



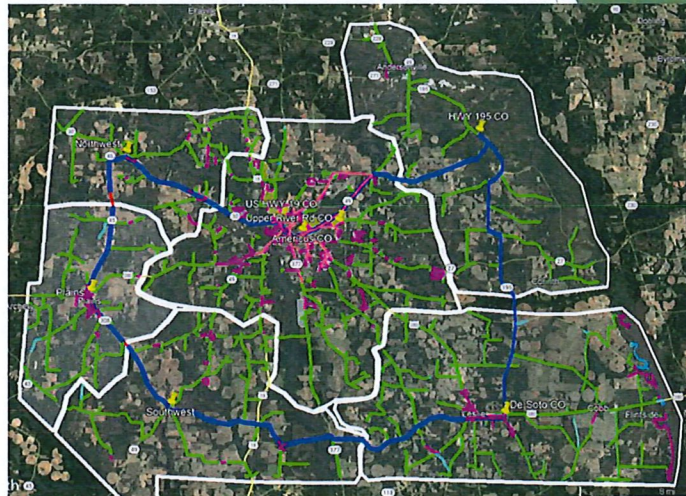
Economic Development Foundation, Inc.

It brings me great joy to announce some of the progress and accomplishments that One Sumter has achieved over the past three months, which wouldn't have been possible without the humble and continued support from each of our donors and supporters.

Broadband Expansion Update: In March, Dustin Durden, CEO of Pineland, announced at our Donor Breakfast about the progress and future plans for the broadband expansion in Sumter County. They are currently working on securing the Transport Ring, which entails them setting up the foundation and structure surrounding Sumter County. The blue line indicates where the Transport Ring is located.

Sumter County Project

- \$33 million project
- \$25.3 million in State Grant
- ~6,900 Locations
- ~612 Miles of Fiber
- Partnership effort with One Sumter & Sumter County Board of Commissioners

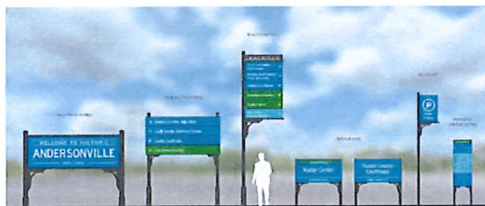


Community Development: In 2022, One Sumter was awarded \$1.26 million in funding from Sen. Ossoff's office in support of Phase 1 of the Rev. Pearly Brown Amphitheater and Park. On May 9th, we celebrated the Groundbreaking Ceremony of the Amphitheater project, where we announced the Final Master plan, what each of the three phases entail, as well as the Brick Campaign. It was a huge success and we are grateful for the overall support we received from the community, as well as each of those who helped make the event a success. Please see below:



Additional images attached showing the masterplan, information for each of the three phases, and the brick campaign fundraiser.

In addition, we are pleased to announce that the City of Americus passed an ordinance in May that will allow **A Better Way Grocers** to effectively serve communities and neighborhoods in Americus. The mobile grocery bus will also be at the resource fair, “Give Yourself a Head Start”, which will entail resources for the entire family, free food, and live music on June 17th at the Leslie Community Center, 173 Allen St, Leslie, GA, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. The bus continues to serve citizens in Andersonville, GA as well.



Wayfinding – One Sumter continues to make strides to promote the comprehensive, directional signage system for all of Sumter County. We have spent close to \$40,000 developing a cohesive signage design through contracting with Formula Design. Now that the design is complete, One Sumter has attended both the City of

Plains and the City of Americus Council Meetings to discuss how each municipality can continue moving forward with this project and plans to advocate for the other three municipalities to do the same over the next quarter in hopes of seeing this project come to fruition.

Crime Prevention - One Sumter is collaborating with Sheriff Eric Bryant and Americus Police Chief Mark Scott to complete and debut the Reformation Project Filming, which addresses root issues that lead to gun violence to collectively identify solutions for our community, including interviews with key members of our community who speak on behalf of the crisis and discuss realistic solutions through a community lens. In addition, One Sumter hosted the Gun Violence & Community Solutions Summit in February of this year, which allowed key leaders and citizens the opportunity to come together and gain more insight into this crisis and potential solutions. It brings me great joy to highlight some of the positive outcomes from this Summit,

including the Dwight Harris Boys Club and REACH (Raising Expectation and Changing Habits), which are two summer camps that will allow youth the opportunity to engage in positive and healthy behaviors in hopes to reduce and/or alleviate the rise in youth violence during summer. Another outcome is the anticipation of bringing Teen Maze to Sumter County Schools in March of 2024. Sumter County Schools has already agreed to allow 7th – 12th graders the opportunity to participate in the experiential opportunity that allows students to enhance critical thinking, reduce impulsive decisions, and experience positive and negative consequences as a direct result of their actions. Last, but certainly not least, organizations and businesses are coming together to offer Financial Literacy meetings to communities in Sumter, whereas we have had four successful community meetings. These educational opportunities couldn't have been possible without the collaboration between Citizen's Bank of Americus and Sisters in Service.

Director of Programs – One Sumter is excited to introduce our newest team member! We are thrilled to welcome Tammye Pettyjohn Jones to our organization. With a passion for addressing challenges for rural communities, she brings a fresh perspective and a wealth of experience to our team. Tammye's exceptional skills in leadership and a combination of expertise in workforce development, government policies, and community and youth leadership make her an invaluable addition to our team. We are excited to see her contribute to our collective success as we continue to tackle One Sumter's GROW2024 initiatives. Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Tammye Pettyjohn Jones as she embarks on this exciting new journey with us!

We are thankful for what has been accomplished thus far through collaboration and teamwork across the community and look forward to reporting on these and other ongoing initiatives as we continue the mission made possible by you.

With Respect and Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alicia Ledbetter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alicia Ledbetter, LMSW