

**Board of Directors  
Hybrid (In-Person and Zoom)  
Monday, October 3, 2022  
6:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**In Person**

**Kershaw County:** Penry Gustafson, Alfred Mae Drakeford, John Lee Thomas, Sammie Tucker

**Clarendon County:** Julia Nelson, Shirley Keels

**Sumter County:** Chuck Wilson, Jim McCain, Vivian McGhaney,

**Zoom**

**Clarendon County:** Dwight Stewart

**Kershaw County:** Julian Burns, Jeffery Graham, Brad Hanley, John Lee, Kenneth McCaskill

**Lee County:** Will Wheeler

**Sumter County:** James Blassingame, David Weeks, Gifford Shaw

**Members Absent/Excused**

**Clarendon County:** Kevin Johnson (E)

**Lee County:** Travis Windham (E), Grady Brown (A)

**Sumter County:** Eugene Baten (A), Jeffery Davis (A), David Merchant (E), Roland Robinson (E), Earl Wilson (E), Steve Corley (E)

1. **Welcome and Call to order:** Chairman Julia Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:02PM.
2. **Invocation:** Mrs. Vivian McGhaney provided the invocation.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Mr. John Thomas lead the pledge of allegiance and all attendees participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **Quorum Determination:** The Board Clerk, Ms. Linda Jackson, informed Chairman Nelson we had reached a quorum with 19 of 28 board members present. (1 vacancy)
5. **Agenda Adoption:** Chairman Nelson called for a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Sammie Tucker made the motion, and it was seconded by Mrs. Vivian McGhaney. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

6. **Approval of Previous Minutes:** Chairman Nelson called for a motion to approve the minutes from August 8, 2022. Mrs. Alfred Mae Drakeford made the motion, and it was seconded by Mrs. Shirley Keels. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously. Chairman Nelson called for a motion to approve the minutes from September 12, 2022. Mr. Sammie Tucker made the motion, and it was seconded by Mr. Chuck Wilson. All were in favor and the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

7. **Public Presentation:** N/A

8. **Staff Reports:** Mrs. Rachel Katorkas, Finance Chief, reported to the Board that the financial report runs through the end of August. At that point, the COG was 17% of the way thru the fiscal year. Overall, the COG has brought in 3% of budgeted revenue and expended 10% of budgeted expenses. Mrs. Katorkas informed the Board, the COG is at a 276% of the budget for interest earnings. These funds come from the money that is with the SC Local Government Investment Pool. She explained the earning is much more because of the changes in the economy and interest rates. Under expenses, the COG is at a 94% in insurance because most of the insurance costs are paid in the first part of the fiscal year. Mrs. Katorkas informed the Board that the 71% in advertising expenses are primarily due to a billboard campaign that will end in the next month. This billboard campaign is to encourage vaccination among seniors and is paid for with a grant from SCDOA specifically for that purpose.

Other reports are for information only.

9. **Committee Reports:**

- a. **Aging & Human Services:** Mrs. Shirley Keels, Chairman of the Aging & Human Services Committee, informed the Board that on September 28, 2022, the Aging & Human Services Committee met to discuss contract concerns with our provider in Clarendon County. The Committee discussed contingency plans, and that additional time is needed for more information to be obtained. The committee will meet again on October 19<sup>th</sup> after additional information has been collected.

10. **Old Business:**

- a. N/A

11. **New Business:**

- a. **TIP Budget Approval and Presentation:** Mr. Jacob Whitmire presented to the Board the TIP budgets. He explained the Rural Planning Work Program planning administration budget has increased from \$106,250 to \$156,000 per year. That is an increase of \$49,750. These funds are used for the transportation planning cost and will allow for more intensive planning efforts from the COG under new directives. Mr. Whitmire informed the Board that the 20% local match requirement increased by \$9,950 from \$21,250 to \$31,200. He stated that starting in FY 2023, SLRCOG will begin receiving \$5,000,000 per year in Guideshare Funds. In 2022 there was an increase of \$1,000,000 annually and a total increase of \$1,791,000 annually since 2021. Mr.

Whitmire explained that over a 7-year TIP cycle that will give the COG \$12,537,000 in additional Guidesshare funding for transportation projects.

Mr. Whitmire explained to the Board that SLRCOG, and Kershaw County, had ongoing discussions with CMCOG, COATS, and SCDOT to remove all of Kershaw County from any COATS planning jurisdiction. The final determination is expected in January 2023. He wanted to make clear this process will not affect the current Guidesshare funding amount.

Mr. Whitmire explained, as a reminder, to the Board that the Bishopville Project 2030 public comment period for the draft of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was completed on May 20, 2022. SCDOT has finalized the plans based off comments and will have final route plans by the end of the year. He explained that the EIS must be approved before Right of Way Acquisition can begin. (Expected to begin FY 2024). Construction for this project is to begin FY 2026. Mr. Whitmire stated the SCDOT recommends incorporating 20% - 30% cost increases to account for materials and transportation. He highlighted some key points that exists and/or may occur in the future:

- \$22,600,962 in construction funds currently allocated
- Expected construction cost of \$27,121,154 - \$29,381,250
- \$9,103,163 allocated in PE
- \$1,900,000 allocated in ROW acquisition
- Estimated total cost: \$38,124,317 - \$40,384,413
  - \$4,520,192- \$6,780,288 cost increase

Mr. Whitmire informed the Board that the COG has one (1) year of allocation of construction funds that fall outside of the current TIP cycle for 2028. In 2028, there is expected to be \$16,878,512 remaining in Guidesshare funds for transportation projects. He explained that if construction costs go up by 20%, in 2028 the remaining funds would be \$12,363,512, and if construction cost increase to 30%, in 2028 there would be \$10,098,512 remaining to do Guidesshare projects after the current project is complete.

Mr. Whitmire briefed to the Board that the Black River Road Project was put on hold to determine what would happen to the Santee-Lynches Transportation Planning Jurisdiction based on the 2020 Census. He clarified that regardless of the decision made on Kershaw County, the Guidesshare funding amounts will not change through the current TIP cycle. The current project cost estimates is \$9,682,00 with the 20% - 30% construction cost increase to \$11,282,000 - \$12,082,000. He explained that by the end of the TIP cycle FY 2028, it is expected to have about \$7,617,512 remaining in Guidesshare funds based on the current cost of the two (2) projects. If both projects were to increase by 20%, the remaining funds will come down to \$1,502,512 and if both projects increase by 30%, the funds will be (\$1,562,488) deficit in the Guidesshare budget. Mr. Whitmire informed the Board that the COG will need to request an advancement of funds from DOT which they would have to approve, and the COG

will spend the next few years paying in debt surface for future Guideshare funds to break even on the advancement.

Lastly, Mr. Whitmire explained the estimated funds remaining after final allocations of the Bishopville Project 2030 and Black River Road will be:

- Current: \$7,617,512
- 20% Increase: \$1,502,512
- 30% Increase: (\$1,562,488)

SCDOT is currently determining whether to allow advancement in funds to cover the deficit at 30% costs.

Mr. Dwight Stewart, Chairman of the Planning and Projects Committee, informed the Board that on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, the Committee met to discuss the topic of adding the Black River Road Corridor project to the Santee-Lynches COG TIP. The Committee brought forth a motion that the Black River Road Corridor project be added to the Santee-Lynches COG Transportation Improvement Program, and it was seconded by Mr. Tucker. Chairman Nelson asked was there any discussion. Mr. McCain stated to the Board after doing a little bit of research there were two possibly completed projects, the Camden Truck Route (completed), the Broad Street Road Diet (not completed) and now looking to add the Black River Road project. His concern was when Clarendon County or Sumter County will have another project. Mr. McCain posed a question to staff, if the COG were to bring the Black River Road Corridor Project on, how long will it take before Clarendon County or Sumter County get a project. Mr. Whitmire answered that it would depend on the cost increase. If the current estimates hold, he stated that planning could begin now but if DOT includes the 30% cost increase, new projects are not able to start until fiscal year 2029.

Mr. McCain made a counter motion to table the discussion for adding the Black River Road Project to the TIP until there is more research, and it was seconded by Mrs. McGhaney. Mr. Jeffery Graham informed the Board, being on the Planning and Projects Committee, there hadn't been any projects in the queue for Clarendon or Sumter County. The Black River Road Project was already in the queue, it was pulled because of the Census data not because of the project itself. He also confirmed that the Board River Road Diet was not funded by Santee-Lynches, only the Camden Truck Route. The motion did not carry with thirteen (13) members voting to move forward and five (5) to table.

Chairman Nelson stated that the Planning and Projects Committee has brought forth a motion to add the Black River Road Project to the Santee-Lynches Transportation Improvement Program and it was seconded by Mr. Tucker. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

- b. Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP):** Dr. Jeff Parkey briefed the Board on the Regional 208 Water Quality Management Plan of the Clean Water Act of section 208. The plan is to address water quality issues in the planning area. Dr. Parkey

announced that SLCOG is one of six COGs that have been designated by DHEC as a Water Quality Planning Agency. SLRCOG covers for Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee and Sumter counties. The goal is to protect the water quality in the Santee-Lynches region. He explained some of the concerns of the water quality plan were to document wastewater infrastructure needs, assist in the wastewater infrastructure permitting process, update the plan regularly and allow for public involvement. Dr. Parkey informed the Board of the stakeholders meeting with the WWTP operators that incorporated a draft plan for the next five (5) years, their feedback, and updates. He announced that funds have been received for this fiscal year from DHEC.

Dr. Parkey explained that there are five (5) policy-level recommendations to management agencies and jurisdictions including:

- Utilize central sewer systems in favor of septic systems
- Consolidating wastewater treatment facilities into regional systems
- Maintain the Upper Wateree Agreement
- Work proactively to address nonpoint source water pollution issues
- Undertake comprehensive land use planning

Dr. Parkey explained SCDHEC construction or discharge permits for the wastewater facilities are contingent upon the 208 Conformance Review conducted by SLCOG. COG staff determines whether the proposed project conforms to the goals and policies of the WQMP and may request technical assistance from DHEC prior to making a conformance determination. He explained the applicant will be notified of the outcome of the review within five (5) business days.

The Executive Committee requested a motion and second to approve the Water Quality Management Plan that was presented by Dr. Parkey. Mrs. Drakeford made the motion, and it was seconded by Mr. Tucker. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

- c. **Federal Highway (FHWA) 5310 Funding:** Dr. Parkey informed the Board that the 5310 grant helps the transportation needs of older adults/persons with disabilities when the transportation service provided is unavailable, insufficient, or inappropriate to meeting these needs. This transportation can be used by the County Disability and Special Needs Boards for capital and program management needs. He explained that DOT will contact COG staff to rank the applications based on statement of need/organizational capacity, project cost, coordination and program outreach, implementation plan, customer service and accessibility.

Dr. Parkey presented the rankings of the region's disability boards, and their project description as follows:

- #1 Clarendon County
- #2 Sumter County

- #3 and #4 Lee County

These counties needed projects for vehicles. Lee County also needed mobility management and Sumter County also ranked #1 in the Small Urban category for a vehicle.

The Executive Committee brought forth a motion and second to approve the Federal Highway 5310 Funding Rankings. All were in favor and the motion passed. Unanimously.

- d. NADO Awards:** Mr. Cyphers, Executive Director announced to the Board that the COG has earned three (3) NADO awards. The following projects from the SLRCOG region were selected as an awardee:
- i. High Five 2 Change - a back-to-school jamboree provided essential back-to-school items for the region's youth including school supplies as well as mask and hand sanitizer. DHEC provided vaccines and numerous health providers gave updates and information to those that attended.
  - ii. Regional COVID Educational Campaign - the COG partnered with DHEC and hosted eight (8) Mid-Day Senior COVID Socials and one (1) large Senior Day Event "Aging My Way". The eight (8) Mid-Day Senior COVID Socials provided vital information presented by DHEC on the importance of COVID vaccines along with vital resources and information to help seniors remain safe during the pandemic.
  - iii. Far-UV Disinfection Lighting for School Buses - this is now getting National attention and has also been nominated for the South Carolina Council of Governments project of the year. This announcement will take place in November.

**12. Executive Director's Report:** No remarks

- 13. Chairman Remarks:** Chairman Nelson reminded the Board that everyone is professional, and no one should take anything personal. She stated that they are there to make decisions for the best interest of the COG and they all represent different entities that belong to the COG. She explained the Board never discussed conflict of interest and ethics. When voting on that, it may impact anyone individually because people in the local areas know more about those issues than the Board. She reminded the Board of the rules when making decisions and voting when there is a conflict of interest as this will prevent the COG from being under a microscope from a local entity that the Board doesn't know about. She explained that they must live by the same ethics as they would in their governmental agencies. Chairman Nelson thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Mrs. Drakeford thanked the COG for the beautiful flowers she received during the loss of her mother and thanked everyone for their calls and texts. Mr. Chuck Wilson thanked Chairman Nelson for her appropriate words and thanked the Executive Director for his hard work. Mrs.

Penry Gustafson gave Chairman Nelson and the Executive Director prayer books offered through the State's Chaplin Rev. Burrell as a thank you for their leadership. Ms. Linda Jackson reminded the Board members that it was the last call to let her know if they will be attending the South Carolina Council of Governments conference in Myrtle Beach.

- 14. Adjourn:** Chairman Nelson entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. McCain made the motion, and it was seconded by Mr. Tucker. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by:

Linda Jackson

Linda Jackson  
Board Clerk

Approve by:

Dennis Cyphers

Dennis Cyphers  
Executive Director

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I certify that the public and media notifications of the above-mentioned meeting were given prior to the meeting as follows:

Public Notified:	Yes
Manner Notified:	Agenda was posted on Bulletin Board at 2525 Corporate Way, October 3, 2022

Media Notified:	Yes
Manner Notified:	Agenda emailed to local newspapers: The Item

Date Notified:	September 29, 2022
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