

# **AGENDA**

**APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 2016 – 10:30 A.M.  
COUNCIL BOARD ROOM  
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

10:30 A.M.            I.    Call to Order – **Mr. Dennis Claramunt**, Chair  
                              A.    Invocation  
                              B.    Introduction of Guests  
                              C.    Approval of June 24, 2016, Board Minutes (Section 1, Board Packet)

10:35                II.    Workforce Development Programs of the SC Department of Commerce – **Ms. Elisabeth Kovacs**, Workforce Development Director, South Carolina Department of Commerce (Section 2, Board Packet)

Briefing:            As workforce development has become increasingly critical to attracting and growing businesses in South Carolina, the Department of Commerce has enhanced its workforce development activity. Ms. Kovacs will provide an overview of the workforce challenges facing the state and the Department of Commerce’s activities to address them.

**Board Action Required:**    No

11:05                III.    Changes to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act and Ethics Act – **Ms. Donna Kazia**, Government Services Manager (Section 3, Board Packet)

Briefing:            The SC Freedom of Information Act and Ethics Act both received significant changes during the 2016 legislative session. Ms. Kazia will provide an overview of these changes, as well as their impacts to local governments and elected officials.

**Board Action Required:**    No

11:25 IV. Appalachian Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2016 Annual Progress Report – **Mr. Don Godbey**, Chair, Regional Economic Development Committee; **Mr. Chip Bentley**, Deputy Director

Briefing: For projects to be eligible for US EDA grant funding, they must be identified as a priority in a CEDS. ACOG is the designated agency for developing and maintaining the CEDS covering the SC Appalachian region. A new CEDS is required every five years, with annual updates and progress reports to be completed in the intervening years. ACOG staff has been monitoring the progress of projects identified in the 2013-2018 CEDS. Mr. Bentley will provide an overview of findings. The Board of Directors will be asked to approve the finalized CEDS Progress Report for submittal to the US EDA at the September Board meeting.

**Board Action Required:** Not at this time

11:45 VI. Executive Director’s Report – **Mr. Steve Pelissier**, Executive Director (Section 4, Board Packet)

Briefing At the June Board meeting, staff was requested to draft a letter to federal legislators representing the region to express concerns with rights granted to railroads in federal law. Mr. Pelissier will discuss that letter, which can be found in Section 3 of the Board packet.

12:00 Noon VII. Adjourn to Lunch