

Mission & Values

Our mission is to improve the Quality of Life in West Alabama. Because this is our mission, we live by a focus on the value of

QUALITY

SERVICE

We are *service* oriented in our approach to all people- our employees, our clients, community partners, and our vendors. We are welcoming, approachable, calm and sensitive to the needs of others. We adapt to our environment due to our laser focus on serving first, despite challenges.

COMMUNICATION

We lead in our *communication* by actively listening and focusing on clear, positive communication. Our communication is consistent, transparent, and approachable. When in question, we provide more communication rather than less and focus on the big picture.

TEAMWORK

We operate with a focus on *teamwork*. We value our employees and foster an environment of safety, recognition, feedback, empowerment and authentic relationships with a focus on the whole person. We welcome input and focus on unity and encourage cohesiveness. Positively impacting the quality of life through our teamwork approach results in both employees and clients gaining fulfillment.

WEST ALABAMA REGIONAL COMMISSION



2023
ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024 WARC Board of Directors

Mayor Bobbie White
Chairwoman
City of Brent

Bibb County
Charles Caddell
County Commissioner
Bobbie White
Mayor, City of Brent

Fayette County
Mike Freeman
County Commission Chair and
Probate Judge
Rod Northam
Mayor, City of Fayette

Greene County
Latasha Johnson
Mayor, City of Eutaw

Hale County
Arthur Crawford
County Commission Chair
and Probate Judge
Jonathan Rossell
Mayor, Town of Akron

Lamar County
Stanley Allred
Mayor, Town of Millport

Pickens County
Craig Patterson
Mayor, Town of Gordo
Mickey Walker
Mayor, Town of Carrollton

Mayor Rod Northam
Vice-Chair
City of Fayette

Tuscaloosa County
Stan Acker
County Commissioner
Joe Barger
Mayor, City of Brookwood

Lee Busby
Tuscaloosa City Councilor
Norman Crow
Tuscaloosa City Councilor
John Faile
Tuscaloosa City Councilor
John Hinton
Mayor, City of Northport

Raevan Howard
Tuscaloosa City Councilor
Walt Maddox
Mayor, City of Tuscaloosa

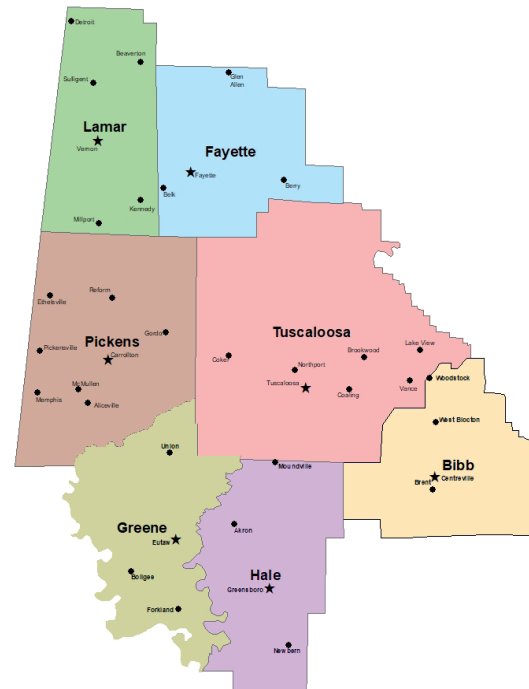
Brenda Morrison
Mayor, Town of Vance
Reginald Murray
County Commissioner
Mark C. Nelson
County Commissioner

Rob Robertson
County Commission Chair
and Probate Judge
Jerry Tingle
County Commissioner
Matthew Wilson
Tuscaloosa City Councilor

Dennis Stripling
Secretary
West Alabama Regional Commission

West Alabama at Large
Allen J. Dunavant
Mayor, Town of Glen Allen
Mike Fields
Shelton State Community
College (Retired)

Jimmy Madison
Mayor, Town of Berry
Sharon Nethery
County Commission Chair and
Probate Judge



Local Government Membership

Bibb County
City of Brent
City of Centreville
Town of West Blocton
Town of Woodstock

Fayette County
Town of Belk
Town of Berry
City of Fayette
Town of Glen Allen

Greene County
Town of Boligee
City of Eutaw
Town of Forkland
Town of Union

Hale County
Town of Akron
City of Greensboro
City of Moundville
Town of Newbern

Lamar County
Town of Beaverton
Town of Detroit
Town of Kennedy
Town of Millport
City of Sulligent
City of Vernon

Pickens County
City of Aliceville
Town of Carrollton
Town of Ethelsville
Town of Gordo
Town of Pickensville
Town of Reform

Tuscaloosa County
City of Brookwood
Town of Coaling
Town of Coker
Town of Lake View
City of Northport
City of Tuscaloosa
Town of Vance

Meet our Staff

Leadership

Dennis Stripling
Executive Director

Cory Johnson
Director of Community & Economic
Development

Administrative

Michelle Carter
Public Information & Human
Resources Manager

Ivy Lake
Office Manager

Accounting

Matt Kynard
Senior Accountant

Aging

Ashley Adcox
Aging Services Director

Shakedra Asher
Medicaid Case Manager

Lauren Ballard
Community Health
Programs Coordinator

Hagan Beasley
Aging Program Assistant

Brittani Blackston
Medicaid Case Management
Specialist

Kellie Blount
Long Term Care Ombudsman

Tera Booth
Medicaid Case Manager

Leah Bosch
Medicaid Case Manager
Coordinator

Tra Brenson
Personal Choices Counselor

Debbie Brooker
Medicaid Administrative Assistant

Brittany Chambers
Medicaid Case Manager

Kayla Clark
SHIP Coordinator

Mischaela Cole
Medicaid Case Manager

Anna Dailey
SCSEP Coordinator

Kelli Kimbrell
Deputy Director
Director of Area Agency on Aging

Dawn Wade
Fiscal Officer

Zane Davis
Director of Transportation Planning

Kacey Davidson
Transition Coordinator

Stephanie Dickinson
Medicaid Case Manager

Shelia Elledge
Contracts & Budget Manager

Valerie Ellis
Medicaid Case Manager

Amelia Fenimore
Quality Assurance Officer

Taylor Fisher
PANDA Project Coordinator

Monica Fletcher
Personal Choices Counselor

Beth Gartman
Medicaid Case Manager

Robyn Ghoston
Medicaid Case Manager

Debbie Gregory
Aging & Disability
Resource Center Coordinator

Hannah Hamner
Medicaid Case Management
Coordinator

Zoe Hatch
Aging & Disability
Resource Center Counselor

Evet Hayes
Aging Program Assistant

Brittany Hines
Medicaid Case Manager

Jacqueline Hines
Self-Directed Programs
Coordinator

Tranjula Hoindo
Self-Directed Programs
Coordinator

Kamille Horne
Personal Choices Counselor

Sylvia Johnson
Medicaid Case Manager II

Tammy Lindley
Medicaid Case Manager II

Monica Lynn
Aging & Disability
Resource Center Counselor

Emily Maurer
Medicaid Case Manager

Jessica May
Medicaid Case Manager

Sparkle McCrary
Medicaid Case Manager

Robin Montgomery
Medicaid Case Manager
Coordinator

Michaela Moss
Medicaid Case Manager

Grace Nunn
Quality Assurance Manager

Lupita Odom
Aging & Disability
Resource Center Counselor

Lee Ella Oglesbee
Medicaid Case Manager

Tracy Parady
RN Team Leader

Nikki Poe
Aging Services Coordinator

Raeshonda Rhodes
Personal Choices Counselor

Misty Richardson
Nutrition Project Coordinator

Lyndsi Robbins
Quality Assurance Manager

Ivy Rogers
PANDA Care Manager

Jessica Scrivner
Medicaid Case Manager II

Anna Kate Sentell
Personal Choices Counselor

Ashley Sherrill
Medicaid Case Manager

Kelsey Sherrill
Medicaid Case Manager

Jessica Sorrells
Medicaid Case Manager II

Carolyn Sparks
Medicaid Case Manager
Supervisor

Sarah Ellis Sparks
Medicaid Case Manager

Jacelyn Stewart
Medicaid Case Manager

Miranda Stewart
Medicaid Case Manager

Jana Stockton
Medicaid Case Management
Coordinator

Celestina Thompson
Medicaid Case Manager

Avery Walters
Medicaid Case Manager

Tamia Watkins
Personal Choices Counselor

Reneithyia Watson
Medicaid Case Manager II

Leslie Wheat
Medicaid Assessment
Coordinator

Quyanetta Williams
Personal Choices
Senior Counselor

Lakia Wilson
Medicaid Case Manager

Community & Economic Development

Pamela Trammell
Senior Planner

Ryan Cass
GIS Planning Specialist

Transportation Planning

Molly Dodson
GIS Specialist

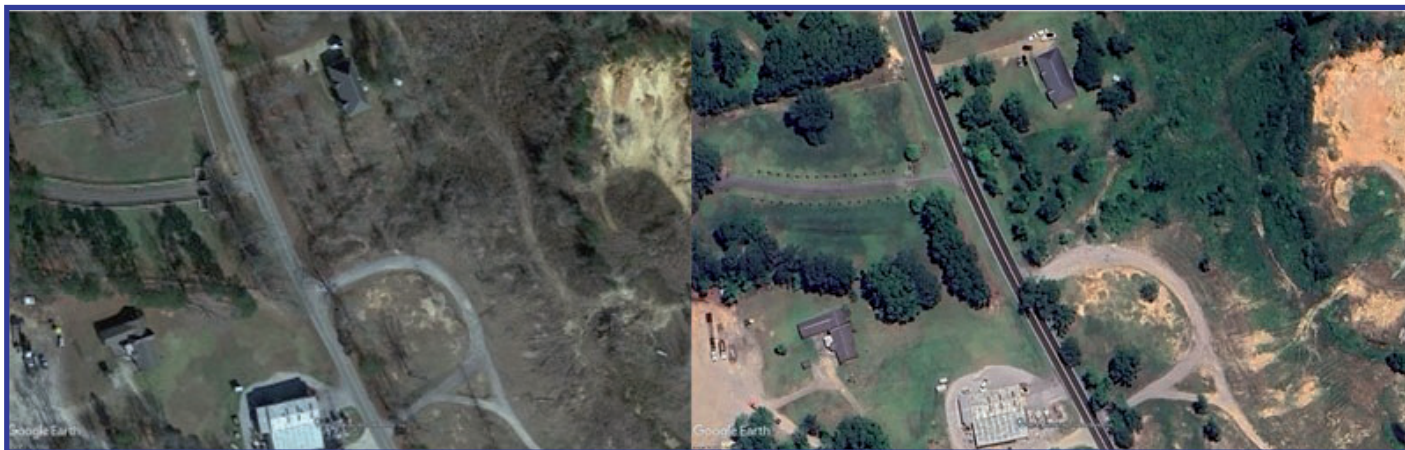
Chris Wriley
Senior Transportation Planner

Transportation Planning

- **The West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO)** held 28 meetings of the Citizens Transportation Advisory Committees (CTAC), Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) and the Policy Committee. Over 60 transportation projects were reviewed and discussed.
- **The WARC Transportation Planning Department** has provided contract-redistricting assistance to eight local governments following the release on the 2020 Census data. All WARC developed maps have been approved.
- **The WARC Transportation Planning Department** provided contract-GIS service for the Tuscaloosa County School System.
- **The Tuscaloosa Area MPO** adopted the *2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)* and the *2023 Tuscaloosa MPO Public Involvement Plan (PIP)*.

- **The WARC Transportation Planning Department** processed seven transit grant applications. They consisted of six 5310 and one 5311 applications.
- **The WARC Transportation Planning Department** contracted with City of Lake View to GPS and map their sewer system.
- **The WARC Transportation Planning Department** created and maintained new interactive web maps including regional transportation projects, regional traffic counts, safety observations, and a county features map hub. All interactive maps can be found on the WARC website.

THE TUSCALOOSA AREA MPO IS CURRENTLY PROVIDING FUNDS TO 19 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS. TOTAL MPO FUNDS APPROVED FOR THOSE 19 PROJECTS ARE \$89,297,206.



Charlie Shirley Road resurfacing project completed in FY 2023. Image on left taken in 2021 and image on right taken in 2023.

Who We Are

The West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC) is one of the 12 regional councils in the State of Alabama. The councils serve local governments and citizens by coordinating region-wide projects and services, promoting cooperation among the local governments and carrying out state and federal programs on a regional basis. The West Alabama area is designated Planning District 2, or Region 2.

The WARC covers Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens and Tuscaloosa Counties. The commission is governed by an executive committee and a Board of Directors, made up of representatives from each of these seven counties and 35 municipalities, who annually elect a chairman and a vice-chairman. The Board is composed of citizens and policy-making elected officials from the member governments. It is with the Board's participation the WARC staff are enabled to carry out WARC's mission of improving the quality of life in West Alabama.



Contact Us



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 Northport, AL 35476
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www.warc.info | warc@westal.org

Area Agency on Aging (AAA)

AS OF FY23, THE AAA MANAGES OVER 20 DIFFERENT PROGRAMS THAT ASSIST MEMBERS THROUGHOUT THE WEST ALABAMA REGION.

- **The Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC)** assisted more than 3,300 individuals. Assistance includes screening, follow-up and enrollment into programs offered through the AAA and other providers in the region. Additionally, more than 2,600 "quick calls" were handled through ADRC. Marketing and outreach efforts reached more than 513,000 individuals.
- **The Alabama Cares Program** assisted more than 1,400 caregivers throughout the region.
- **The Medicaid Waiver Program** served 1,105 clients in FY23 with 523 of them receiving services through the self-directed program, Personal Choices. We also transitioned 6 nursing home residents back into the community with the support of Medicaid Waiver services through our Gateway to Community Living program.
- **The Nutrition/Senior Activity Program** Approximately 250,000 meals were served through the senior activity centers (SACs) or home delivered meals over the past year.
- **The State Health Insurance Program (SHIP)** has assisted more than 3,800 Medicare beneficiaries with their coverage questions and options. During the FY23 Open Enrollment Period (OEP), over 2,100 clients were helped.
- **The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)** has assisted over 47 participants with job training.

- **The Long Term Ombudsman program** provided over 240 consultations to Long Term Care and Assisted Living facilities and individuals this year. There were 59 cases opened totaling over 100 + complaints. The program also provided training to long term care facility staff and at community education events.
- **Our 11 Evidence Based Programs** served over 150 clients this past year. We offer Matter of Balance, Stress Busters for Caregivers of those with dementia, Stress Busters for Caregivers of those with a chronic illness and Bingocize.
- **The SenioRx program** assisted 378 clients in FY23 for an estimated savings of \$1,461,000.00 on medications.
- **Legal services** were provided to 193 clients in FY23.
- Our **PANDA Project (Providing Alzheimer's 'N Dementia Assistance)** started enrolling clients in the spring of 2023. Since that time, we have assisted 93 clients by providing education, durable medical equipment, assistive devices, and other support services that were identified utilizing a person-centered approach.
- **The VA-HCBS program** has served six clients this year.



Community and Economic Development

35,250 PEOPLE AND 284 BUSINESSES IN THE REGION WILL BENEFIT FROM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY WARC IN 2023.

- **The WARC Community and Economic Development Department** worked with PPM Consultants to secure a \$500,000 Brownfields Assessment grant. The four-year project will target multiple areas in the region to identify potential sites for future cleanup or redevelopment projects that will spur much-needed investment in West Alabama.
- **The WARC Community and Economic Development Department** is actively supporting the I-22 Corridor Strategic planning in Fayette, Lamar, Marion, and Winston counties. WARC has provided funding support for the I-22 Region tourism website and serves on the I-22 Tourism committee.
- **The WARC Community and Economic Development Department** prepared the *2023 Grant and Loan Guide for Local Governments in West Alabama*.

DELTA THRIVES

WARC was awarded special funding by the Delta Regional Authority through its Local Development District Community Support Pilot program. The funds are assisting WARC to allocate staff and provide targeted assistance to Greene, Hale, and Pickens counties located in the Black Belt region. WARC's DELTA THRIVES program will bring staff and resources to assist DRA communities assess needs, identify priorities, and develop successful projects in their communities.



- **The WARC Community and Economic Development Department** prepared the *2023 West Alabama Regional and County Metrics* socioeconomic data profiles.
 - Staff assists the City of Aliceville with their Alabama Communities of Excellence (ACE) program.
 - **The WARC Community & Economic Development Department** assisted local governments to successfully complete four grant projects totaling \$1,334,902; administer four additional open grants totaling \$1,346,302; and administer three ADEM SRF projects totaling \$8,268,023.
 - Two grant applications totaling \$435,920 were approved in FY23; and one request of \$508,362 was not awarded:
- Land and Water Conservation Fund**
- Town of Carrollton \$168,000 Playground and lighting - AWARDED
 - Town of Gordo \$267,920 Splashpad and playground - AWARDED
- Delta Regional Authority**
- Town of Carrollton \$508,362 Lift Station Upgrades -Not funded

- **REVOLVING LOAN FUND (RLF)** WARC launched a new Micro-loan program to replace the C-19 Covid Relief fund. Retail businesses, small manufacturing companies, and Service businesses can apply for Micro-loans of \$25,000.