

MINUTES

FULL BOARD MEETING
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS CONFERENCE ROOM
APRIL 27, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ernest Riley, Jane Hall, Dennis Claramunt, Eddie Moore, Rick Laughridge, Ted Mattison, Carthel Crout, Francis Crowder, Dennis Moss, Rufus Foster, Henry Jolly, Frank Harris, Grady Butler, Joe Dill, Don Godbey, Dan Rawls, Wayne McCall, Bennie Cunningham, Bob Winchester, Reg Dexter, Neil Smith, Larry Bagwell, Mike Forrester, Dale Culbreth, O'Neal Mintz, Jane Hall, Elbert Tillerson, Junie White, and Jan Scalisi.

GUEST PRESENT:

Mayor Perry Eichor, City of Simpsonville.

STAFF PRESENT:

Steve Pelissier, Doug Burns, Chip Bentley, David Shellhorse, Carol Andersen, Beverly Allen, Dirk Reis, Cricket Jenkins, and Debbie Courson.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Riley. The invocation was offered by Mr. Tillerson. On motion by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Mr. Crout, the minutes of the March 23, 2012, meeting were unanimously approved.

Status of Economic Development in the Region and Activities of the Upstate SC Alliance

Chairman Riley stated the Upstate Alliance was unable to attend the meeting and that the chair would like to add the ACOG New Web Site presentation to the agenda. Mr. Godbey made motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Recently Announced Changes to Urban Area Designations and Impacts on Transportation Planning

Mr. Bentley stated that with the release of data from the 2010 Census there continues to be impacts on many federal programs that use this data for funding and programming. This applies to many programs with the designation of areas as either Urban or Rural. With the recent release of the new urban area boundaries, there will be changes to the Upstate's transportation planning process due to expansions in urban areas.

An Urbanized Area, as defined by the Census Bureau, is a group of contiguous census tracts and census blocks that meet minimum population density requirements that encompass a population of at least 50,000 people. Those areas' boundaries are established based on the Urbanized Areas delineated by the Census Bureau every 10 years. The Census Bureau formula identifies population centers with the density and total population that serve as Urban Cores. Using these urban cores as the basis for Urban Areas, the census then identifies contiguous blocks and tracts that meet additional population density thresholds for inclusion in the urban area. Census surveys urban area delineation is made through this formula and there is no appeals process for those that do not agree with the results.

The release of the new urbanized area boundaries triggers a number of actions related to federal transportation planning requirements. The most significant is the changes to rural and urban planning areas which affects planning and funding of local transportation projects. Urban areas are governed by Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO's), which plan and program all transportation related funds in their Study Areas. In the Upstate, there are three MPOs; Greenville/Pickens Area Transportation Study (GPATS), Anderson Transportation Study (ANATS), and Spartanburg Transportation Study (SPATS). Planning functions for the rural areas are the responsibility of COGs in partnership with SCDOT.

MPO Study Area Boundaries include the Urban Areas, as designated by the Census, and all areas expected to become urban in the next 20 years. Based on the expansion of the Urban Areas, the biggest change to MPO boundaries can be expected for GPATS. The Greenville Urban Area has expanded to include Central, Clemson, Pendleton, West Pelzer, and Williamston. GPATS will have to redraw its boundary to include these municipalities into its Study Area.

GPATS staff will lead the process of developing the new MPO Study Area boundaries. The process should begin in May and a draft boundary is expected to be submitted to SCDOT by August. In order to finalize the MPO boundaries, they must be reviewed by each local government and approved by agreements between the Governor and local governments representing 75% of the affected population.

At this time, this information is very new and DOT and MPOs have had very little time to digest the information and start looking at options.

ACOG's New Web Site Presentation

Ms. Andersen introduced the ACOG's newly redesigned website. She demonstrated the ease of use, the many services available on the website, etc. She commented that everything was done in-house by staff at no additional costs to the agency.

South Carolina Legislative Update

Mr. Burns provided an update on legislation pending in the General Assembly, with emphasis on items of interest to local governments, which included: sales tax exemption, open records law, tax break to re-use vacant buildings, statewide tax rate for education, open enrollment bill, and flexibility and broadband.

Appointment of an Ad-Hoc By-laws Review Committee

Chairman Riley appointed the following members to serve on the By-laws Review Committee: Neil Smith, Henry Jolly, Rick Laughridge, Dan Rawls, Reg Dexter, and Jan Scalisi.

Appointment of 2012-13 Standing Committees

Chairman Riley made the 2012-13 Standing Committees appointments. (See attached).

Minutes
Page Four

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Chairman

THE SOUTH CAROLINA APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS HAS
COMPLIED WITH THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IN SCHEDULING
AND CONDUCTING THIS MEETING.