

## ACOG Board Approves Multi-Modal Transportation Plan

At its August 24, 2001, meeting the Appalachian COG Board of Directors approved the Appalachian Regional element of the Statewide Multi-Modal Transportation Plan. The Plan was submitted to the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) for inclusion into the overall state plan. The planning process began over a year ago as the SCDOT, the ACOG, and the state's other nine COG's worked to produce standards for transportation categories, objectives, and map layouts for the Plan. The partnering between the COG's and the SCDOT allowed for a decentralized planning process, which has fostered local input and ownership of the Plan. The ACOG received input from many transportation organizations, local planners, area chambers of commerce, bicycle and pedestrian groups, and land conservation and preservation groups. In May 2001, the Regional Scan—an inventory of transportation operations in the Appalachian Region—was presented to the Board. During the spring and summer of 2001, the ACOG held nine focus group meetings in which 70 participants provided input to the Plan. The ACOG staff compiled the recommendations and identified broad-based transportation-related goals and objectives. The Plan is designed to be broad enough that smaller specific projects can be created to meet the goals and recommendations of the Plan.

Some of the recommendations in the Plan include:



- Coordinate road improvements with other modes of transportation, such as bicycle, pedestrian, and public transportation to further enhance access to growth areas.
- Review local future land use plans to coordinate transportation planning with land use planning.
- Coordinate and share planning options among the SCDOT, local governments, and special purpose districts in order to work together to become familiar with each other's plans. Community development, land use, and transportation are interconnected and have serious impacts on transportation planning.
- Connect airports to other modes of transportation such as passenger rail, commercial rail, freight providers, and fixed route public transportation service.
- Begin planning for congestion mitigation programs, which may include car/van pooling, HOV lanes, and express busing, to assist with air quality and vehicle capacity issues on the region's road network.

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## Council Workshops on Terrorism — Awareness Training for Policymakers



Terrorism has always been a distant threat to the average American citizen. On September 11 that threat came home. As a result of the New York and Washington, D.C., disasters and our anti-terrorist war, the Appalachian Council of Governments has scheduled a number of information briefings for our elected officials.

On November 1, ACOG has scheduled a four-hour Terrorism Awareness Workshop for county council members. On November 13 and November 15, training will be offered to municipal council members. All three workshops are being taught by a representative from the Emergency Preparedness Division of the S. C. Adjutant General's Office. Personnel from the local office of the FBI and the Upstate's emergency response (COBRA) team will also be present to answer questions.

The course provides awareness-level training designed to assist elected council members in making decisions dealing with potential threats. The training material is based upon a U.S.

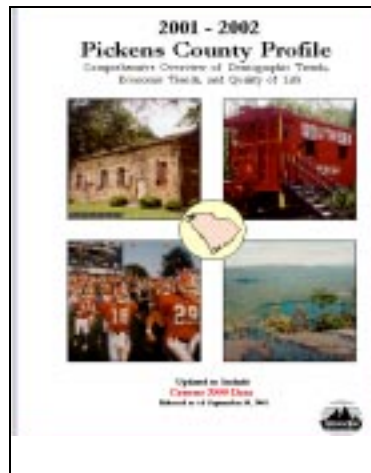
*(Workshops continued on page 6)*

## 2001-2002 County Profiles Are Now Available!

The County Profiles provide an overview of the demographic, economic, and quality of life characteristics of each county in the region. The Appalachian Council of Governments researches and produces these publications annually for Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens and Spartanburg Counties. The 2001-2002 editions are filled with new and updated information from agencies such as the U. S. Census Bureau, U. S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, S.C. Employment Security Commission, and the State Data Center. Even the covers characterize the unique qualities of each county with a montage of carefully selected color photographs.

A variety of new data from Census 2000 have been incorporated into the Population and Housing sections. The Economic Environment section has been expanded to include excerpts from *South Carolina Business Incentives*, a publication produced by the South Carolina Department of Commerce, as well as information on union membership and tax millage rates for the individual county. The Economic Trends and Conditions section highlights economic activity during the past year, providing information on new job creation, capital investment, gross retail sales, and selected economic activity announcements. Unemployment rates, major employers, and labor force estimates by sector are included in the Labor Market section, while information on highways, railways, motor freight carriers, local and regional airports, and the Port of Charleston is included in the Transportation and Public Utilities section. Some of the information featured in the Quality of Life section includes climate, crime rates, education, public libraries, and health care.

Also included in the Income and Housing sections are tables containing new data from Claritas, Incorporated. Claritas, a private corporation founded



in 1971, is an experienced provider of a wide range of databases. Claritas uses statistical models to project demographic data beyond known census counts. Claritas tables providing projections for 1999 and 2004 were incorporated for the first time in the 2000 editions. In the 2001-2002 editions, the new Claritas tables provide information extrapolated for the years 2001 and 2006. Since certain Census 2000 data has not yet been released, users of the Claritas tables find them a very useful source of reference information. Readers are strongly cautioned, however, that Claritas information should not be regarded as "official" data, and should therefore never be used in official documents that require government-sourced information.

Place your order for a County Profile today by contacting the Information

### Long Term Care Options

Until recently, few alternatives to nursing homes existed for people who could no longer take care of themselves. Some people are placed in a nursing home because neither they nor their families know the alternatives available to them. Now there are a variety of living arrangements that of-

fer different levels of care, and some of these options are preferable to nursing homes, depending on the needs of the individual. These living arrangements include:

1. Home and Community Care
2. Subsidized Senior Housing
3. Assisted Living Facilities
4. Board and Care Homes
5. Residential Care Facilities
6. Nursing Homes

**This article will discuss nursing homes.**

**What is a nursing home?** A nursing home is a residence that provides room, meals, recreational activities, help with activities of daily living, and protective supervision to residents. Usually nursing home residents have physical or mental impairments that keep them from living independently. In South Carolina, nursing homes are certified by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) to provide various levels of care, from custodial to skilled nursing care (services that can only be administered by a trained professional).

**Facts about nursing homes.** On a daily average in 1997, nursing homes were caring for about 1 in 20 Americans over the age of 65. At that time, one-fifth of those people admitted into nursing homes stayed at least one year, one-tenth stayed three years or more.

**Why location is important.** Usually it is a mistake to select a nursing home that is difficult to visit on a regular basis. Frequent visits are the best way to make sure that your relative does well in the nursing home. Visitors are important advocates for chronically ill residents. Frequent visits often make the transition to a nursing home easier for new residents and their families.

**What is a survey?** All nursing homes in South Carolina are certified

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## South Carolina: Decade in Review

**G**eorge Bush was President, senior that is. Lech Walensa went in as the first president of Poland; Nelson Mandela came out of prison in South Africa. The Iron Curtain was coming down; the Hubble telescope went up into space.

The year was 1990. A lot has changed since then – who knew of the Internet then? How has the labor market changed in South Carolina since 1990? Here is a look at some of the changes.

### Labor Force

South Carolina's labor force grew from 1,738,620 in 1990 to 1,985,200 in 2000. That represented a growth rate of 14.2 percent. The United States labor force increased by 11.9 percent over the same period. There were 1,655,890 South Carolinians with jobs in 1990 and 1,907,700 in 2000. The state's employment growth rate of 15.3 percent compared to a 13.8 percent rate for the nation.

There was little change in the share of the state's labor force and employment in the major metropolitan areas of Charleston, Columbia and Greenville-Spartanburg (the counties of Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester; Lexington and Richland; Greenville and Spartanburg). In 1990, 44.4 percent of South Carolina's labor force was in those seven counties while 45.0 percent of the employed were there. In 2000, the comparable figures were 45.0 and 45.6.

### Jobs

In 1990, manufacturing was the dominant employer in South Carolina, with 26 percent of the state's jobs. By 2000, manufacturing's share of state jobs had fallen to 19 percent. Trade supplanted manufacturing as South Carolina's largest employer – with 440,482 or 25 percent of jobs (up from 23 percent in 1990). Services had 23 percent of state jobs (413,968) in 2000 (up from 18 percent 10 years earlier). Other major

employment sectors and their numbers and shares of South Carolina jobs are as follows:

- Government - 312,693, or 17% in 2000 (18% in 1990)
- Construction - 113,065, or 6% in 2000 (7% in 1990)
- Transportation and public utilities - 93,038, or 5% in 2000 (4% in 1990)
- Finance, insurance and real estate - 79,455, or 4% in 2000 (4% in 1990)

### Earnings

Workers in South Carolina earned an average of \$541 per week in 2000. That was 43 percent higher than the 1990 average of \$378. Transportation and public utilities workers had the highest average weekly earnings in 2000 among major business sectors -- \$739. They were followed by finance, insurance and real estate (\$687); manufacturing (\$676); government (\$579); construction (\$569); services (\$489); and trade (\$390).

Finance, insurance and real estate employees experienced the largest increase in average weekly earnings over the decade, up \$270 or 65 percent. Manufacturing earnings rose \$227 (51%); transportation and public utilities \$225 (44%); services \$157 (47%); government \$157 (37%); construction \$149 (35%); and trade \$130 (50%).

### Employers

The number of businesses in South Carolina (as measured by the number of businesses covered by unemployment insurance) grew by 35 percent during the 1990s, from 83,326 in 1990 to 112,746 in 2000. Growth rates among major business sectors ranged from 46 percent for services to 14 percent for manufacturing. The number of government employers declined by one percent. Services accounted for the largest number of employers in 2000 - 40,265, or 36 percent of all state businesses.

Trade made up 30 percent of businesses; construction 15 percent; finance, insurance and real estate 8 percent; manufacturing 6 percent; transportation and public utilities 4 percent; and government 2 percent.

The average business in South Carolina had a bit fewer employees in 2000 than in 1990. In 1990, the average workers per business was 18, while in 2000 the figure was 16. Among major business sectors, average employment per company shrank over the decade by 15 in manufacturing, 2 in transportation and public utilities, 2 in construction, and 1 in finance, insurance and real estate. Average size grew by 23 for government, while trade and services were unchanged. Government units on average were the largest (150 people in 2000), followed by manufacturing (56); transportation and public utilities (19); trade (13); services (10); finance, insurance and real estate (9); and construction (7).

Reprint of an article by Joe Ward,

## Development Corporation Approves Loans in Greenville County

The Board of Directors of the Appalachian Development Corporation recently approved a \$100,000 loan for Golf Carts USA, LLC, of Greenville County. Golf Carts USA specializes in customizing golf cart platforms to be used as medical transport units, utility vehicles, and security vehicles. They also sell and lease carts for commercial use. The principals, Ronald Whitworth and James Stewart, are trying to expand the company by having more rental inventory available and by buying more in lot. The total project is \$200,000, with the primary funding coming through The Palmetto Bank. The ADC funds will be used for inventory and equipment. Four

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## HHS Announces Medicare Premiums and Deductible Rates for 2002

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced legally mandated increases in the Medicare premium, deductible and co-insurance amounts to be paid by beneficiaries in 2002.

For Medicare Part A, which pays for hospital, skilled nursing, hospice care and some home health care, the beneficiary deductible will increase to \$812, up 2.5 percent from \$792 in 2001. The premium for Medicare Part B, which helps pay for physician services, ambulatory care and other services, will rise to \$54 per month, up 8 percent from \$50 per month in 2001.

The Medicare statute requires that the deductible and premium be updated annually in accordance with statutory formulas. Medicare law sets the Part B premium at the amount needed to cover 25 percent of estimated program costs for aged enrollees; general revenue tax dollars cover the other 75 percent of the costs. The Part A deductible applies only to those enrolled in the original fee-for-service Medicare program. Beneficiaries who choose to enroll in private Medicare+Choice plans may not be affected by the Part A increase, and may receive additional benefits with different cost-sharing arrangements.

"Seniors and disabled Americans in fee-for-service Medicare pay higher out-of-pocket expenses than many private health plans," HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson said. "We need to bring Medicare into the 21st century and give all seniors and disabled Americans more and better insurance options, such as those available to federal employees. The President's principles for strengthening and modernizing Medicare will move us close to that goal."

The Part A deductible is a beneficiary's only cost for up to 60 days of Medicare-covered, in-patient hospital

care. However, for extended Medicare-covered hospital stays, beneficiaries must pay an additional \$203 per day for days 61 to 90 and \$406 per day for hospital stays beyond the 90th day in a benefit period – up from \$198 per day and \$396 per day, respectively. For beneficiaries in skilled nursing facilities, the daily co-insurance for days 21 through 100 will be \$101.50, up from \$99 in 2001.

Most of Medicare's 40 million beneficiaries choose the optional Part B coverage, which helps pay for physician services, hospital outpatient care, durable medical equipment and other services, including some home health care. Moreover, nearly 90 percent of Medicare beneficiaries have some form of third party payer (such as Medigap, Medicaid, or Medicare+Choice) to help reduce out-of-pocket medical costs.

"For some seniors, Medicare+Choice plans offer a reasonable alternative to fee-for-service Medicare's high out-of-pocket costs, but too many seniors don't have that option," said Tom Scully, administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), which runs the Medicare program.

"We have worked throughout the year to do what we can to stabilize the Medicare+Choice program, and we intend to work with Congress to strengthen and modernize it for the long term."

The Part A premium, paid by only a small percentage of beneficiaries, also is increasing in 2002. For the estimated 392,000 beneficiaries who pay a premium for Medicare Part A coverage, premiums will increase by \$19, to \$319. This amount is paid by seniors with less than 30 quarters of Medicare-covered employment (and by certain people with disabilities who are under age 65, have lost disability because of work and earnings and have less than 30 quarters of

Medicare-covered employment). Seniors with 30 to 39 quarters of Medicare-covered employment (and certain people with disabilities who are under age 65, have lost disability benefits because of work and earnings, and have at least 30 quarters of Medicare-covered employment) are entitled to a reduced monthly premium, which is increasing by \$10, to \$175.

States have programs that pay some or all of beneficiaries' Medicare premiums and co-insurance for certain people who have Medicare and a low income. Information is available at 1-800-

*(Long Term Care continued from page 2)*

by SCDHEC to participate in the Medicare or Medicaid programs. They are visited by State-trained surveyors approximately once a year. The surveyors take several days to examine the nursing home and inspect the performance of the nursing home in numerous areas, including quality of life and quality of care. The team reports its findings to the nursing home management team at the conclusion of the survey. Nursing homes with deficiencies are required to make corrections in these areas or will be subject to fines and other penalties.

If families or residents have problems in nursing homes, Long Term Care Ombudsmen are one of the best resources of help and information. Ombudsmen will investigate complaints, advocate for the resident, and mediate disputes if needed. In addition, ombudsmen can provide general advice on what to look for when selecting a nursing home. Below are the phone numbers for the Long Term Care Ombudsman's office in the Upstate of South Carolina.

### Contact the Appalachian Council of Governments' Long Term Care Ombudsman toll free:

Anderson County	225-3268
Cherokee County	489-6960
Greenville County	242-9733
Oconee County	882-7538
Pickens County	855-0163

## Acting Social Security Commissioner Larry G. Massanari Announces 2.6 Percent Social Security Increase

**M**onthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits to more than 50 million Americans will increase 2.6 percent in 2002, Larry G. Massanari, Acting Commissioner of Social Security announced.

"Today's news tells us that inflation continues to be low, which is certainly good news for the elderly and disabled," said Acting Commissioner Massanari. "Inflation is one of the biggest challenges for people living on a fixed income."

The 2.6 percent increase will begin with benefits that 45 million Social Security beneficiaries receive in January 2002. Increased payments to more than 6 million SSI beneficiaries will begin on December 31.

For Social Security beneficiaries, the average monthly benefit amount for all retired workers will rise from \$852 to \$874. The maximum federal SSI monthly payment to an individual will rise from \$531 to \$545. For a couple, the maximum federal SSI payment will rise from \$796 to \$817.

"The annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) is one of the most critically important features of the Social Security program," stated Acting Commissioner Massanari. "For the elderly, it guarantees that their foundation of retirement income will remain strong for as long as they live."

Social Security and SSI benefits increase automatically each year based on the rise in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) from the third quarter of one year through the corresponding period of the next. This year's increase in the CPI-W was 2.6 percent. Based on the increase in the CPI-W from the third quarter of 2000 through the third quarter of 2001, Social Security and SSI beneficiaries will receive a 2.6 percent

COLA for 2002.

Some other changes that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase from \$80,400 to \$84,900 in 2002.

As a result of the increase in the taxable maximum in 2002, the maximum yearly Social Security tax paid by employees and employers will increase by \$279 each. For self-employed workers, it will rise by \$558. Of the approximately 154 million workers who pay Social Security taxes, only about 10.5 million are affected by the higher wage base in 2002.

Also based on the increase in wages, the amount of earnings required to earn a quarter of coverage will increase to \$870 in 2002, up from \$830 this year.

Information about Medicare changes for 2002 can be found at [www.hhs.gov](http://www.hhs.gov) – the Internet site for the

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to five new manufacturing jobs will be created.

The Appalachian Development Corporation was also successful in closing and funding an SBA 504 loan in the amount of \$700,000 for Deean, Inc., which is owned by the Deean family. The project involved Deean's new Holiday Inn Express that has recently opened on North Main Street in Greenville. The new facility offers a lower cost alternative for visitors to Downtown Greenville. The Development Corporation funding was used for the permanent financing of the project. Regions Bank provided the primary financing, with the Appalachian Development Corporation also providing \$200,000 in funds through the ARC Revolving Loan Fund.

## FEMA and EDA Conduct "Disaster Resistant Jobs" Course

**T**he Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have developed a training course entitled "Disaster Resistant Jobs" to help small- and medium- size communities protect their economy from the effects of catastrophic events. All too often, communities that have experienced major disasters lose a large portion of their economic base. Studies have shown that after a disaster, 60 percent of the small- and medium-size businesses fail within two years. Many never return to business once they are closed for even a few days because of floods, tornadoes, earthquakes, and hurricanes. Not only does the community suffer from the effects of the disaster event itself, but also in the long run the loss of jobs and tax base further reduces the community's ability to return to normal.

The topics of the 3-1/2 day "Disaster Resistant Jobs" course include: The Importance of Disaster Resistant Jobs; Creating Disaster Resistant Jobs; Recognizing the Impact; Mitigation; Disaster Resistant Economic Development Planning; and Business Recovery. The courses are conducted at the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) in Emmitsburg, Maryland. There is no registration fee, and employees of state and local public agencies are eligible for reimbursement of travel costs. Participants are provided a room on the campus of the National Emergency Training Center (NETC), and meal tickets are \$15 per day for all-you-can-eat breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

The dates for the 2002 courses are February 5-8; April 30 - May 3; and September 10-13. For more information, or for a registration form, log on to EMI's web site at <http://www.fema.gov/>

*(Transportation continued from page 1)*

- Connect the transit operations in the region to develop routes that link to different modes of transportation, such as airports. Expand the public transportation systems to have additional services available to connect with the proposed Southeast High-Speed Rail Corridor.

*(Workshops continued from page 1)*

Department of Defense lesson plan and will include information on terrorist threats, weapons of mass destruction, planned responses, legal issues and liability, intergovernmental planning, South Carolina's emergency response planning, scenarios, and exercises. Course handout materials are provided.

For further information concerning the workshops contact Joe Newton.

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## **VIEWPOINT**

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