



Our Impact in 2022 & Looking Ahead to 2023

A new video that highlights the impact of TARCOG over the past year was presented by Executive Director Michelle Jordan at the annual meeting of the agency's board of directors on Sept. 26.

"This shows how we support our seniors to thrive in their communities and how we work with those same communities to improve quality of life through smart growth strategies," said Michelle, who also provided the agency's annual report.

City Councilwoman Connie Spears became president of the TARCOG Board of Directors as the organization's leadership changed at the meeting. Former Fort Payne Mayor and Board President Larry Chesser handed over the gavel to Spears at the meeting. Other leadership changes include Athens City Councilman James Lucas as vice president and Guntersville City Councilman John Myers as secretary. A new treasurer will be voted on in October.

Greg Cochran, executive director of the Alabama League of Municipalities, was the guest speaker, sharing updates on the different ways the league can assist or provide training to local governments to meet their daily challenges.

There were 30 TARCOG board members, staff, and special guests who attended the annual meeting. Attendees took a brief pause to take in a beautiful sunset during the meeting, held at the Baron Bluff Building at Burritt on the Mountain in Huntsville.

[Watch the Video](#)

Serving People: Scottsboro Senior Center Celebrates 50 Years of Senior Meals

Fifty years ago, the first nutrition center in the State of Alabama opened at the Scottsboro Senior Center, and the Jackson County Council on Aging celebrated the milestone with a packed house on September 26.

"This marked a new way of life for hundreds of Jackson County senior citizens," said Chad Coleman, director of the Jackson County Council on Aging.

Linda Larcom, the nutrition program coordinator, said the meals program got off the ground because of the tireless efforts of its founder, Rita Williams Glasz, who was honored at the celebration with a plaque of appreciation.

"It's hard to believe it's been that long," Rita said. "I remember going out and knocking on doors and finding seniors. We didn't have computerized things like we do now to go by, so I had to go out and collect names of individuals by going door to door. I visited with people and invited them to come to the center."

[Read the Full Story](#)



Pictured: Rita Williams Glasz, founder of the Jackson County Council on Aging, talks to a packed Scottsboro Senior Center, remembering how she helped start the first program in the State of Alabama to serve nutritious meals to seniors in 1973.

Improving Communities: New Playground Opens in Powell

A colorful and interactive new playground is officially ready for action at Powell Park in DeKalb County!

This wonderful addition to the community was made possible by more than \$163,000 in grant funding from the combined efforts of TARCOG, town leaders, state legislators, the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Development Agency (ADECA), and the Alabama Mountains, Rivers & Valleys Resource Conservation and Development (AMRV RC&D) Council.

[Learn More About the Project](#)



Pictured from left: TARCOG Economic Development and Planning Director Lee Terry, TARCOG Executive Director Michelle Gilliam-Jordan, State Sen. Steve Livingston, Powell City Council members Reggie Byrum and Gurlon Lands, Speaker of the House Nathaniel Ledbetter, and Alabama's Mountains, Rivers & Valleys Resource Conservation and Development Councils Executive Director, Renona Seibert

Growing Our Economy: TARCOG Vision Zero Survey Now Available Online

Your voice matters!

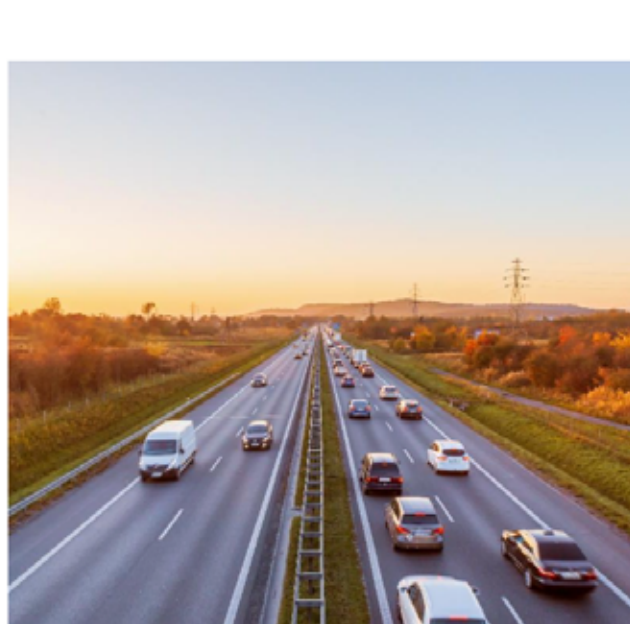
An online survey is being conducted as part of a new Regional Safety Action Plan that TARCOG is developing for DeKalb, Jackson, Marshall, and portions of Limestone counties. The survey takes about 5-10 minutes to complete, and all residents of these counties are encouraged to participate.

The goal of the survey is to hear about the experiences of those living in Northeast Alabama regarding transportation and traffic safety.

The survey is one of the first steps in developing the new Regional Safety Action Plan resulting from a \$500,000 award from the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant from the Federal Highway Administration.

Public meetings to discuss the project will also be scheduled in October and November.

[Take the Survey](#)



Even More News from TARCOG!

- TARCOG Community Development Specialist Marley Hicks was a **featured conference speaker** at the Southeast Brownfields Conference
- Get ready for **Medicare Open Enrollment** beginning on October 15



Upcoming Events

Jackson County Council on Aging Health Fair

October 27
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
146 Rita Williams Drive in Scottsboro

To learn more about the Health Fair, please contact the Jackson County Council on Aging at [256-574-6733](tel:256-574-6733).

8th Annual Caregiver College

November 17
7:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Willowbrook Church, Madison Campus

Caregiver College is a free public event that celebrates, educates, and provides a break for family caregivers in our region. This year's theme is #CaregiversConnect.

With workshops and interactive sessions to empower caregivers to be extraordinary, our goal is to share valuable information that will allow family caregivers to connect with professionals, community resources, and fellow caregivers. We hope that each attendee will walk away feeling supported and encouraged.

This is a free event, but space is limited. Register today!

[Learn More and Register](#)