# MINUTES

## APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 2022 – 10:30 A.M.

COUNCIL BOARD ROOM WITH ZOOM OPTION

GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

### Members Present:

Brandy Amidon, Bob Briggs, Rockey Burgess, Rep. Mike Burns, David Cauthen, Dennis Claramunt, Brooke Coleman, Roy Costner, Rick Danner, Joe Dill, John Elliott, Ensley Feemster, George Fletcher, Mike Forrester, Sandra Gantt, Don Godbey, Robert Halfacre, Jane Hall, Henry Jolly, Ruth Littlejohn, Jack Mabry, Willis Meadows, Charles Pinson, Jeff Roberts, Terrence Roberts, Mildred Tillerson, Cindy Wilson

### Guests Present:

Carissa Cochrane, Jeff Cunningham, Bryan Davis, Daniel Gambrell, Phleisha Lewis, Addie Patterson, Machael Peterson, Penny Phillips, Joe Sturm, Hope Warren

### Staff Present:

Chip Bentley, Lance Estep, Trey Eubanks, Brooke Ferguson, Jill Francisco, Travis Hatcher, Steve Pelissier, Monica Ramm, Arlene Young, Don Zimmer

### Call to Order

Chairman Forrester called the meeting to order. Mr. Dill offered the invocation. Mr. Pelissier introduced a new board representative, Brooke Coleman, active Spartanburg community member. She will fill the minority member position for Spartanburg County. Mr. Pelissier asked the numerous guests present to introduce themselves. Chairman Forrester asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 24, 2022, board meeting. Mr. Godbey made a motion to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dill. The motion was approved unanimously.

### Introduction of a New ACOG Employee

Chairman Forrester asked Grants Services Director, Arlene Young, to introduce a new employee. Jill Francisco, who previously worked at USC and SC Department of Commerce, was hired as the Senior Project Manager in July.

### The Hill Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Furman University

Chairman Forrester introduced Managing Director, Bryan Davis, to share information about the Hill Institute, which helps aspiring entrepreneurs and founders launch social and entrepreneurial ventures. Mr. Davis reviewed the goals, programs, partnerships, statistics, and funding sources of the institute. He noted that ACOG board members could help by volunteering as mentors and coaches to young entrepreneurs in the program, and by helping them make connections and recommendations.

### SCDOT Regional Mobility Program

### Chairman Forrester called on Joe Sturm, with SCDOT, to discuss the Regional Mobility Program, formerly known as the MPO and COG program. SCDOT has increased funding and has made the program data-driven. Mr. Sturm discussed: policy elements; process flow; corridor analysis, determination, evaluation, and prioritization; and potential corridor programs. The board asked questions about the program and engaged in discussion.

### Appalachian Region Long Range Transportation Plan Update

### Chairman Forrester asked Transportation Committee Chair, Jane Hall, and Lance Estep, to update the board on the LRTP. Mr. Estep reviewed changes to the Rural LRTP, which is updated every five (5) years. He discussed growth of MPO boundaries, demographics, travel demand, funding allocation, and project identification. The Transportation Committee recommended approval of the LRTP to the board. Chairman Forrester called for a vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

Action Item

### Appalachian Region 2021-2027 TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) Amendments

### Chairman Forrester requested that Mr. Estep continue by presenting amendments to the TIP. Mr. Estep reviewed the list of projects and costs in ranked order as well as the budget summary. The Transportation Committee recommended approval of the proposed TIP changes to the board. Chairman Forrester called for a vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

### Action Item

### FY 2022-2023 FTA Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and People with Disabilities Program Recommendations

### Chairman Forrester called on Mr. Estep to inform the board on this year’s enhanced mobility funding requests. He explained funding availability and the selection and ranking process. There is one small urban project for an Anderson Senior Solutions van and three applications for rural projects in Oconee and Pickens Counties for ADA accessible vehicles. The Transportation Committee recommended approval of all four projects to the board. Chairman Forrester called for a vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

Action Item

### American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Stormwater Infrastructure Grant Program

### Chairman Forrester introduced Phleisha Lewis, Mitigation Director of the SC Office of Resilience. She gave information about who can apply for the grant, project types, scoring criteria, the application process, due dates, and contact information for Pamela Kendrick, Infrastructure Manager, (803) 354-32841, [pamela.kendrick@scor.sc.gov](mailto:pamela.kendrick@scor.sc.gov). Accompanying Ms. Lewis, Hope Warren, gave information about the strategic statewide resilience and risk reduction plan. She discussed the planning framework, scale, and need for resilience to be included in comprehensive plans. She requested feedback on a vulnerability assessment and asked others to share the survey. She gave her contact information, (803) 766-8043, [hope.warren@scor.sc.gov](mailto:hope.warren@scor.sc.gov).

### Executive Director’s Report

Chairman Forrester asked Mr. Pelissier to give the Executive Director’s report. Mr. Pelissier reported that ACOG received an award from the State Planning Association for the Regional Freight Plan. ACOG staff will send out information about the SCARC Conference in N. Myrtle Beach on November 20-22, 2022. Board members and spouses are invited to attend.

The next board meeting will be held on September 23, 2022,at 10:30 AM in the ACOG Board Room. Members may also attend through Zoom.

#### There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:20 PM.

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Mike Forrester, Chairman

The South Carolina Appalachian Council of Governments has complied with the Freedom of Information Act in scheduling and conducting this meeting.