



**Executive Committee
Meeting Via Zoom
October 5, 2020 – 4:30 pm**

MINUTES

Members Present

Clarendon County: Kevin Johnson, Julia Nelson, Dwight Stewart

Kershaw County: Alfred Mae Drakeford, Jeffery Graham, Sammie Tucker, Jr.

Lee County: Grady Brown, Will Wheeler, Travis Windham

Sumter County: Steve Corley, Jim McCain

Members Absent

Sumter County: Vivian McGhaney

1. **Welcome and Call to Order:** Vice Chairman Julia Nelson called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.
2. **Invocation/ Pledge of Allegiance:** Mr. Christopher McKinney, Executive Director provided the invocation and all attendees participated in the pledge of allegiance.
3. **Quorum Determination:** Vice Chairman Nelson determined there was a quorum. 11 of 12 Executive Committee members were present.
4. **Adoption of Agenda:** Mr. Steve Corley made a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Jim McCain seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
5. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Mrs. Alfred Mae Drakeford made a motion to approve the August 10, 2020 Minutes. Mr. Jim McCain seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
6. **Strategic Planning Document:** Mr. McKinney reminded everyone that at the August 10, 2020 Executive Committee meeting Mr. Jim McCain recommended that a copy of the Strategic Planning document which was drafted by the Executive Committee at the Strategic Retreat be provided to the full Board for their review and ratification at the December meeting. Mr. McKinney reported that the Strategic Plan was included in the October meeting packets for the Board to review and approve at the December 7th meeting.

7. **Executive Director's Report:** Mr. McKinney informed gave the Committee an update on the Planning and Projects Committee's (Planning and Projects) Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). He reported that Planning and Projects have had robust discussions on what will happen long-term with the TIP and whether they will continue to fund large projects or go with smaller projects. If the Board does not make changes in how it does business, the Board will incur a lot of debt, which will inhibit the ability to execute projects. In the past few meetings Projects and Planning discussed options on how to move forward with the Black River Road project and at the most recent meeting the SC Department of Transportation (SCDOT) was present and gave their perspective on moving forward with the project. The COG and SCDOT had opposing perspectives. The COG's perspective was we would incur a lot of debt that could prohibit future projects until 2033. The TIP to be presented to the full Board includes a motion from Projects and Planning to complete the plans and engineering documents and then shelf the Black River Road Project until the results of the Census are known. If the Camden is not absorbed into the Columbia Area Transportation Study (COATS) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the TIP will be amended to execute the project in the next year. If it is absorbed into the COATS MPO the plans and engineering documents will be transferred to Central Midlands COG for execution.

Mr. McKinney said he would like to ensure that he was on the same page as the Executive Committee and that it is his role is to make unbiased recommendations to the Committee that are best for the COG as a regional entity, but those recommendations are not meant to drive the Committee's decision-making either way. He said he expects the Committee to continue discussions and make decisions according to what they feel is best and not just agree with his and staff's recommendations. Mr. McKinney asked the Committee for their input on how staff recommendations are made. Mr. Sammie Tucker said a lot of members on the Board look to Mr. McKinney and staff because they are the subject-matter experts and that without staff's recommendations the Board would be behind the curve with getting best-practices, best-case scenarios and projects moving forward. He said that he welcomes recommendations from Mr. McKinney and staff and that it does not tilt his thinking but helps him make an informed decision. Mr. Jim McCain commented that Mr. McKinney and staff have their hands on the pulse, so to speak and he mirrors what Mr. Tucker said. He also said that Mr. McKinney and staff bring their thoughts and recommendations to the Committee and it is up to the Committee to make the decision and he has no problems with it and especially welcomes them. Vice Chairman Nelson said she agrees with having Mr. McKinney's expertise and recommendations. Mr. Grady Brown said that as long as everyone gets fed out of the same spoon, he is good with recommendations. Mr. Jeffrey Graham stated that whether he likes or dislikes the outcome, his challenge is that a decision is being made on census data that is a couple of years out and feels it is a challenge for Kershaw County with the Black River Road project being pulled from the TIP because of the unknown and that long-term decisions are being made on short-term information but that it is ultimately up to the Board to make the decision. He stated that his challenged has now been removed from the TIP and the Board is still funding a big project like they have been funded in the past and he does not agree that the Board should continue doing big projects because there is not enough money and there has not been enough money for big projects and hopes that the Planning and Projects Committee will make some real

transportation recommendations for future projects and not take from current projects. He said that was his only objection but would keep those comments to the Planning and Projects and Executive Committees. Mr. Travis Windham added that there was some discussion after the meeting with DOT in reference to DOT's Planning Director comments and noted that the Director's comments were not in the best interest of the region and were in disagreement with Mr. McKinney's recommendations. Mr. Windham said he was glad the Committee moved forward with what they thought was best for the region. Mr. Graham agreed that the Board needs to hold DOT accountable for the funds expended because this discussion is being had because of their overruns. Mr. McKinney reported that staff are actively seeking a strategy keep Camden within the jurisdiction, and that losing Camden could result in potentially losing up to a million dollars in funding and it does not benefit the region to lose Camden to the COATS MPO. He advised the Committee that there would be robust conversation at the next Planning and Projects on how to move forward and whether to take on large or smaller projects.

8. **Adjournment:** Ms. Nelson asked for a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Alfred Mae Drakeford motioned to adjourn the Executive Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jim McCain and passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 4:48 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher McKinney
CEO/Executive Director