



MINUTES

**APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2023 – 10:30 A.M.
COUNCIL BOARD ROOM WITH ZOOM OPTION
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

Members Present:

Sen. Thomas Alexander, Brandy Amidon, Rick Bradley, Bob Briggs, Rockey Burgess, Grady Butler, David Cauthen, Brooke Coleman, Rep. Neal Collins, Roy Costner, Rep. April Cromer, Roel Cruz, Rick Danner, Joe Dill, Ed Elliot, Ensley Feemster, Lillian Brock Flemming, Mike Forrester, Britt Gillespie, Don Godbey, Robert Halfacre, Jane Hall, Mickey Haney, Glenn Hart, Henry Jolly, Butch Kirven, Ruth Littlejohn, Jack Mabry, Charles Pinson, Brian Ramey, E Riley, Russel Stall, Mildred Tillerson, Bob Walker, Cindy Wilson

Guests Present:

Tina Belge, Susan Cyr, Joel Dill, Daniel Gambrell, Addie Patterson, Penny Phillips, Erin Porter

Staff Present:

Chip Bentley, Lance Estep, Trey Eubanks, Brooke Ferguson, Jill Francisco, Steve Pelissier, Tim Womack, Arlene Young, Don Zimmer

Call to Order

Chairman Collins called the meeting to order. Mr. Riley offered the invocation. Mr. Pelissier introduced the new members and guests in attendance. Chairman Collins asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 28, 2023, board meeting. Mr. Riley made a motion to adopt the minutes. The motion was unanimously approved. The financial statement was accepted as information.

Greenville Housing Fund

Chairman Collins introduced Ms. Tina Belge, Policy and Advocacy Director of the Greenville Housing Fund. Ms. Belge gave an overview of the organization. She explained that due to the

aging population, the affordable housing demand does not match the supply of the market. She gave projections of the housing demand gap, discussed key issues and preservation strategies, showed the dashboard on the GHF website to view relevant data, and reviewed the agency's 10-year goals for affordable housing. She stated that at this time 80% of the market is priced out of home ownership. Ms. Belge showed a list of current projects for the Greenville area and noted GHF's role in advocacy, partnerships, and collaborations. She answered questions from the board.

ACOG Rural Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment FY 2023-2029

Chairman Collins asked Jane Hall, Regional Transportation Committee Chair, and Lance Estep, Planning Director, to present information on two TIP amendments. Mr. Estep explained that projects are put into the TIP with funding estimates that sometimes need amending as the projects get closer to implementation. The Regional Transportation Committee reviewed two projects and recommended both for increases in funding. Mr. Estep explained each project in detail and reviewed the transportation fund balance to assure there is enough money to cover the recommended changes. Chairman Collins called for a vote to amend the TIP for the cost of intersection project of SC 150 at O'Neal Street in Gaffney. The motion was unanimously approved. Chairman Collins called for a vote to amend the TIP for the cost of the intersection project of US 76 at Welpine Road in Anderson County. The motion was approved, with one vote in opposition.

Action Items

SCDOT System Performance Report Summary

Chairman Collins called on Ms. Erin Porter, with the SC Department of Transportation. Ms. Porter presented a summary of the Strategic 10-Year Asset Management Plan for federal highways. It is an all-inclusive planning document that SCDOT would like incorporated into all MPO and COG Long Range Transportation Plans by July 31, 2023. She discussed baselines and targets for the bridge program, paving program, and freight reliability, Chairman Collins called for a vote to accept the report as an appendix to the LRTP. The motion was unanimously approved.

Action Item

SC BEST Applications

Chairman Collins asked Don Godbey, Economic Development Committee Chair, and Jill Francisco, Senior Program Manager, to report on the SC BEST Applications. Ms. Francisco reported on four applications for project funding: Fair Oak Youth Center, Fair Play; Iva Library Site, Iva; Pelzer Heritage Commission, Pelzer; Railyard SC LLC/ Fitch Irick SC LLC, Spartanburg. The Economic Development Committee met and recommended these four projects for funding through SC BEST. Chairman Collins called for a vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

Action Item

Rural Infrastructure Authority SCIIP Awards

Chairman Collins called on Arlene Young to brief the board on the South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP) projects awarded in the region. Ms. Young presented lists of each county's grant awards. She explained that \$345 million was given to the state for 49 projects. ACOG will be administering 12 projects at \$74 million.

Legislative Report

Chairman Collins requested that Brooke Ferguson provide the board with the legislative report. Ms. Ferguson stated that eighty-four bills have been signed into law. She reported that the budget is not yet complete. Ms. Ferguson commented on new legislation that may be of interest and additionally, noted vetoed legislation.

Executive Director's Report

Chairman Collins asked Mr. Pelissier to present the Executive Director's report. Mr. Pelissier stated that Trent Acker, Director of WorkLink, has resigned and is taking a position in Government Relations at Duke Power. Mr. Pelissier is working with the Workforce Development Board leadership on interviews for his position.

Member Updates

Chairman Collins wished Steve Pelissier and Brooke Ferguson a happy birthday.

The next board meeting will be held on June 23, 2023 at 10:30 AM in the ACOG Board Room. Members may also attend through Zoom.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Neal Collins, Chairman

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

