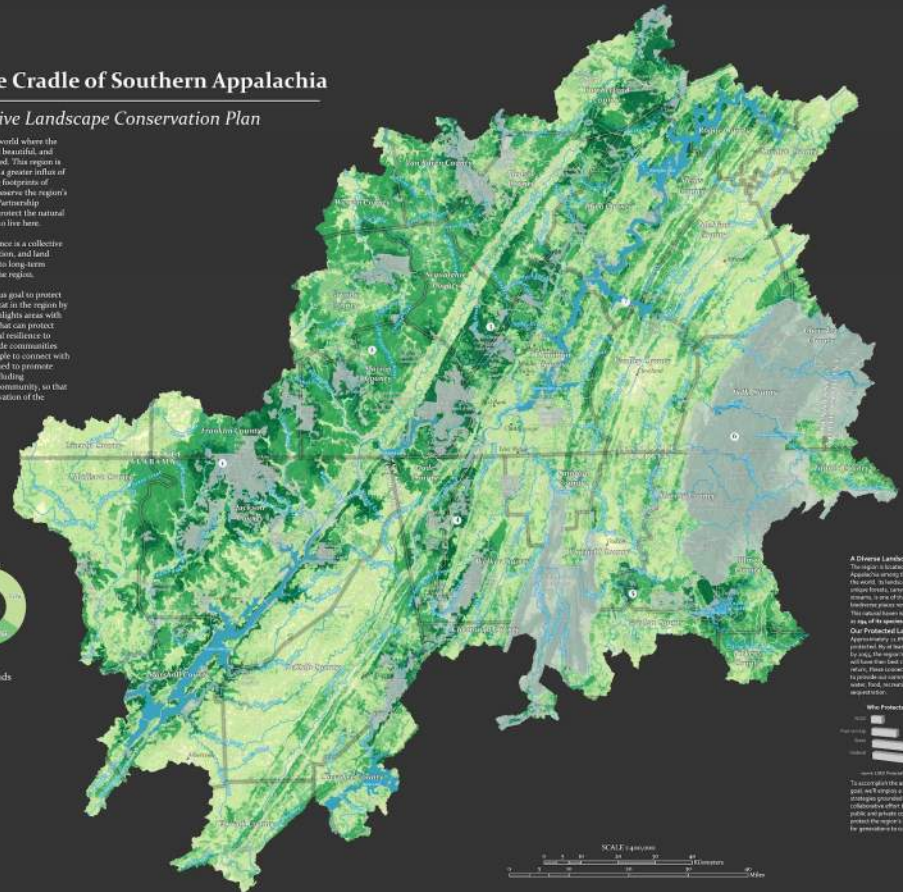
Thrive's Natural Treasures Alliance is a collective of conservation, outdoor recreation, and land management groups dedicated to long-term landscape preservation across the region.

The Alliance has set an ambitious goal to protect at least 50% of the wildlife habitat in the region by 2050. To that end, this map highlights areas with high-quality terrestrial habitat that can protect biodiversity and enhance natural resilience to climate change, as well as provide communities with public open spaces for people to connect with the outdoors. The map is designed to promote collaboration across sectors, including conservation and the business community, so that all may play a role in the preservation of the region's natural legacy.

Reading the Map



Protected Lands



- A Diverse Landscape**
The region is blessed to contain Appalachia among the oldest mountains in the world. Its landscape, comprised of diverse forests, habitats, and natural resources, is one of the most intact and best-preserved in the Southeast. This unique landscape is, however, under an ever-increasing and accelerating threat.
- Our Protected Landscape**
Approximately 1.6 million acres are protected by at least one layer of protection. For this region, that number is particularly high because of the number of overlapping public and private lands that exist. In addition, these overlapping lands also include federal, state, and local government lands.



Source: USFS, National Wetlands Inventory, and other sources.

Habitat Anchors
Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS), the areas below were identified as the most important to protect based on their size and amount of high-quality habitat.

- The Fatter Rock Watershed**
A relatively large watershed containing numerous species of mammals, fish, and birds, including those of concern. Most of these species are found in other places in the region.
- Cumberland Plateau**
Lined with some of the largest areas of habitat in the region, this area contains many species of mammals, birds, and plants. The world's largest hardwood forested plateau habitat is also found in this area.
- Walden Ridge**
This is one of the largest areas of protected habitat in the Southeast. It contains a large area of old-growth forest, including the largest remaining old-growth forest in the Southeast. It is also home to many species of mammals, birds, and plants.
- Lowland and Piedmont Mountains**
This area contains a large area of protected habitat, including many species of mammals, birds, and plants. It is also home to many species of mammals, birds, and plants.

- Aspen Forest and Oak Forests**
This area contains a large area of protected habitat, including many species of mammals, birds, and plants. It is also home to many species of mammals, birds, and plants.
- The Appalachian Connector**
This area contains a large area of protected habitat, including many species of mammals, birds, and plants. It is also home to many species of mammals, birds, and plants.
- The Southern Blue Ridge Mountains**
This area contains a large area of protected habitat, including many species of mammals, birds, and plants. It is also home to many species of mammals, birds, and plants.
- The Shawnee River**
This area contains a large area of protected habitat, including many species of mammals, birds, and plants. It is also home to many species of mammals, birds, and plants.



Map data: Google Earth, National Wetlands Inventory, and other sources.



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BUSINESS

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NASDAQ COMP.
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-67.85

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+4.87

10-YR T-NOTES
1.36%
+.01

30-YR T-BONDS
2.70%
+.02

CRUDE OIL
\$61.67
+.18

GOLD NY MERC
\$1804.40
-2.30

LAND PRESERVATION

\$5.25M fund to protect 30,000 acres



A new fund will protect seven areas around Chattanooga including the Hiwassee River and Stan Mountain in Southeast Tennessee.

Walden Ridge, Lookout and Pigeon mountains, Cumberland Plateau among areas targeted

BY NINE PAIR
STAFF WRITER

Seen as a major step in conserving key natural areas around Chattanooga, an environmental group is launching a \$5.25 million fund to protect forests in the tri-state region.

The Open Space Institute (OSI) will use the fund to accelerate land conservation and climate change efforts in the area, according to the Chattanooga-based Thrive Regional Partnership.

The aim of the Appalachian Landscapes Protection Fund is to conserve at least 30,000 acres in the tri-state area.

"It's absolutely enormous," said Rhet Bentley, director of communication for Thrive, the nonprofit that has crafted a long-range plan for responsible growth in 16

counties in Southeast Tennessee, Northwest Georgia and Northeast Alabama.

New York-based OSI is targeting seven locations in the region earlier identified by Thrive's Natural Treasures Alliance work group.

The areas are Walden Ridge, Lookout and Pigeon mountains, Hiwassee River Corridor, Cumberland Plateau, Southern Blue Ridge Mountains, the Appalachians Connector and Paint Rock Watershed.

Joel Bosser, OSI's Southeast field coordinator located in Chattanooga, said of the \$5.25 million has been raised and there's hope of securing more for the effort.

Along with the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation in New York, Chattanooga's Lyndhurst, Riverview and Tucker foundations

See FUND | C3



Resilient Communities in Action



Impact Areas

Transportation & Infrastructure



Community Prosperity

Natural Treasures





Core Team Partners



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Regional Partnership

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Greater Chattanooga Freight Hub



Thrive Regional Partnership CSPAV

Greater Chattanooga Freight Hub

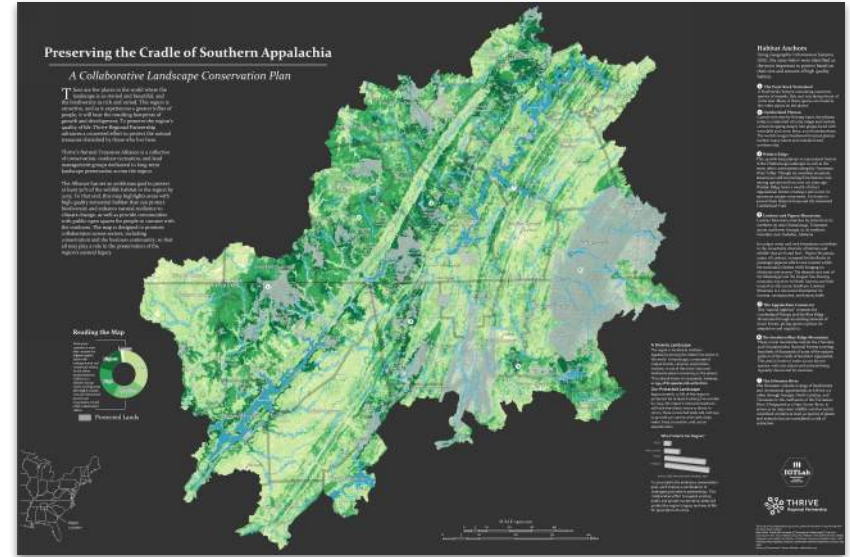
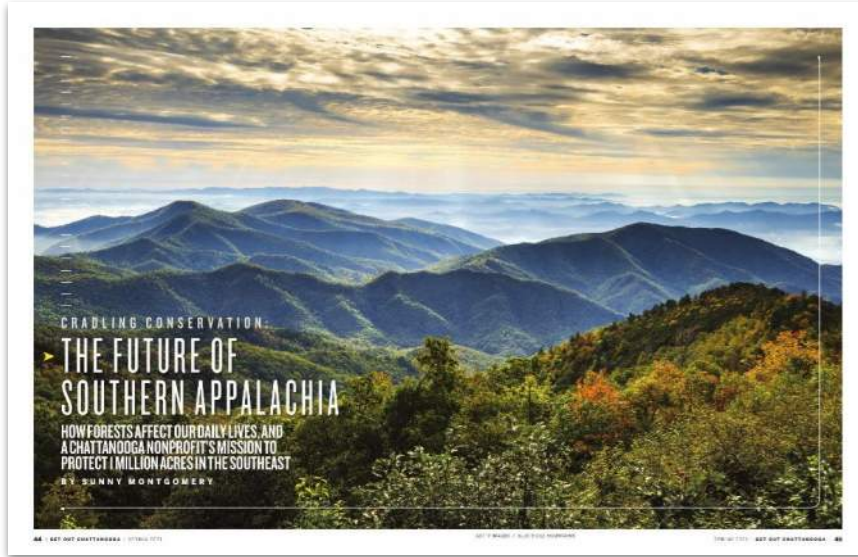
Search, Learn, Visualize, Download, Create

Search for GCFH datasets

Welcome to the **Greater Chattanooga Freight Hub (GCFH)**, a geospatial portal to truck freight and transportation-related interactive maps, data, StoryMaps and resources for greater Chattanooga. Built by [Thrive Regional Partnership](#) and [Georgia Tech](#), the GCFH is your gateway to learn more about truck freight and transportation in the tri-state greater Chattanooga region.



Layering Priorities



Impact Areas

**Transportation &
Infrastructure**

Community Prosperity

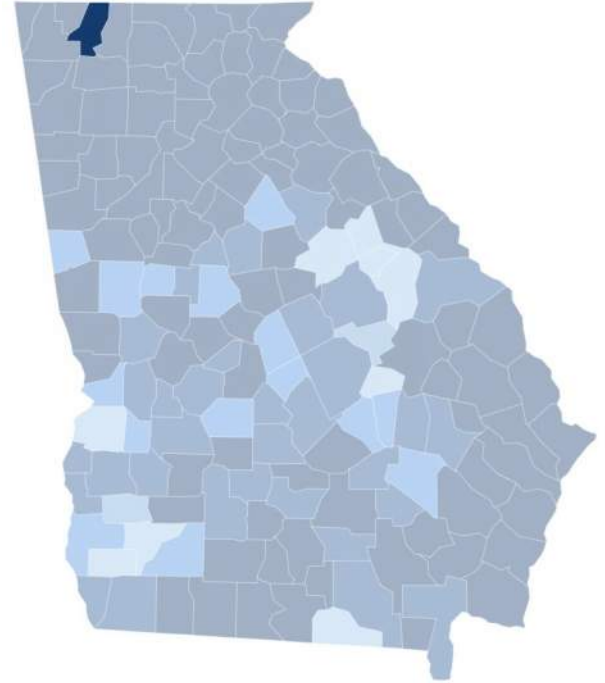
Natural Treasures



Whitfield County Connectivity Stats

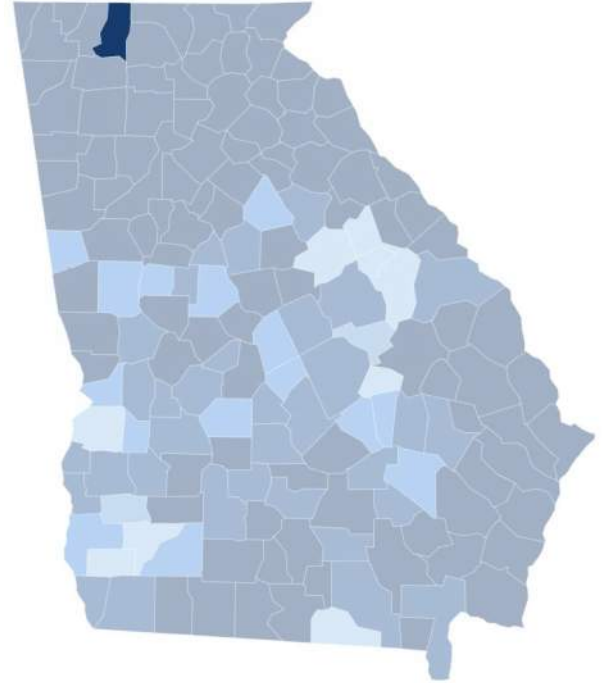
- FCC data: broadband available to 100% of county (at speeds up to 25mbps/3mbps); 60% of households have broadband subscription
- Microsoft data: 65.2% of county using internet at broadband speeds
- Fiber optic internet is available to 100% of residents

[Microsoft access and usage maps](#)



Murray County Connectivity Stats

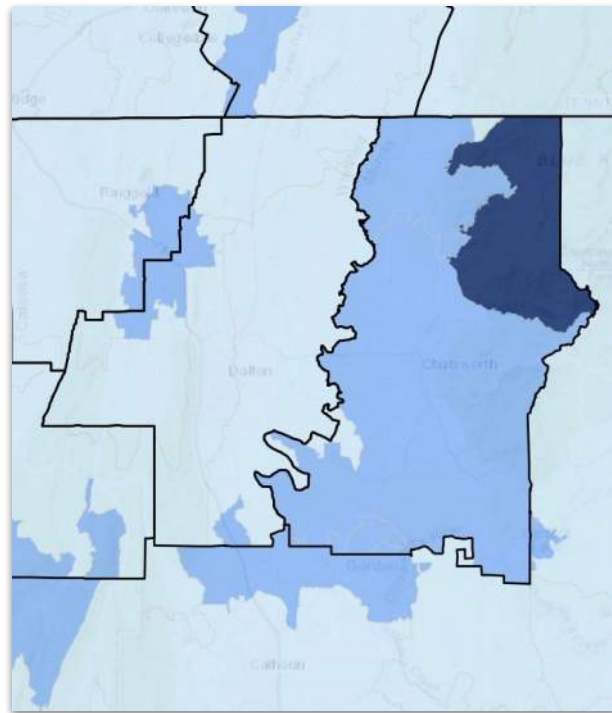
- FCC data: broadband available to 98.6% of county (at speeds up to 25mbps/3mbps); 54.3% of households have broadband subscription
- Microsoft data: 65.2% of county using internet at broadband speeds
- FCC indicates roughly 1,000 people do not have access to 25mbps wired broadband
- Residential fiber optic internet is available to 35% of residents



Whitfield County ACP Enrollment Stats

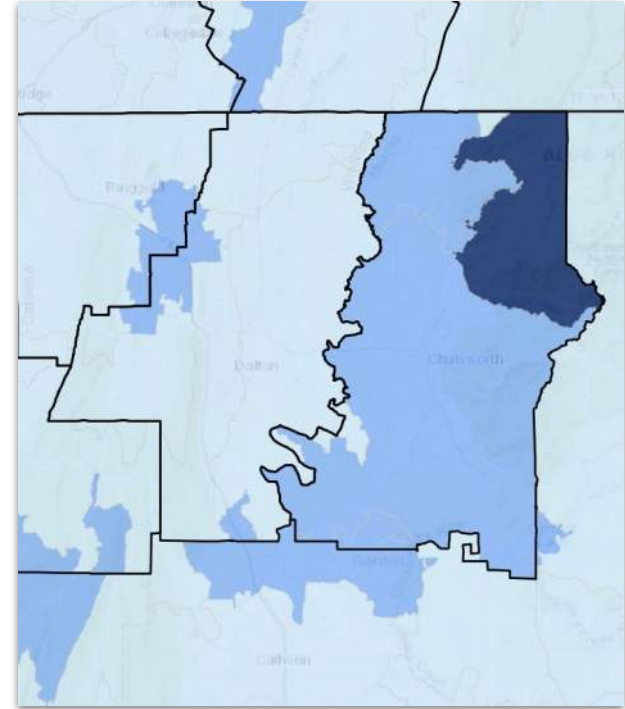
- Rural LISC data: Average county participation in Affordable Connectivity Program estimated at nearly 24%
- Highest is in Tunnel Hill at 33%
- Lowest is in Rocky Face at 18%
- Nationwide average estimated to be 14%

[Rural LISC ACP Visualization Map](#)



Murray County ACP Enrollment Stats

- Rural LISC data: Average county participation in Affordable Connectivity Program estimated at 40%
- Highest is in Cisco at 101%
- Lowest is in Tennga at 0%
- Crandall participation estimated at 26%
- Chatsworth participation estimated at 34%
- Nationwide average estimated to be 14%



ACP Ambassador Training Sessions

- More than 30 ambassadors trained across five communities
- Partners include the Whitfield County Government, Dalton Public Library, Latin American Association, Chattanooga Food Bank, among others
- **Next workshop:**

Wednesday, November 2 at 10am ET

Virtual Meeting



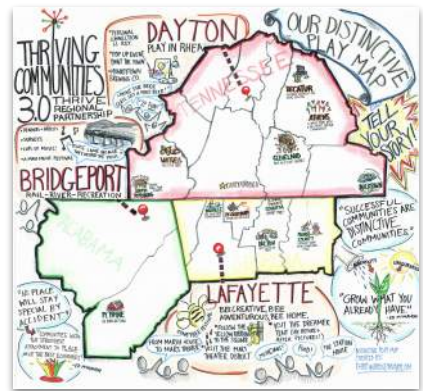
Thrive's Strategies in Action



Freight Mobility Coalition



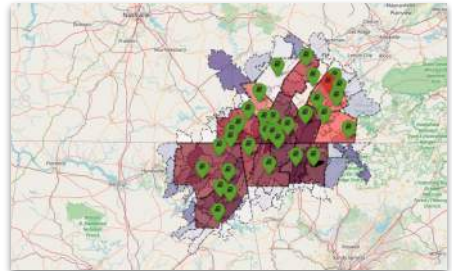
Cradle of Southern Appalachia Conservation Blueprint



Thrive Communities



Natural Treasures Alliance



Regional Broadband Alliance



Working together works.

\$3.4 million+

Invested across 16 local communities that have completed the Thriving Communities placemaking accelerator program.

60+

People and organizations-corporate, public, or private - investing \$\$ in active collaboration on the issues facing the region now and in the future.

158+

People powering collaborative, regional strategies that inspire responsible growth.

\$550k+

in federal and private funds awarded to the region for freight analysis because of Thrive's multijurisdictional Transportation Collaborative model. No local transportation planning dollars were invested in these planning projects.

17

Local governments across three states aligned behind regional freight solutions for the first time ever.

\$5.75 million

Attracted to the region by a national funder to protect the key landscapes identified in Thrive's Cradle of Southern Appalachia collaborative conservation blueprint.



Leveraging a Regional Strategy...

Thriving Communities Program

- \$315,000 invested by Thrive
- \$20,000 granted in seed funding from Lyndhurst Foundation
- \$1 million investment leveraged by community for Burr Performing Arts Park

Additional Lyndhurst Funds

- \$75,000 over two years for Dalton Innovation Accelerator
- \$47,500 for Greater Dalton Marketing Director
- \$12,500 for Creative Arts Guild Artist in Residency program

Total investment leveraged: \$1,470,000



Thank You to our Regional Sustaining Investors:



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CHAMBLISS

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Become involved

Together, with our financial and volunteer partners, we work alongside local communities to address the complexities of regional growth.



Community Prosperity

Join a network of communities building creative placemaking and asset-based economic development practices.



Natural Treasures

Engage in conversations around outdoor recreation, conservation, working lands, and climate resilience.



Transportation & Infrastructure

Connect to multi-state coalitions focused on freight and workforce mobility, broadband access, and digital equity.



Invest

Become a financial partner of
Thrive to help sustain this innovative work.



Thank you!

Learn more at thriveregionalpartnership.org

