

## U.S. REPRESENTATIVE MIKE COLLINS MEETS WITH REGIONAL COMMISSION

Last month, U.S. Representative **Mike Collins** visited the NEGRC headquarters and to meet with **Burke Walker**, NEGRC Executive Director. During the meeting, regional objectives and opportunities were discussed as well as federal legislation affecting Northeast Georgia. Congressman Collins was also accompanied by two of his staff, **Greg Ziesenhene** and **Kevin Mason**—both regular attendees to NEGRC Council meetings.

Later in the week too, Congressman Collins attended the NEGRC's Council meeting where he addressed the membership on items of interest. It was a special opportunity and the NEGRC appreciates Congressman Collins' efforts in taking the time to connect with the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission.



*U.S. Representative Mike Collins (right) with Burke Walker at the NEGRC's headquarters in August.*



*U.S. Representative Mike Collins (center-background) addressing the NEGRC Council.*

## REGIONAL TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATES

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), in coordination with the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC), has initiated the process of creating a Regional Transit Development Plan (TDP) for the 12 counties in the Northeast Georgia Region.

The Regional TDP will help identify transit needs and opportunities and inform future transit system investments across the 12 counties making up the Northeast Georgia Region. The TDP will allow the NEGRC to pool resources and staff, create plans to consider regional needs and travel patterns, focus on local transportation issues and concerns, and identify implementable transit projects. For more information about TDPs, visit **RegionalTDP-GDOT.hub.arcgis.com**.

The public is invited on **October 11, 2023** for the TDP's first public meeting. The open-house meeting will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the NEGRC's headquarters at 305 Research Drive, Athens, GA, 30605.

- Drop in anytime between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to review project information and provide input at your own pace.
- Join the brief overview presentation, offered at 4:30 p.m. and repeated at 5:30 p.m.

The planning team will collect input on transit needs and opportunities in the region and share information about the planning process and highlights from existing conditions analysis. Project team members will be available to answer questions or provide more information.

## NEW STAFF PROFILE – ADI'A SMITH, COMMUNITY PLANNER (TRANSPORTATION)

The Planning & Government Services Division (PGS) Division has welcomed a new staff member for the Community Planner position, **Adi'a Smith**. Her focus will be on transportation projects related to rural-transit planning, bicycle and pedestrian planning, and other specialized plans and studies at the local and regional levels. Adi'a has a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology from the University of South Florida and two Master's degrees

from the University of Georgia, one in Urban Planning and Design and another in Public Administration. She enjoys reading, photography, yoga, and singing in her free time. Adi'a is most excited about serving communities and supporting transportation connectivity while addressing areas of need. We are excited to have her as part of our team!



*Adi'a Smith on her first day at the NEGRC.*

## PGS TOURS CEDAR CREEK WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY

The Planning & Government Services Division (PGS) toured the Cedar Creek Water Reclamation Facility in Athens-Clarke County on August 9, 2023. The team learned how wastewater is treated and the best management practices regarding system-wide wastewater management. Holistic waste reduction, modern sanitation of effluent, and odor reduction were all key themes of the facility, which is why it was chosen as a facility to tour. Athens-Clarke County is unique in that biosolids produced in the wastewater treatment process are sent through a composting process at the county landfill and resold to consumers.

The knowledge from this tour will enable our team to better assist local governments with project development and grant writing regarding wastewater infrastructure.

For information or questions about wastewater, solid waste, and potential funding opportunities, contact **Mark Beatty**, NEGRC Director of Planning & Government Services at: **mbeatty@negrc** or **(706) 369-5650 ext 360**.



*NEGRC staff look at step 1 of the Cedar Creek Water Reclamation Facility treatment process, receiving the wastewater and removing solids.*



View above the final sedimentation tank. An agent is used to coagulate microbes and other biomaterial to be removed from the water. Water is then sent through UV treatment before being discharged into the Oconee River.

account or **call the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) at 1-877-423-4746**, Option 1, or visit the local DFCS office.

## NEGRC WORKFORCE DIVISION RECEIVES UNITED WAY GRANT

The NEGRC's Workforce Development Division/ WorkSource Northeast Georgia has been selected as one of the recipients of the **United Way of Northeast Georgia's 2024 Workforce Development Grants**. The grant will provide youth ages 16-24 in the Northeast Georgia service region access to short-term manufacturing, welding, CDL, or medical-related occupational skills training during the calendar year 2024. The funds received will allow approximately five youths to be served.

For further information on this grant and other services available through WorkSource Northeast Georgia, please contact the **NEGRC Workforce Development Division/ WorkSource Northeast Georgia at (706) 369-5703**.

## MEDICAID REDETERMINATION STARTS

On April 1, 2023, Georgia began its redetermination process for all people who receive Medicaid or PeachCare for Kids. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Congress passed the Family First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) in March 2020, which allowed continued coverage during the federal public health emergency (PHE).

In December 2022, the federal government passed a federal spending bill that permits states to begin Medicaid redetermination on April 1, 2023, regardless of the PHE end date. Georgia has 13 months to update or redetermine eligibility for 2.7 million Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids members.

Members are encouraged to do their part to assist with the Medicaid redetermination process. Members are asked to update their information, including phone number, address, job or income, and number of people in the household. Members utilizing the Georgia Gateway system are encouraged to select "Email" notifications to ensure faster communication.

Any Medicaid or PeachCare for Kids recipients with questions are encouraged to log into their Georgia Gateway



# Update

## REGIONAL MEETINGS

### SEPTEMBER

---

4 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	Closed for Labor Day Holiday	
21 <sup>st</sup>	Noon	NEGRC Council Meeting	Trumps Catering
27 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 a.m.	UOBWA Meeting	NEGRC