

**MINUTES
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
 UPPER SAVANNAH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
 DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
 430 HELIX ROAD
 GREENWOOD, SOUTH CAROLINA
 JUNE 24, 2024**

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Calhoun, Jim Coleman, Frank Daniel, Ken Durham, Qwen Etheredge, Charles Goodwin, Charlie Henry, Tiffani Ireland, Charles Jennings, Miliken Matthews, Willie Norman, Randy Randall, Ernie Segars, Albert Talbert and Faye Thomas.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Diane Anderson, Jackie Brown, Otis Grier Jr., Shirley Jenkins, Theo Lane, Wes McAllister, Sen. Shane Massey, Marian Miller, Matthew Miller, Floyd Nicholson, David Sawyer, Brandon Smith, Roy Smith Jr., Don Smoak, David Tribble and Sen. Danny Verdin.

STAFF PRESENT: Patricia Hartung, Sam Leaman, Rick Green, Melissa Phillips,

GUEST PRESENT: Susan Jackson, US Representative Jeff Duncan’s Office; Kevin McLaughlin, SCDOT; Scott Neely, Dominion Energy.

Call to Order	<p>The meeting was held in person with the option to attend via conference call. Willie Norman gave the invocation and Chairman Albert Talbert called the meeting to order.</p> <p>The April 22, 2024 minutes were approved unanimously upon motion by Jim Coleman and second by Faye Thomas.</p>
Transportation Discussion	<p>Government Services Director Rick Green reported on the following topics related to transportation in the region.</p> <p><u>The Roadway Departure Safety Implementation Plan</u> was briefly reviewed and is available online at the Upper Savannah COG website. Maps of potential project locations by county are available as requested. Common causes for deaths caused by roadway departure crashes include speed, driver inattention/impairment, and lack of seatbelt use. Some of the practical items that could be implemented to reduce the number of these deaths include more signage, rumble strips, reflective lane markers, better lighting, and increased enforcement. The USCOG board will be asked to vote on officially adopting the plan at the August 2024 board meeting.</p> <p><u>The Regional Mobility Program</u> is the new name SCDOT has chosen for what was formerly known as Guideshares. This is supposed to better address all forms of transportation to include pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transit users. A brief overview of the potentially eligible projects plus an update on the Upper Savannah portion of the program will be presented.</p> <p><u>County meetings</u> for SCDOT to discuss the Regional Mobility Program and other transportation issues are being planned for each county in the Upper Savannah COG region this summer. SCDOT would like each county to provide two items: (1) areas within the County that are attractive for growth in the near-term, and (2) specific</p>

	<p>corridors, with termini, that are attractive for growth in the near-term, in rank order.</p> <p>A multi-modal transportation planning survey has been released to the public by SCDOT. This survey is used to gather input to update the Momentum 2050 plan to improve the state’s multimodal transportation network. Every five years SCDOT updates a statewide plan for all users, all modes, and any area that has a role in South Carolina’s transportation system. It evaluates the status of the transportation system, what’s changing, and how we’re going to move forward over the next twenty-five years. This plan does not choose specific projects or decide what will be built where, but it develops the vision and goals for the future of transportation in South Carolina. A video promoting the survey was played for the Board and the survey website, www.movingsouthcarolinaforward.com was shared.</p>
<p>FY 2025 Budget and Annual Board Resolution on Select Operating Policies</p>	<p>Assistant Director Sam Leaman presented the FY 2025 Operating, Direct Services and Pass Through Budget for consideration.</p> <p>The combined operating and pass through budget is actually down 3.5% primarily due to the expiration of a DOL grant for dislocated workers. Aging pass through funding has increased. The operating budget has increased 14.6% primarily due to increases in the direct services and administration budget for Aging. That line item is up 24.6%.</p> <p>Other significant revenue increases are a \$100,000 non-recurring supplemental appropriation to all ten COGs. The addition of a \$35,000 planning and capacity building grant from the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission and \$31,500 in loan fund interest both from new loans and cash held in banks. Community Development will have a revenue decrease this year because of projects being delayed or postponed.</p> <p>Significant expense items include salary and fringe, which is 55% of the budget, increases in OPEB liability funding, services rendered due to staff sharing with other regions and transitioning some staff to contracts, non-capital and capital equipment purchases due to replacement of end-of-life computer and network systems, the planned purchase of one vehicle and Aging direct services.</p> <p>After having been approved by the Executive Committee, Jim Coleman made a motion to approve, and the motion was seconded by Charles Jennings. The budget was approved unanimously.</p> <p>The FY 2025 Annual Board Resolution on Select Operating Policies was presented. The resolution proposed an increase to reimbursement rates for the use of personal vehicles from 60 cents to 62 cents per mile. No other changes were proposed from last year’s resolution.</p> <p>After having been approved by the Executive Committee, Frank Daniel made a motion to approve, and the motion was seconded by Charles Jennings. The resolution was approved unanimously.</p>
<p>Director’s Report</p>	<p>Executive Director Patricia Hartung reported on significant developments statewide that have an impact on COG work programs. The \$1,000,000 supplemental appropriation was agreed to by both houses and the conference committee and is expected to be approved in the final state budget. This was the second time in three</p>

	<p>fiscal years that COGs have received this funding.</p> <p>Hartung advised the board that COGs statewide are discussing funding and program structure to establish a Government Services position to serve the needs of small government entities needing specific professional assistance.</p> <p>The ten COG executive directors will be meeting with staff of the SC Department of Administration to possibly restructure the Project Review Notification System to be conducted at the COG regional level without state involvement.</p> <p>Hartung mentioned that if the bill proposing the creation of the Executive Office of Health Policy, a consolidation of state health care agencies, is passed it would impact the administration of the Aging program.</p> <p>Finally, Hartung distributed the activity reports and asked board members to read them and contact the appropriate staff members if they had any questions.</p>
Nominating Committee Report	<p>Nominating Committee member Jim Coleman reported on the committee's recommendation for officers for the July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026 term. The committee members were Floyd Nicholson, Chairman, Jim Coleman and Wes McAllister. Nominations were Charles Jennings, Chairman; Frank Daniel, Vice Chairman and Patricia Hartung Secretary/Treasurer. Coleman read a brief bio on Jennings and Daniel highlighting their local government and leadership experience. Faye Thomas made a motion to approve the nominations which was seconded by Willie Norman. The motion passed unanimously.</p>
Passing of the Gavel	<p>Chairman Talbert officially passed the chairman's gavel to Jennings. Jennings then presented a plaque to Talbert honoring him for his service as Board Chairman.</p>
Adjourn	<p>Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.</p>

Patricia C. Hartung
Executive Director