

SCDOT Enhancement Grants Almost in Season

It may only be December 2001, but it is not too early to be thinking about the 2002 Transportation Enhancement Grant Program. Commonly known as enhancement grants, the SCDOT administers this element of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). These grants fund community improvement projects that have a relationship to transportation. Most recently, the Cities of Chesnee, Gaffney, and Pacolet used the grants for street, sidewalk, and pedestrian path improvements. For jurisdictions in non-MPO areas, the SCDOT announces the application process in early February, with an application due date in March. The SCDOT is currently reviewing the process, but there are no significant changes anticipated for 2002.

There are 12 eligible transportation enhancement grant categories, which are:

1. Provisions of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles.
2. Safety and educational activities (pedestrians and bicyclists).
3. Acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites.
4. Scenic or historic highway program (tourist and welcome center facilities).
5. Landscaping and other scenic beautification.
6. Historic preservation.
7. Rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities.
8. Preservation of abandoned railway



corridors.

9. Control and removal of outdoor advertising.
10. Archeological planning and research.
11. Mitigation of water pollution due to highway run-off or reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining connectivity.
12. Establishment of transportation museums.

The projects must have at least one of these characteristics for the SCDOT to consider the project:

- **Functional** projects that extend the functionality of the transportation system—that is, moving people or goods from one point to another.
- **Proximity** projects that improve areas around transportation corridors—example, landscaping or outdoor advertising removal projects.
- **Impact** projects that improve some undesirable situation that was created by a transportation corridor.

The maximum amount of funding a jurisdiction can receive is \$200,000. The funding formula for this program is 80% state and 20% local match. The

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Council Workshops on Terrorism — Timely Training for Policymakers



More than 80 city and county council members, managers, and key emergency personnel attended terrorism awareness briefings hosted by ACOG in November. Three separate workshops were conducted by representatives from the state's Emergency Preparedness Division, the local office of the FBI and the Upstate's emergency response (COBRA) team.

The course provided awareness-level training designed to assist elected council members in making decisions dealing with potential threats. The training material was based upon a U. S. Department of Defense lesson plan and included information on terrorist threats, weapons of mass destruction, planned responses, legal issues and liability, intergovernmental planning, and South Carolina's emergency response planning.

For further information concerning the workshops, contact Joe Newton.



GTA Ready to Start Bus Service in Greer

Greer has the riders to keep a public transportation system rolling if city officials can find funding to start the program. City Council was presented with findings of a transportation study initiated by the Greenville Transit Authority and conducted by a pair of independent firms.

Based on findings of the study, GTA is set to launch a bus service here. Out of 302 Greer residents that responded to the transportation survey, 78 percent either walk or depend on others for transportation. The majority of the trips were to work, social services, medical facilities, shopping, and school.

GTA officials estimate that if one van was put into service in Greer, it would make about 1,100 trips a month, or some 13,000 trips a year. The consultants examined two primary forms of bus service, a fixed route service and a demand response "on call" service. They recommended a combination of each through a hybrid fixed-point service.

This method will feature predetermined stops such as the Human Resources Center and Taylors GTA stop. Additional curb-to-curb trips will be available on demand.

"The service would be directed by Greer," GTA General Manager William Harned stressed. "The people of Greer would have a lot to say as to how they want it to be. We want to provide the service Greer wants based on what Greer feels is necessary."

Officials suggest the bus service be made available 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday.

Funding:

The cost of starting the hybrid service is expected to be \$131,000 for purchasing and operating one van and a spare.

Within one year, it is anticipated a second van will be placed in service at an additional cost of \$110,000. Harned said GTA is willing to ante up the buses or vans.

Fares, suggested at \$1.50 per trip, will generate an estimated 25 percent of the operation costs. Other operation funding may come from Greenville and Spartanburg Counties, SCDOT, and grants, although none of these methods have been pursued. Officials also indicate that Community Development Block Grants may be utilized.

The Greer bus service will help people like one retiree who said she has to pay \$27 each way for a taxi ride to Greenville. Greer's bus stop in Taylors will allow passengers to hop aboard a GTA unit there and visit such places as the malls, County Square, or Greenville Memorial.

Harned expects the Greer bus will have minimal impact on local taxis. He stressed, "We don't go into an area to put a taxi service out of business. The public transit and taxi companies are not inherently designed to compete against each other although sometimes we share passengers. This service is designed for people who don't always have options. This is a lower cost because of the governmental subsidy."

Harned added that Greenville's Yellow Cab now has 60 taxis and hopes to increase their fleet to 100 vehicles by year-end.

Greer Mayor Rick Danner and council are studying the survey results. Danner indicated council would explore funding the transportation system when budget discussions begin next spring.

(Reprint of an article by Eddie



Burch appearing in *The Greenville*

Seniors Group Announces New Name, Headquarters

The charity formerly known as the Anderson-Oconee Council on Aging revealed its new identity to the community on Thursday, November 15, 2001. The organization unveiled a logo, highlighting its new name, SENIOR Solutions, at its annual meeting at the Ramada Inn in Clemson.

Executive Director Doug Wright and Marge Hoffman, chairwoman of the Board of Directors, made the presentation along with Gov. Jim Hodges, guest speaker for the event. "I've always felt that the name 'Council on Aging' was a real downer," Ms. Hoffman said. "Especially since I was one of the group considered 'aging.'"

The new name has a more action-oriented connotation, she said. "It is a title that will encourage people to want to come and see what we have to offer," she said.

The highlight of the day was another unveiling by Tom Langston and Oren Jones. The co-owners of the former Marketplace Cinemas revealed a preliminary drawing of a renovated version of the building, which they have donated to SENIOR Solutions.

The 30,000-square-foot building, located off Clemson Boulevard, will be converted into a senior center, Mr. Wright said. Mr. Jones said he and Mr. Langston gave the building in honor of their wives Sara Jones and Jean Langston. "We're delighted to do it," Mr. Jones said. "We just wish the council the best of luck in the future. We look forward to seeing the building as it's being developed."

Gov. Hodges said the announcements made at the meeting represent things that should be happening more in the state. He said the state and the nation should find more ways to help senior citizens.

(Reprint of an article by Samantha

Public Water System Security December 19 Seminar



ACOG will be facilitating a seminar on "Security of Public Water Systems." The afternoon seminar will include a security expert from Black and Veatch Engineering, a SCDHEC representative, and a senior official from the Greenville Water System. The seminar is open to officials from all Upstate public water systems and providers. The session will be held from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. on December 19, 2001, at the Verne Smith Auditorium at Greenville Technical College. Call George McDaniel at ACOG for details.

Informal Problem Solving For Long Term Care Facilities in the Upstate

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Important Things to Consider:

- ✓ Do you know how the administrator wants residents and families to deal with concerns?
- ✓ Have you let complaints accumulate until you are so frustrated that

you will be unable to state your concerns objectively?

- ✓ What is the **specific** complaint?
- ✓ Whose problem is it?
- ✓ Can you prioritize the issues?
- ✓ How does the resident want to approach the problem?
- ✓ Are there other people with the same concerns?
- ✓ Have you personally observed the problem?
- ✓ Are you familiar with the regulations or residents' rights that may apply to this problem?
- ✓ Will the people who can solve the problem be available?
- ✓ Establish a sense of cooperation and inclusion if possible.
- ✓ Hear staff out, but don't lose sight of your goal: the resident's well-being.
- ✓ Offer solutions about the problem's cause and its solution.
- ✓ Don't leave any meetings with staff without a clear understanding of what you can expect.

How To Submit A Complaint

- 1 Be as specific as possible regarding your concerns. Answer questions who, what, when, and why. The timing of any response is usually based on the severity of the complaint.
- 2 Include any relevant documents and the names of other persons involved or that may be contacted.

IF YOU ARE UNSUCCESSFUL AT THE FACILITY LEVEL OR JUST NEED ASSISTANCE IN GETTING THROUGH THE MAZE, PLEASE CONTACT:

The Appalachian Council of Governments' Long Term Care Ombudsman toll free:

Anderson County	225-3268
Cherokee County	489-6960
Oconee County	882-7538

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Company Ranked by Inc 500

Active Services Corporation, parent company of Active Nursing Services of Gaffney, has been named one of America's entrepreneurial growth leaders by Inc magazine, which recently released its annual ranking of the Inc 500, the nation's fastest growing private companies.

Active Services Corporation achieved some 8,307 percent growth in the past five years, with sales growing from \$305,000 in 1996 to \$25.7 million in 2000. During that five-year time frame, the company has grown from a single facility in Birmingham, Alabama, to a network of 56 operating programs spanning eight states.

The Inc 500 ranks the nation's leading entrepreneurial firms according to sales growth over the previous five years. Former Inc companies that have gone on to become household names including Microsoft, Timberland, Domino's Pizza and Patagonia.

The company provides adult day health care, outpatient rehabilitation, in-home personal care and non-emergency medical transportation. Visit the web site, www.aciveservices.com, to learn more

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SCDOT will institute an education program to assist local jurisdictions with the necessary information to apply for the grants. At these workshops, the SCDOT will explain the enhancement grant application process, identify which organizations can apply for the grants, review the timeline for submittal, and answer any questions that participants may have.

Look for more updates concerning enhancement grants in upcoming *Viewpoint* publications and SCDOT mailings. For more information concerning the Transportation Enhancement Program, contact Shawn Colin or Dan Wagner at the Appalachian COG at (864) 242-9733, Vivian Patterson with the SCDOT

Third Annual Legislative Session

The six top legislative priorities adopted by the South Carolina Silver Haired Legislature for 2002 include:

#1 – Creation of a Medicare Pharmaceutical Assistance Program that would enable Medicare care holders without insurance coverage to purchase prescription drugs at reduced Medicaid prices, plus a dispensing fee.

#2 – Mandatory criminal background checks for employees in all adult care facilities, including nursing homes, assisted and independent living facilities, and day care centers, with penalties for failure to comply and information sharing by state and federal law enforcement agencies.

#3 – Limiting maximum annual interest rates and setting interest caps on loans so that all citizens can obtain credit without becoming victims of usury.

#4 – Increase funding for all in-home and community based services conducted by the Departments of Health and Human Services, Disabilities and Special Needs, Mental Health and Social Services, such as home-delivered meals, personal care, transportation and caregiver relief.

#5 – Strengthen Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) regulations for licensing and monitoring all adult care facilities throughout the state.

#6 – Set up a state budget and spending management process that will provide biennial assessment of the state's short and long term objectives, revenues, and expenditures so that we don't have large surpluses one year and huge deficits the next.

Additional Legislative Priorities for 2002 include:

- #7 – Critical transportation.
- #8 – Elimination of sales tax on food.
- #9 – Tax credits for payment of long term care insurance premiums.
- #10 – Uninsured/underinsured motorists.
- #11 – Increase number of ombudsmen and establish/maintain a volunteer ombudsman program.
- #12 – Standard for long term care.
- #13 – Standardized long term care insurance policies.
- #14 – Transportation services for senior

Pendleton District WIA Awards

At its recent meeting, the Pendleton District Workforce Investment Board presented awards for the Outstanding Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Alumnus in the Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs. The award was given based on outstanding participation in the WIA programs. Stephanie Allison received the WIA Adult Program award and Debbie Dunson received the WIA Dislocated Worker award. Debbie was highlighted in an October 2001 *Viewpoint* article. She also received the South Carolina Workforce Investment Board award for the Outstanding WIA Alumnus.



Stephanie Allison

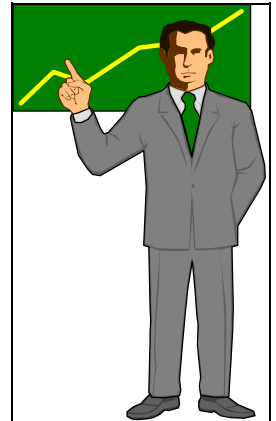


Debbie Dunson

ARC Features ACOG Projects

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) selected two ACOG projects to highlight in its recent publication, The New Appalachia: Ideas that Work.

These projects exemplify the goal of ARC to support “The vision and capacity to mobilize and work together for sustained economic progress and community improvement”.

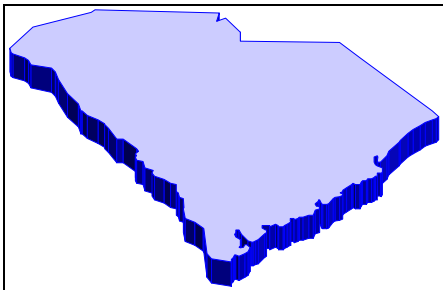


The Appalachian Regional Strategic Plan for Economic Development was chosen for the broad scope of community involvement in the development and implementation of key economic development strategies. (Please contact Steve Pelissier at the ACOG for more information on the plan.)

The regional decision support system, InfoMentum, was also featured as a “best practice” project. In addition to providing a set of integrated research tools for planning and economic development, InfoMentum is a catalyst for fostering regional partnerships and coordinating community GIS activities. Kerry Leonard, of the ACOG Information Services team, presented an overview of InfoMentum at the ARC Conference on Capacity and Collaboration in the New Appalachia, held in Kentucky in November. Her presentation focused on the regional collaboration represented by the project and its positive impact on the region. (Please contact Carol Andersen at the ACOG for more information on InfoMentum.)

GIS Seminar for Elected Officials

The S. C. State Mapping Advisory Committee is sponsoring the South Carolina GIS Conference, February 6-8, 2001, at the Hyatt Regency in Greenville. A special conference session geared toward educating elected officials on the benefits of GIS capabilities will be offered February 6th. This special session will include discussions on geographic information systems (GIS) as it relates



to state redistricting for elections and site selection for economic development. Top decision-makers and staff members alike will benefit from the high-impact presentations and the opportunity to meet with vendors and consultants. Officials can register for this session for just \$25.00.

Training sessions for the full conference will focus around four interest tracks of basic technical, advanced technical, management and related disciplines. Registration cost for the full conference is \$85.00. For more information, please visit the website: www.scmapping.net, or call Mark Perry of the S. C. Geodetic Survey at (803) 896-7703.

Spartanburg County Awarded Over \$1.5 Million for Sewer Improvements

The S. C. Budget and Control Board (B & C B) and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) have approved



grants of \$1,000,000 and \$585,000, respectively, to assist Spartanburg County in the expansion and upgrade of sewer facilities in the Wellford/Jackson Mills/Lyman area. The purpose of the project is to eliminate a health and safety threat by closing the existing Jackson Mills sewer lagoon, upgrading the collection system in the mill village, and constructing new facilities to transport the waste to the Town of Lyman's wastewater treatment plant. The project will also allow for additional industrial and commercial development in the area. Other funding includes \$365,000 from Spartanburg County's CDBG program and \$240,000 from the Town of Lyman. This project is the culmination of many months of planning and meetings on the part of Spartanburg County staff, elected officials and staff from the City of Wellford and the Town of Lyman, representatives of the State Budget and Control Board, staff from the SJWD Water District, residents of Jackson Mills, State Representative Rita Allison, and the Grants Services staff of the Appalachian COG, which prepared the B&CB and ARC applications.

Calendar of Events

- Dec. 3** Appalachian Caucus Meeting, Silver Haired Legislature, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., Council Boardroom.
- Dec. 5** Family Caregiver Meeting, 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Chapin.
- Dec. 11** Focal Point Task Force Meeting, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Columbia.
- Dec. 12** Regional Aging Advisory Committee Meeting, 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Council Boardroom.
- Dec. 13** Aging Component Directors Meeting, 2:30 - 4:00 p.m., COG Training Room.
- Dec. 14** Summer School of Gerontology Committee Meeting, 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Columbia.
- Dec. 14** COG Board of Directors Meeting, 10:30 a.m., Council Boardroom.
- Dec. 14** I-CARE, NPR Training, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Columbia.

VIEWPOINT

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