



## MINUTES

**APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2018 – 10:30 A.M.  
COUNCIL BOARD ROOM  
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

### **Members Present:**

Ernest Riley, Rep. Ann Thayer, Cindy Wilson, Mack Durham, Dennis Claramunt, Ray Graham, David Cauthen, Willis Meadows, Butch Kirven, Joe Dill, Brandy Amidon, Lillian Brock Flemming, George Fletcher, Ennis Fant, Rep. Mike Burns, Rep. Mike Forrester, Jane Hall, Roger Nutt, Michael Fowler, Larry Chappell, Rep. Thomas Alexander, Bob Winchester, Rep. Neal Collins, Ensley Feemster, Margaret Thompson

### **Guests Present:**

Jeff Cunningham, Daniel Gamble, Mayor Rick Danner & Reno Deaton | Greer Downtown Revitalization, Beth Franco | Eat Smart, Move More SC

### **Staff Present:**

Steve Pelissier, Brooke Ferguson, Chip Bentley, Arlene Young, Don Zimmer, Bryana Mistretta, Lance Estep, Denise Ernul

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Joe Dill. Invocation lead by Rep. Mike Burns. Welcoming two new board members: Steve Pelissier introduced Rep. Mike Burns from Greenville County Legislative Delegation and Cindy Wilson, introduced Anderson County Council Member, Ray Graham. Then after a motion to approve August 24, 2018 meeting minutes by Ensley Feemster, seconded by Cindy Wilson, the minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Financial Statements**

Steve Pelissier, Executive Director stated SC Appalachian Council of Governments' Revenue and Expenditure Report for the 2018 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018), to include revenue and expenditures for 2019 Fiscal Year to date (July 1, 2018-August 31, 2018) are in the Board Packet.

## Greer Downtown Revitalization Initiative

Mayor Rick Danner of Greer and Mr. Reno Deaton, Executive Director, Greer Development Corporation

- Mayor Danner and Mr. Deaton provided a presentation on the Greer Station revitalization and gave a synopsis of the Greer Downtown Revitalization Initiative.
  - Over the last 20 years, Downtown Greer - dubbed Greer Station by the city, has undergone a significant transformation from vacant storefronts to now thriving businesses.
    - Preserving the charm of downtown with more than 40 downtown buildings on the national historic register
  - Visitors from all over the upstate frequent the restaurants and shops.
  - Team Greer, a collective group charged to complete several phases of the revitalization agenda:
    - Employees of the City of Greer
    - Greer Commission of Public Works
    - Greer Development Corporation
    - Greer Station Association
    - Greater Greer Chamber of Commerce
    - Partnerships for Tomorrow
  - Greer is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city in two different counties (Greenville – Spartanburg)
    - From 2017 to 2018, Greer has more than doubled its residential population from 15K to 30K within 27 sq. mile
    - Total residential distribution: 65% Greenville, 35% Spartanburg
    - Growth contributions to 29650 zip diversified communities, median age & household income above and better than surrounding
  - Future growth will focus on infill development within the Greer City limits will take advantage of existing infrastructure capacity and City resources.
    - Replacing 100 year-old sewer lines under the streets was first on the list of improvement planning
    - Inland Port will be significant influence on future infill development.
  - Creation of inbound roads, walkable space, and urban living to create bustling downtown has been a successful 10 yr.+ investment surrounding the shared level surface space
    - Repaving-Replacing streets, alleyways, & asphalt with pavers
    - Replacing streetscapes (Plants, Lighting, etc.)
  - Partnerships with existing local businesses to include continued drive to solicit small businesses, private companies & public entities to sustain Greer's downtown growth through its commissioned Greer Community Master Plan (2 Decades of monumental and transformation projects)
    - The Davenport – 230 Trade St. building revamped as event space and living space for the owner & his family

- Greer Hotel – Greenville-based Sycamore Investment Group to build on corner of N. Main & E. Poinsett St. in conjunction with new parking garage
- Parkside Pediatrics – Coming soon
- Grace Church – Coming soon
- Tribe513 – Coming soon faith-based, independent medical group
- 3 of the second-story residences are used as Airbnb

### **Eat Smart Move More SC**

Beth Franco, Executive Director of Eat Smart Move More SC

- Ms. Franco spoke on a community-led change to reduce obesity through a 501C(3) non-profit organization called Eat Smart Move More South Carolina. She travels throughout the state to connect with community leaders and other resources to promote focus on the organization's initiative. Advocacy, community action, youth engagement, and consumer awareness are the focus of Eat Smart Move More South Carolina. Serving 31 counties are 26 Eat Smart Move More Chapters managed by volunteers and local coalitions.
  - Eat Smart Move More SC advances community led change to reduce obesity by making the healthy choice the easy choice for every South Carolinian for a little over 10 years.
    - South Carolinians: 32.3% of adults and 32.9% of children are overweight or obese.
    - Increase in 3 health behaviors elevate risk for 4 chronic diseases
    - Poor diet habits, lack of physical activity, and tobacco use causes more than 50% of deaths due to increase in risk factors
    - Increase access to healthy foods and safe places for physical activity reduces challenges to an unhealthy culture.
  - 4 Focus Drivers: Advocacy, Community Action, Consumer Awareness & Youth Engagement
    - Advocacy – Healthy Vending on Municipal Property, SNAP Incentives
    - Community Action – Support & empower local coalitions with paved nature trails (Colleton County), farmers markets (Allendale), and bicycle lanes (Columbia)
    - Consumer Awareness – Multi-lingual website with wide range of information regarding healthy living
    - Youth Engagement – HYPE Project, empowers youth as champions for a healthy change

- Since 2007, the organization has reinvested funding from state and national resources into communities as mini grants, technical assistance, and training opportunities to implement strategies, tools, and expertise.
  - 2500 Local Partners & Members statewide
  - Schools – Child & Adult Care Facilities
  - Health Facilities & Doctors Office
  - Community Organizations – Parks & Recreation & Housing Authority
  - State Agencies, Foundations, and Universities

### **ACOG Amendments to the 2018 – 2023 TIP (Regional Transportation Improvement Program) & Transportation Performance Management and Target Setting**

Ms. Jane Hall, Chair, Regional Transportation Committee, Chip Bentley, Deputy Director and Mr. Lance Estep, Principal Planner

- Regional Transportation Committee Chair, Jane Hall introduced Chip Bentley to present information from committee meeting regarding TIP amendments. The TIP is a planning document that lists all federally funded transportation projects and studies in the ACOG Region. The SCDOT has proposed an alternative scope for the Davis Creek Road project in Oconee County that requires a TIP Amendment. In addition, the upcoming Appalachian Regional Freight Mobility Plan will require the use of federal funds to complete and will be included in the amendment.
  - Amendment 1 – Remove US 123 (Davis Creek Rd Project)
    - SCDOT traffic engineers noted that accident data did not warrant changes to the current intersection. Additionally, to engineer a new roadway would eliminate access to several properties along the road that include homes and businesses. Due to these reasons, SCDOT recommended that no changes be made and the amendment reflects that request.
  - Amendment 2 – Add Appalachian Regional Freight Mobility Plan
    - Includes freight plan for 6 County ACOG Region and Laurens County; equates to \$400K of Guideshares towards funding; Funding with inclusivity of smaller road ways and not just the major roadways that are involved with viable freight transport.
    - RFP drafted by ACOG and reviewed by GPATS, SPATS, ANATS; currently in review by SCDOT in hopes to start planning process early 2019
    - Pre/Post Inland Port Analyst to be considered in the planning process

Following Transportation Committee presentation, Mr. Dill called for a vote on Amendments, as recommended by the Transportation Committee; board approved unanimously. Mr. Bentley, followed with a presentation on Transportation Performance Management and Target Setting, as introduced by Ms. Hall, Chair.

- Transportation Performance Management and Target Setting – The Federal Highway Administration has adopted a performance management model that places certain reporting and target setting requirements on State DOTs, MPOs and COGs. Mr. Bentley provided overview of the transportation performance management requirements and it will be incorporated into the ACOG Rural Long Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Bentley noted that the specific language would be brought before the Board at their October 26<sup>th</sup> meeting to be approved as an amendment to the LRTP. Key issues will include:
  - Adopted first safety measures/targets in August 2017 and rolled out gradually
  - MPO adopt measures and targets within 180 days
  - COG's required to comply in FY 2019
- FHWA recommends the MPO's/COG's adopt the state targets into their LRTP's
- ACOG Long Range Transportation Plan must be amended to include performance measures & targets
- Adopting the SCDOT performance measures and targets for Safety, Pavement Condition, Bridge Condition, and Freight Management

### **Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Steve Pelissier, Executive Director, concluded the meeting with important information on various meeting, deadlines, and building update.

- Mr. Pelissier asked Arlene Young, Grants Director to inform board members of current deadlines - Appalachian Regional Commission Pre-Allocations Submission due November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- Finance Committee to meet briefly in training room after board meeting
- Ethics Training, delivered by Meghan Walker, Executive Director from the State Ethics Commission on Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (flyer provided)
- Eat Smart Move More presenting Leadership Summit for Healthy Communities on October 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at Spartanburg Marriott (flyer provided)
- Aging Services - two primary sources of funding come from Federal Older Americans Act & SC Home Community Base Services Programs, with Sen. Alexander as chief advocate for funding. However, the allocation of funding has changed, though the process is the same from previous years with Spartanburg & Pickens County typically not utilizing funds entirely were budgeted to Anderson & Oconee County are now being utilized as initially allocated. In order to continue with services in Anderson & Oconee County, Appalachian Council of Governments has committed to assist service providers with a 50/50 split in program funding until the end of the year. These providers have budgeted with the hopes of receiving the other counties' unused funding portion risk having to telling their clients, ACOG is cutting their funding and has threatened to stop services to clients in need. This is not factual and we wanted to make you aware that this was going on to ensure Board members understood we have not reduced funding to any agency and in fact have offered additional funding to some under the 50/50 match option.

By following the trending needs, ACOG will allocate accordingly so the Seniors aren't affected by the allocations in these markets for much needed services as listed below

- Transportation
- Home-Based Meals
- Congregate Meals
- Working closely with the federal legislative staffs to update allocation law to a state level so that funding from under-serving counties can be reallocated by the Governor's Office where needed
- 2018 SCARC Conference information coming soon

The next Board Meeting will be at 10:30 am on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

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

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Mr. Joe Dill, Chairman

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