

ACOG Board Adopts Six-Year, \$45 Million Rural Transportation Improvement Program

Under an agreement with the S. C. Department of Transportation, ACOG prepares transportation system improvement programs for rural (non MPO) portions of the region. The program, approved by the COG Board, establishes recommended priorities for road construction projects that are submitted to the S. C. DOT Commission. At its August 26th meeting, the Board adopted an updated System Improvement Program covering the years FY 2007 - FY 2012. The plan includes projects that address pressing needs in every county of the region, as noted:

Anderson

- I-85, install lighting at exits 19 (US 76), 21 (US 178) and 27 (SC 81).
- US 29, widen from 2 to 5 lanes between SC 8 and SC 20 Connector.

Cherokee

- US 29 Connector, construct a new road to connect US 29 and SC 105 near the Gaffney High School.
- Old Post Road, widen from 2 to 5 lanes between SC 105 and SC 11.

Greenville

- US 25/SC 11 interchange, improve the interchange to enhance safety. Construct additional entrance ramps.

Oconee

- Sheep Farm Road/Bountyland Road, improve and widen the existing Sheep Farm Road between US 123 and Bountyland Road. Improve Bountyland Road between



Orange construction cones will continue to be a common sight across the region as the Transportation Improvement Program is implemented over the next six years.

Sheep Farm Road and SC 28.

- Sheep Farm Road Phase 2, construct a new road to head northeast from Bountyland Road and tie into SC 28 between Seneca and West Union.

Pickens

- SC 133 Railroad Underpass, construct a new railroad bridge and widen the SC 133 intersection with US 123 in Clemson.
- Berkeley Drive, construct sidewalks along Berkeley Drive in the vicinity of the Clemson Elementary School. Construct a pedestrian/bicycle bridge over US 123.

Spartanburg

- (If approved by SC DOT) SC 9 in the Boiling Springs area, widen and improve the route.
- (If the SC 9 project is not approved by SC DOT) SC 9/SC 11 interchange, add turning lanes and sig-

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Celebrating 40 Years of Service to Local Government

On December 9th, the Appalachian Council of Governments will celebrate 40 years of professional service to the municipal and county governments that make up the six-county South Carolina Appalachian region.

Plans for the celebration are still in the making, but please be sure to mark your calendars now and plan to attend. Details will be forthcoming in future issues of *Viewpoint*. (Also, see the article entitled *A Brief History of the Appalachian COG* in this issue.)

Fundraising for Public Organizations

On Tuesday, September 27, the Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA) will sponsor a broadcast on "Fundraising for Public Organizations." The broadcast will take place from 1:00 to 4:30 and will be available via a webcast at www.arc.gov or on a satellite link. The instructor for this seminar is David Bauer, an acknowledged expert on grant seeking and fund raising who has taught his techniques to thousands of people throughout the country.

If you are interested in watching this broadcast, either on line or through the satellite link, please contact Dirk Reis at the ACOG in order to receive the course handouts. If there is enough interest, the ACOG may host the satellite broadcast in the ACOG boardroom.

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Got Water? Got Sewer?

S. C. Water and Sewer Database Redevelopment Project

The South Carolina Department of Commerce and the ten regional councils of government are collaborating in an effort to redevelop statewide maps of existing water and wastewater lines for the purpose of supporting economic development decisions.

The South Carolina Department of Commerce (SCDOC) has maintained a Geographic Information System (GIS) database of public water and wastewater systems for several years. The database was initially developed in 1991 under the South Carolina Infrastructure Planning (SCIP) project and last updated in 1999. There is now a need to update the maps using current data originating directly from utility providers, based on more accurate base maps. These datasets are extremely crucial to economic development in South Carolina. Utility concerns are explored very early in a company's decision-making process and current, reliable data is essential for successful industry recruitment.

As the first step in developing this statewide dataset, ACOG recently distributed a survey to key leaders and each water and wastewater system provider in the region. Results of the survey will provide key information on the nature and availability of digital and hard copy data for each system throughout the region. Accurate and complete survey results will ensure that the providers in the region are fully represented.

In the next phase of this project, ACOG will collect digital maps and supporting materials from sewer and water providers in order to create a regional mosaic map of water and sewer system features. Strict rules for accuracy, content, and collection methods will ensure that each COG handles the information in the same way so that the ten maps will create a seamless statewide layer.

After the initial regional mosaic maps of water and sewer system



features are compiled, there will be gaps resulting from systems that could not provide digital data. For those areas, the less accurate 1999 SCIP data will be inserted and updated over time as more systems develop the capability to maintain digital maps.

In response to concerns over homeland security, the new statewide water and sewer maps will only show lines and system capacity. The locations of features vulnerable to tampering, such as hydrants, pump stations, or treatment facilities, will **not** be displayed on the maps. The purpose of the maps is only to show potential investors and developers that the Upstate has sufficient water and sewer infrastructure to support industry development and relocation, and ultimately create jobs.

For more information, please contact Carol Andersen at ACOG, andersen@scacog.org.

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nalize the intersection.

- (IF the SC 9 project is not approved by SC DOT) SC 146/SC 417 interchange, re-align the intersection to improve site distance.

The ACOG will submit these projects to the S. C. DOT Commission for inclusion into the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program later this fall. If approved by the Commission, work will begin in October 2006. For additional information on the Rural Transportation Improvement Program, please contact Steve Pelissier at the ACOG.

Youth Forum — “A Shared Vision For Youth”

The Pendleton District Workforce Investment Board Youth Council sponsored a Youth Forum entitled, “A Shared Vision for Youth” on August 8, 2005. The meeting was held at the Clemson University Madren Conference Center. The Forum was designed to set the foundation for the Pendleton District Workforce Investment System to fully implement the U. S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration's New Strategic Vision to serve Out-of-School and At-Risk Youth under the Workforce Investment Act.

Mr. Sam Jordan, Workforce Planning and Program Development Manager with the Department of Commerce, presented an update on the State Initiatives. In addition, Mr. Jim Grantham, Anderson County Director, Department of Juvenile Justice, discussed their agency's commitment to the efforts and the local collaboration that already exists. Mr. Rick Hane, Anderson County Director, Department of Social Services, shared the needs of their agency and the local “real people” perspective. Mr. Jonathan Jennings, Director of Anderson 3, 4, and 5, Adult Education, expressed their desire to work together and outlined the impact of their services. Ms. Julia Hoyle, Pendleton District WIB Director, gave an overview of the impact of the Workforce Investment Act on the Pendleton District region and its Youth initiatives.

Forty-six people from Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens Counties attended the Forum. Each county participated in group exercises to develop strategies for collaborating and implementation of the new strategic vision for the local area's targeted youth.

Based on the overwhelming response from this event and in order to further the vision, the Pendleton District Workforce Investment Board will be

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A Brief History of the Appalachian COG

In December the Appalachian Council of Governments will celebrate 40 years of service to its member counties and municipalities. The following is a brief synopsis of the organization's nature and purpose, from its beginnings to the present day.

The first predecessor of the Appalachian COG was known as the **South Carolina Appalachian Advisory Committee**, formed by Governor Robert McNair in 1965. The group's sole purpose was to advise the governor on how to invest funds channeled into the six counties in the Upstate that had been designated as part of the federal Appalachian region – a 13-state region generally following the Appalachian mountains, and ranging from upper Mississippi to New York state.

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) was the agency created to administer the program at the federal level in Washington, D. C. ARC's purpose was to stimulate economic development in this economically distressed area, build roads and highways to make the area more accessible, and improve the physical health of the region's generally poor and medically deprived population.

The South Carolina counties included as part of the Appalachian region were Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens, and Spartanburg. The South Carolina Appalachian Advisory Committee advising Governor McNair on ARC investments was made up of community leaders drawn from the public and private sectors in those six counties.

In 1969 the Advisory Committee was replaced by the **South Carolina Regional Planning and Development Commission**, created by Executive Order of the Governor. The twelve members of this Commission, two from each county, were appointed by the county legislative delegations. In addition to dealing with ARC investments, this group also addressed local and regional planning efforts and administered other

federal and state grants programs, including the Law Enforcement Assistance program and the Outdoor Recreation program.

In 1970 South Carolina voters approved a constitutional referendum encouraging local governments to join together in a system of councils of governments to promote joint actions and intergovernmental cooperation. And, in 1971, the General Assembly approved legislation dividing the state into ten regions and giving county and municipal governments the authority to form councils of governments or COGs.

It was at this time that the six Upstate counties formed the **South Carolina Appalachian Council of Governments**, replacing the former Planning and Development Commission. The new organization continued with the same responsibilities as before, but added administration of many other federal categorical grants programs. Membership in the new COG was designed to reflect the participating governmental bodies. The member jurisdictions, six counties and forty-three municipalities, have remained largely the same over the past thirty-four years, as has the structure of the Council's Board of Directors.

The greatest changes are reflected in the COG's work program, as it has evolved since 1971. Much of that change came as a result of the passage of Home Rule in 1976, giving local governments new powers and responsibilities. Change has also been necessary, even critical, to address the challenges and opportunities posed by new technology and the growing global marketplace. And, more recently, to respond to threats to our homeland security.

The Appalachian Council of Governments, in particular, has been a statewide leader in meeting those challenges, and now, 40 years from our roots, stands ready to meet the challenges of the future.

NIMS—Working Together When Bad Things Happen



Graniteville, January 2005. More than 45 tons of deadly chlorine gas leaked onto the streets of a small South Carolina town.

On February 28, 2003, President Bush issued Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5. The Presidential order directed the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop and administer a **National Incident Management System (NIMS)**. NIMS provides a consistent nationwide template to enable all government, private-sector, and non-governmental organizations to work together during domestic incidents.

NIMS is the country's first-ever standardized approach to incident management and response. While thousands of local, state, and federal agencies have created individual plans to prepare for and respond to emergencies in the past, response agencies **nationwide** will need to become NIMS compliant in 2005. **By FY 2007, Federal preparedness assistance (grants) will be conditioned on full compliance with NIMS.**

Some benefits from NIMS:

- Standardized organizational structures, processes, and procedures;
- Standards for planning, training and exercising, and personnel qualification;

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The Ombudsman Corner

Every season must come to an end. South Carolina's "season without a Volunteer Ombudsman Program" is ending!

Many people, who are part of the ever-growing long-term care population, have no one to advocate for them or simply to visit them in these facilities that they now call "home." The Volunteer Ombudsman Program will have many roles, but the key role is to be that friendly face for these residents. This change is not going to be an easy one; however, it will be a positive move in the right direction for the long-term care facilities here in South Carolina.

As with any change, there are many questions and concerns about this new program. These will be answered as they arise. The Volunteer Ombudsmen will be the communication link between the facilities/residents/families/Ombudsman Program. They **WILL NOT** be "regulators" or "investigators." They will participate in an exceptional and intense training program already in place. This will equip the volunteers with the necessary tools and skills for this very important role.

The volunteer may have several duties, such as:

- * Making friendly visits
- * Educating residents/families/staff of resident rights
- * Bringing concerns to the attention of the administrators and Regional Ombudsman

The volunteer **will not** be permitted to:

- * Investigate complaints
- * Review medical records
- * Get involved in family/resident/facility disputes

With the support of the facilities, families, and friends, this will be a successful and exciting journey for South Carolina!

It is with great pleasure that we introduce the Volunteer Ombudsman for the Appalachian region – **Jessica Arnone**. She was born in Silverspring,

Maryland, but has lived in Virginia, Kansas, Illinois, New Jersey, and South Carolina. She attended Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory, North Carolina, where she graduated Magna Cum Laude. Her job experience includes working as a student assistant for the Communication Department at Lenoir-Rhyne and an internship with the Women's Resource Center in Hickory. Jessica has also volunteered at the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, the Humane Society, the Boys and Girls Club, and the YMCA. During her internship, she worked on coordinating, planning, and marketing several fundraising events. She also prepared press releases, answered phones, began a newsletter, and dealt with clients on a resource and referral basis. She went through a volunteer training program and, as an intern, helped coordinate the volunteers.

The Volunteer Ombudsman Program is an opportunity that she sees as challenging and exciting. She has always had a passion for helping people and is eager to see the benefits of this new program for the elderly population of our state. She feels that there is a need for the program, and being part of it from the very beginning is something she is looking forward to. She has a lot of great ideas that she hopes to implement to help make it a huge success.

From your Local Ombudsmen: Nancy Hawkins, Jamie Guay, Rhonda Monroe, Sandy Dunagan, and Celia Clark; phone: 864-242-9733.



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The DDAA is a membership organization of local development districts (also known as COGs) in the 13-state Appalachian region. The DDAA works to strengthen the COGs and their member governments and to provide leadership to support the Appalachian Regional Commission's federal-state-local partnership.

Development Corporation News

The ADC Board has approved a loan of \$200,000 to Hippo Car Wash to assist in the development of a full- and self-service car wash locating in the rapidly growing Wade Hampton corridor near Greer. First National Business Capital is providing the primary financing for this \$1,500,000 project, which will create ten or more jobs.

The ADC Board approved a loan of \$100,000 to Evergreen, LLC, for working capital to help the company meet new contracts obtained from General Electric, Michelin, and the Navy Department. These contracts will necessitate the hiring of six to eight additional employees.

The ADC has assisted First Piedmont Savings Bank in providing financing for A-Deva Day Spa to expand the use of its building in downtown Spartanburg. The ADC has arranged for \$396,000 in permanent, long-term funding through the Community Reinvestment Fund.

Funding to the Strike Zone, LLC, for the purchase of their building has been completed utilizing funds from the Community Reinvestment Fund and the Small Business Administration.

The loan of \$145,000 to Magnolia Veterinary Hospital, Inc., in Anderson has been closed and funded. This ADC loan provides part of the permanent financing on the business's new facility, which was primarily funded by Carolina First Bank.

A loan of \$50,000 was closed and funded to Blakely Funeral Home in Gaffney as part of the overall project establishing a new funeral home in Cherokee County. Permanent funding of the building is being provided by First Piedmont Savings Bank and the ADC, through the SBA 504 program.

The loan to Live Well Chiropractic, PA, in the amount of \$150,000 has been closed and funded. This ADC loan provides part of the permanent fi-

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Beat the Heat

Every summer, thousands of Americans suffer from heat stroke, heat exhaustion and dehydration. And each year, an average of 300 people in the United States die from heat-related illnesses, according to reports from the Center for Disease Control.

Seniors are more susceptible to heat-related illnesses as their bodies do not effectively cool down and it takes longer to recover when they get overheated. As the temperature starts to rise, it is important to take a moment to think about ways to beat the heat and avoid unnecessary illness.

Below are five customized tips that can help you or someone you love battle the heat, sun and humidity, which are unavoidable throughout the summer months:

Check homes for proper ventilation – Excessive heat, when temperatures and humidity reach 90 degrees Fahrenheit or above, can be dangerous, especially to those who are home without air conditioners or fans. Many seniors will sacrifice a cool breeze from an open window due to security concerns. Inexpensive safety latches are available for windows that allow the air to circulate, but also prevent the window from being completely opened from the outside. Check with your local hardware store for options.

Seek relief from the heat in public buildings that are air-conditioned – Not every senior has air conditioning in their home and there is a point at which fans can't combat the summer heat. When this occurs, visit public places such as local shopping malls, libraries, restaurants, or visit with friends or family for a welcome break from the heat.

Beware of medications and/or senior diets that can increase risk – Hot weather can accelerate dehydration, especially in people who are taking medications that have the side effects of fluid and electrolyte loss. Many medications,

particularly antibiotics and diuretics, can block the body's natural ability to cope with the sun and heat. You should always check with a pharmacist or doctor to ensure that medications will not cause you or your loved ones to be more susceptible to heat-related problems. Also, if seniors are on a low carbohydrate diet, be sure they drink plenty of fluids as the additional proteins in this diet can cause the body to heat up more quickly.

Plan ahead for outdoor activities or events – During hot weather, everyone, especially seniors, should wear loose fitting, cool, light-colored clothing, and a hat or cap. Whenever possible, try to stay in the shade and be sure to use a high SPF sun block (30+) in order to protect a senior's sensitive skin.

Drink plenty of replenishing fluids – Alcoholic beverages and caffeine should be avoided since they can cause dehydration. Water is a great option, but does not effectively replace the potassium and sodium (electrolytes) that we lose when perspiring. Popular "sports drinks" such as Gatorade, Powerade and/or inexpensive homemade substitutes (see recipe below) are great choices for rehydrating the body.

Rehydration Drink*

Measure all ingredients precisely. Small variations can make the drink less effective or even harmful. Mix the following:
 1 quart (950 ml) water
 ½ teaspoon (2.5 g) baking soda
 ½ teaspoon (2.5 g) table salt
 3 to 4 tablespoons (45 to 60 g) sugar
 If available, ¼ teaspoon (1.25 g) salt substitute (such as "Lite Salt")

*Do not give this homemade drink to children under age 12. Source: www.webmd.com

Potential Symptoms

Always be on guard for symptoms of heat exhaustion, which include

pale, cold or clammy skin, extreme thirst, light-headedness, fainting, mild nausea, vomiting, and excessive sweating. Signs of heat stroke include hot, dry skin, a fast, strong pulse, confusion, and a body temperature of 104 degrees or higher. If a person exhibits signs of heat stroke, this is a serious medical emergency and 911 or your local emergency medical team should be contacted.

The good news is heat-related illnesses and injuries are preventable. If you understand the signs and watch out for the symptoms, you too can beat the heat this summer season.

Compliments of Comfort Keepers, Allen Riggs, CEO and Care-giver Magazine.

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making this an annual event and will host the next Forum on February 13, 2006.



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- Equipment acquisition and certification standards;
- Interoperable communications;
- Information management systems; and,
- Supporting technologies – voice and data communications systems, information systems, data display systems, and specialized technologies.

Governor Sanford has ordered full NIMS compliance by May 2006. South Carolina city and county governments will be required to adopt ordinances and revised emergency operations plans and to participate in specialized training. Non-compliant jurisdictions may become ineligible for state and federal aid. Additional information can be found at the S. C. Emergency Management website at www.scemd.org/library/NIMS/NIMS.htm

VIEWPOINT

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Address Correction Requested

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nancing for a new office building in Mauldin. Primary financing is provided by South Carolina Bank and Trust.

The loan in the amount of \$150,000 to Rosewood Assisted Living, LLC, for the Assisted Living facility in Pauline, S. C., has been funded, and the business is now accepting clients.