



**Board of Directors Meeting of the
Central Midlands Council of Governments
Thursday, December 10, 2015 ♦ 12:00 p.m. ♦ CMCOG Conference Room
Overall Agenda**

ACTION

A. Call to Order and Introductions

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Determination of Quorum | Dr. Roger Gaddy |
| 2. Approve Order and Contents of the Overall Agenda | Group |
| 3. Introduction of Guests | Gregory Sprouse |
| 4. Invocation | |
| 5. Recognition of Charles Warren | Ben Mauldin |

B. Regular Agenda

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1. Approval of the October 22, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes (<i>Enclosure 1</i>) | Group |
| 2. FY 2015 Central Midlands COG Financial Audit (<i>Enclosure 2</i>) | Malia Ropel |
| 3. Statewide ITS Architecture (<i>Enclosure 3</i>) | Reginald Simmons |
| 4. TIP Amendment –Vista Greenway Phase II (<i>Enclosure 4</i>) | Reginald Simmons |
| 5. CMCOG Authorization of Section 5307 Funds to CMRTA (<i>Enclosure 5</i>) | Reginald Simmons |
| 6. Resolution to Apply for Federal and State Grants (<i>Enclosure 6</i>) | Reginald Simmons |

C. Announcements / Committee or Staff Reports / Correspondences

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Executive Director's Report (<i>Enclosure 7</i>) | Ben Mauldin |
| 2. Regional Round Up | Dr. Roger Gaddy |

D. Old/New Business

E. Other Business

F. Adjourn

REMINDER: The next CMCOG Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 28, 2016 in the COG Conference Room

NOTE: Full Agendas can be found on the CMCOG website at www.cmco.org.

Serving Local Governments in South Carolina's Midlands



ENCLOSURE 1

**Board of Directors Meeting of the
Central Midlands Council of Governments
Thursday, October 22, 2015 ♦ 12:00 p.m. ♦ CMCOG Conference Room**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dennis Arledge, Kershaw County Council
Michael Bailey, Richland County
Jimmy Bales, Richland County Legislative Delegation
Connie Breeden, Richland County
Larry Brigham, Lexington County Council
David Brown, Fairfield County
John Carrigg, Lexington County
Ellen Cooper, City of Columbia
Kendall Corley, Richland County
Todd Cullum, Lexington County Council
Smokey Davis, Lexington County
Joyce Dickerson, Richland County Council
Julie Ann Dixon, Richland County Council
MaryGail Douglas, Fairfield Co Legislative Delegation
Clabie Edmond, Lexington County
Shawn Epps, City of Columbia
Zebbie Goude-lock, Newberry City Council
John Hardee, City of Columbia
Les Hipp, Newberry County Council
Johnny Jeffcoat, Lexington County Council
Wilber Lee Jeffcoat, Lexington County
Paul Livingston, Richland County Council
Walt McLeod, Newberry Co Legislative Delegation
Joe Mergo, Lexington County
Tony Mizzell, Richland County
Cathy Novinger, City of Columbia
Juston Ricard, Springdale Town Council
Carolyn Robinson, Fairfield County Council
Debbie Summers, Lexington County Council
Bill Waldrop, Newberry County Council
Phil Yarborough, Lexington County Council
Paul Younginer, Irmo Town Council

ADVISORY MEMBER PRESENT:

Barbara Smith, Mayor of Pelion

AFFILIATE MEMBER PRESENT:

Ron Rhames, Midlands Technical College

GUESTS PRESENT:

Julian Burns, Chairman, Kershaw County Council
Tommy Flynn, S.C. Department of Health &
Environmental Control
Morgan Harrell, SCANA
Holland Leger, Lexington County Planning
Jennifer Necker, S.C. Department of Transportation
Donna Peeler, Joint Municipal Water & Sewer
Commission
Milton Pope, Fairfield County
Myra Reece, S.C. Department of Health &
Environmental Control
Yvette Rowland, Office of Senator Lindsay Graham
Harold Shapiro, Brownfield Cleanup Revolving Loan
Fund
Sonny Timmerman, Richland County Penny Sales Tax

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Felicia Anderson, HR / Operations Manager
Becky Baird, Family Caregiver Program Advocate
Roland Bart, Chief Transportation Planner
Eartha Burrell, Community Development Planner
Cindy Curtis, Director of the Area Agency on Aging
Guillermo Espinosá, Senior Planner
Jessica Foster, Accounting Clerk
Cyndi Gawronski, Community Development
Manager
Laurie Giarratano, Associate Ombudsman
Anna Harmon, Regional Long-Term Care
Ombudsman Program Director
Jason Kent, GIS Manager
Ben Mauldin, Executive Director
Malia Ropel, Finance Director
Andy Simmons, Information Services Manager
Reginald Simmons, Deputy Executive
Director/Transportation Director
Gregory Sprouse, Director of Research, Planning and
Development

Serving Local Governments in South Carolina's Midlands

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 p.m. on October 22, 2015 by Immediate Past Chairperson, John Hardee.

A1. Determination of Quorum

Chairperson Hardee acknowledged the presence of a quorum.

A2. Approve Order and Contents of the Agenda

MOTION, approved

Jimmy Bales moved, seconded by Julie Ann Dixon, to approve the order and contents of the agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

A3. Introduction of Guests

Gregory Sprouse introduced the guests at today's meeting. They are listed on the first page.

A4. Invocation

Anna Harmon gave the invocation

B. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes of the September 24, 2015 Board Meeting, approved
2. Approval of Financial Statement – July 1, 2015 – September 30, 2015, approved

MOTION, approved

Joyce Dickerson moved, seconded by Julie Ann Dixon, to approve the consent agenda as listed above. The motion was approved unanimously.

C. REGULAR AGENDA

C1. Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) 2015 Priority Projects Update

Gregory Sprouse provided an update of the 2015 priority projects for Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry and Richland Counties. The projects are part of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) for the Central Midlands Region. He explained that the CEDs process results in a five-year strategic plan for regional economic development that is updated annually. The CEDs allows communities within the region to apply to the EDA for funding assistance for economic development-related public works and planning projects.

Mr. Sprouse referred to the CEDs Regional Strategic Project List and emphasized that inclusion on the list does not guarantee funding from EDA nor does it represent any commitment of funds from the local governments listed.

MOTION, approved

Smokey Davis moved to approve the CEDs 2015 Priority Projects Update, as presented. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMITTEE OR STAFF REPORTS / CORRESPONDENCES

D1. Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program Update

Anna Harmon provided an update of the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program. She discussed the program's responsibilities and case/complaint statistics over the past four (4) years. Ms. Harmon also discussed the Volunteer Friendly Visitor Program and Advance Directives. A brief discussion took place regarding advance directives.

D2. Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund

Harold Shapiro provided an overview of the Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (BCRLF). The Board was shown various pictures and maps to illustrate environmental cleanup and removal efforts at Brownfields sites across the state. He discuss the general terms of the BCRLF.

D3. Presentation by SCDHEC regarding 2015 Ozone NAAQS

Thomas Flynn provided an overview of the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). He stated that a new Ozone NAAQS of 70 ppb was issued on October 1, 2015. He also discussed the Ozone NAAQS designation process and the finalized provisions. Based on the 2015 Ozone NAAQS, there have been two (2) exceedances since 2013. Since 2005, there has been a 21% decrease in statewide average ozone design values (75 ppb in 2005 and 58.9 ppb in 2015).

D4. In-Vest USA – Presentation

Michael Letts presented Columbia Fire Chief, Aubrey Jenkins, with a protective vest for the Columbia Fire Department. Mr. Letts commended the Columbia Fire Department for their heroic efforts during the recent flood.

D5. Regional Round Up – Midlands SC Flood Update by Member Governments

Les Hipp and Dennis Arledge provided an update for Newberry and Kershaw Counties, respectively.

E. OLD / NEW BUSINESS

No old or new business was brought forth.

F. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was brought forth.

G. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:03 p.m.

These minutes were respectfully submitted by Felicia C. Anderson



ENCLOSURE 2

Date: December 3, 2015
To: CMCOG Board of Directors
From: Ben Mauldin, Executive Director
Subject: Financial and Compliance Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

Derrick, Stubbs, & Stith, L.L.P. has completed our FY 2015 Financial and Compliance Report and a Report to the Board of Directors. Both documents are attached in electronic form. The auditors will report to the Board at our December 10th meeting. If you want a hardcopy of either report, please let Felicia Anderson know and she will provide it for you.

We have a good audit with no findings or exceptions. We ended the year with a \$75,439 reduction in the General Fund Balance and a \$4,149 increase in the Midlands Workforce Board Local Fund Balance. The total Fund Balance is \$604,907. The General Fund Balance is \$452,074 and the Workforce local fund balance is \$152,833. More detailed information is provided in the Audit reports.

Malia Ropel, Finance Director, and our Finance staff has done an excellent job working with the auditors and always makes sure that we meet all applicable requirements, pay our bills on time, and maximize our revenues. If you have any questions about the audit, please contact Malia or me.

The COG staff appreciates the continued support of our Board of Directors and our member governments.



Memorandum

TO: All Members of the CMCOG Board of Directors

FROM: Reginald Simmons, Deputy Executive Director/Transportation Director

DATE: December 10, 2015

SUBJECT: Statewide ITS Architecture

REQUESTED ACTION

The Central Midlands Council of Governments' staff requests approval to adopt the Statewide ITS Architecture as the ITS Architecture for the COATS MPO. The full document is available on our website for review.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) is the application of technology (electronic sensing, computer processing, and communications) to manage transportation on roadways. The goals are to increase throughput, improve safety, and reduce adverse impacts to the environment. ITS technologies collect and fuse traffic data into meaningful information that can be used to actively manage traffic: provide on-going monitoring of the transportation network; provide traveler information; reduce incident response times; and optimize the use of transportation assets.

The National ITS Architecture framework is used to support the identification and definition of the ITS functionality needed for the region. The ITS architecture development process provides a structured approach to the identification of stakeholders, existing ITS systems and elements, interfaces, and user services that will be needed to meet the stakeholders' regional technical and institutional objectives.

The ITS Architecture also serves as an overarching framework to ensure interoperability of ITS architectures developed in various regions. The ITS Architecture development process guides the development of ITS projects and programs for consistency ensuring that the project goals are met. South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) has already developed a Statewide ITS architecture in line with the State's vision and goals for transportation. SCDOT's primary goal in deploying ITS is to provide safe and efficient traffic flow on the highway system.

The purpose of this document is to update the South Carolina Statewide ITS Architecture to meet the evolving needs of the State and to take advantage of the advancements in ITS technology that has occurred in recent years. There is also a need to reassess how deployed ITS systems meet user needs and how any gaps can be bridged.

This document describes the existing inventory of elements or programs under the current Statewide ITS Architecture and the planned projects or programs based on stakeholder meetings held to update the existing Statewide ITS architecture.

Staff will request adoption of the Statewide ITS Architecture as the ITS Architecture for the COATS MPO.

ATTACHMENT

Executive Summary

F:\Transportation Subcommittee Meetings\Calendar Year 2015 Meeting Transportation Subcommittee 11-12-15\ITS Architecture.doc

Executive Summary

Executive Summary

The purpose of this document is to update the South Carolina Statewide ITS Architecture to meet the evolving transportation needs of the state taking advantage of the advancements in ITS technology that has occurred in recent years. There is also a need to reassess how deployed ITS systems meet user needs and how any gaps in user services can be bridged. By going through the updating process, the state is also ensuring it remains in compliance with Federal ITS regulations.

The updated document describes the existing ITS architecture for South Carolina and the proposed ITS projects that can be implemented to enhance user services. The update has been developed around the following key functional areas:

- Archived Data Systems
- Arterial Management
- Commercial Vehicle Operations
- Electronic Fare/Toll Collection
- Emergency Management
- Freeway Management
- Incident Management
- Maintenance and Construction Management
- Parking Management
- Transit Services and
- Traveler Information.

The key stakeholders' roles and responsibilities have been described to ensure the ITS functions are as envisioned. Also included are the interconnect context diagrams, which show the connections between stakeholders or systems. The context diagrams show the information flows/data exchanges between stakeholders required to meet user services. These items have been compiled using the Turbo Architecture software which is a tool created by the federal government for developing ITS Architectures.

The Statewide ITS infrastructure is managed by the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) and the ITS Coordinator is located in the Columbia traffic management center (TMC) facility. Through stakeholder feedback and a gap analysis of the existing system, potential projects to enhance user services have been identified and summarized in **Table ES 1**. Statewide needs must be reviewed periodically as user needs or services and technology evolve over time to ensure the Statewide ITS is current and relevant.

Executive Summary

Table ES 1: Summary of Proposed Projects

Project Title	Description
Commercial Vehicle Information Systems Network (CVISN)/ Performance and Registration Information Systems Management (PRISM)	Pre-Pass/Weigh-in-Motion desired to help Ports pre-clear commercial vehicles to improve efficiency of commercial vehicle operations and enhance the safety of carriers.
ITS Communications Upgrades	Because of the security, expandability, and bandwidth capability, SCDOT prefers the use of fiber optics for the ITS communication network. The project(s) will include implementation of fiber optic communications network to support ITS field device communications and communications between stakeholders (field-to-field and center-to-center communications). When fiber is not feasible, licensed wireless communications may be used. Unlicensed wireless may be feasible for use as Ethernet bridges when line of sight (<1mi) is unobstructed. Cellular modems may be used when the options above are not feasible. Also desired is integration of systems (networks) between stakeholders to facilitate information exchange and coordination for operations.
Field Device Upgrades	Upgrade CCTV Cameras to IP cameras (with PTZ, lens cleaning, etc.) and IP addressable connectivity (signal controllers, DMS, etc.)
Work Zone ITS	Deployment of portable devices (CCTV cameras, DMS, queue detection system, etc.) to help manage work zones to enhance safety of public and construction crew.
Emergency Vehicle Preemption	Provide signal preemption for emergency vehicles in critical corridors.
Traffic Monitoring and Detection	Deploy new field devices (CCTV cameras, detectors, DMS, etc.) to enhance CCTV coverage and improve incident detection and response and regional traffic management. Deployments will be focused on major arterials as coverage on the interstate routes is nearly complete.
State Highway Emergency Program (SHEP)	Expand SHEP to other areas of the state that need assistance for incident management.
511 Traveler Information and Way Finding	Expand traveler information coverage and dissemination to include all modes and provide real-time information to the public. Current needs identified include expansion to cover arterials, public transit and commercial vehicle operations (parking location and availability).
Comprehensive Detour Plan Analysis	Detour plans to manage incidents along segments of critical highway corridors must be established, and resources allocated in counties that will be affected for re-routing including staffing and training. Signal systems on detour routes must be upgraded with communication.
Arterial Signal Coordination and Communication	Upgrade signal systems on critical arterial corridors with communication and controllers that will support coordination, emergency timing plans and establish protocol for emergency signal activation. Needed upgrades also include CCTV cameras for intersection monitoring.
Expansion of 800 Megahertz Radio System	Expand public safety 800 MHz system



Executive Summary

Project Title	Description
Parking Management	Provide parking coordination between parking facilities and real-time parking usage to the public and parking management agencies
Ride Sharing for Emergencies	Coordinate ride sharing during emergencies
Ramp Metering	Deploy ramp metering on access ramps to freeway facilities to manage travel demand during peak commute hours to enhance freeway performance for travel time reliability and safety. Coordinate with traffic signal systems on arterials.
Lane Control	Provide overhead lane control signs and communication on freeways to help manage incidents that block travel lanes on critical freeway corridors
Commercial Vehicle Parking	Provide commercial vehicle parking facilities with monitoring for real-time parking management and information dissemination to commercial vehicle drivers
Incident Management	Upgrade incident management system to provide credible real-time incident response status. Include portable devices for incident monitoring especially in areas outside of urbanized areas.
Integrated Corridor Management	Establish and deploy integrated corridor management strategies for critical corridors to optimize the use of all transportation assets to reduce congestion and improve safety.
Highway Patrol Computer Aided Dispatch System Upgrades	Upgrade the Highway Patrol web CAD and provide adequate information for real-time incident response and incident response status
Archived Data Management System	Establish a data management system to make data readily available and accessible to stakeholders for planning and to support transportation operations.
Automatic Vehicle Location and Transit Traveler Information System	Deploy GPS tracking of all transit vehicles and integration of schedule and expected arrival times of transit vehicles into SCDOT 511 system, terminals and transit vehicles. This should also include development of mobile app to push transit information to the public.
Computer Aided Dispatch and Scheduling (Transit)	Deploy technologies to facilitate dispatch of transit vehicles (software, MDT, communications, etc.) to enhance transit operations.
Transit Signal Priority	Deploy technologies in arterial corridors to enhance transit operations and maintain headways for optimal operation.
Transit Security	Deploy technologies to monitor secure areas and transit vehicles for intrusion or passenger safety with communications to transit management center and public safety agencies
Advanced Passenger Counters	Deploy technologies that will collect passenger data on boarding and alighting by time and location.
Asset Management and Tracking (Transit)	Deploy management strategies to help keep assets (rolling stock, right-of-way, stations, facilities, systems and equipment) in good repair i.e. fit for the purpose for which they were intended.
Electronic Fare Payment	Deploy electronic equipment in-vehicle, at terminals and bus stops for electronic payment of services. This will include the use of debit or credit cards, smart cards, and potentially near field communications for smartphone based payments.

Executive Summary

Project Title	Description
Emergency Management Interface (Transit)	Deploy technologies to reduce vulnerability, improve detection, response and mitigation. Enhance communications and coordination between transit agencies, first responders and regional and federal agencies for transit related emergencies.
Weather Information System (Transit)	Develop an integrated and effective road weather information system (RWIS) with decision support system to enhance transit operations and traveler information. Deployment of additional environmental sensor stations (ESS) may be required to capture environmental data.
Mobile Data Collection	Deploy mobile data terminals (MDT) in transit vehicles to facilitate transit information and data (passenger and fare data) management to enhance operations.



We Are Columbia

Utilities & Engineering Department
Engineering Division
1136 Washington Street, Columbia, SC 29201 · Phone 803-545-3400 · Fax 803-545-3322

September 17, 2015

Mr. Reginald Simmons
Deputy Executive Director/Director of Transportation
Central Midlands Council of Governments
236 Stoneridge Drive
Columbia, SC 29210

Re: Vista Greenway Trail / Phase 2

Dear Mr. Simmons:

The City of Columbia plans to construct a 2 City block Vista Greenway Trail that would begin at Taylor Street and extend north to Elmwood Ave. The Vista Greenway Trail will connect to the completed first phase of the Vista Greenway Project, which consists of 3 City blocks from Lady to Taylor Streets and linked to the Congaree Vista and Finlay Park. This phase of the Vista Greenway Project is open, operational and has been hugely successful.

The Taylor Street portion of the trail would link pedestrians and cyclist from the Vista through Finlay Park and to historic Arsenal Hill and Elmwood Park. The Transportation Alternatives Program funds being requested (\$145,000) will be utilized for the construction of the trail surface and lighting to provide safety from the trail to the tunnel at Finlay Park. The renovations to the tunnel will provide a safer and more welcoming environment for pedestrians and cyclist.

The Vista Greenway Trail is a trail in which, the City of Columbia will transform the former Seaboard Air Line Railroad into a fourteen foot (14') wide lighted asphalt trail for biking and pedestrian use from Lady Street to Elmwood Avenue. The development of the Vista Greenway Trail will facilitate and encourage tourism in the Columbia area by linking two major destinations of the Vista and Finlay Park. The trail will also transform underutilized and blighted areas and enhance the quality of life in the City of Columbia.

Sincerely,

Eric V. Cassell
Special Projects Administrator

Cc: Dana Higgins, P.E., City Engineer

VISTA GREENWAY PHASE 2



I-126

ELMWOOD

ELMWOOD

WAYNE

CALHOUN

ASSEMBLY

PARK

PAVILLION TOWERS

THURMOND

EXIT - HUGER ST

HUGER

RICHLAND

WILLIAMS

RICHLAND

LAUREL

TAYLOR

PULASKI

WAYNE

GADSDEN

LINCOLN

GIST



RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF GRANT APPLICATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE EXECUTION OF GRANT AGREEMENTS THAT MAY RESULT FROM THE CENTRAL MIDLANDS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT GRANT APPLICATIONS.

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) and the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) are authorized to make grants for transportation and mass transit planning programs and projects and intermodal transportation programs and projects; and

WHEREAS, the Central Midlands Council of Governments (CMCOG) is eligible to receive capital, operating/administrative, and planning/special studies funding assistance from the USDOT and the SCDOT, in accordance with the Code of Laws of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, contracts for planning/special studies, operating/administrative, and capital assistance will impose certain obligations upon the applicant, including the provision, as applicable, of the local share of the project costs; and

WHEREAS, it is required by the USDOT and the SCDOT in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, that the applicant gives assurance that it will comply with Title VI and other pertinent USDOT and SCDOT requirements; and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of the applicant that minority business enterprise be utilized to the fullest extent possible in connection with these projects, and that procedures shall be established and administered to ensure that minority businesses shall have the maximum feasible opportunity to compete for contracts.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CENTRAL MIDLANDS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS:

- 1) that the Executive Director of the Central Midlands Council of Governments is authorized to execute and file grant applications on behalf of the Central Midlands Council of Governments with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the South Carolina Department of Transportation to aid in the financing of projects.
- 2) that the Executive Director is authorized to execute and file with such applications any assurances or any other documents required by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the S.C. Department of Transportation effectuating the purposes of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

3) that the Executive Director is authorized to furnish such information as the U.S. Department of Transportation and/or the S.C. Department of Transportation may require in connection with the applications for the programs listed above.

4) that the Executive Director is authorized to set forth and execute affirmative minority business policies in connection with the program's procurement needs.

5) that the Executive Director is authorized to execute grant agreements on behalf of the Central Midlands Council of Governments with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the S.C. Department of Transportation for aid in the financing of transportation planning/special studies, capital, and operating/administrative assistance programs.

THE UNDERSIGNED is the duly qualified Executive Director of Central Midlands Council of Governments, and hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a meeting of the Central Midlands Council of Governments held on December 10, 2015.

Roger Gaddy, Chairman
Central Midlands Council of Governments

Benjamin J. Mauldin, Executive Director
Central Midlands Council of Governments

Witness

Witness



ENCLOSURE 7

DATE: December 4, 2015
TO: CMCOG Board of Directors
FROM: Benjamin J. Mauldin, Executive Director
SUBJECT: **Executive Director's Report**

SCARC CONFERENCE

CMCOG was well represented at the 2015 Annual South Carolina Association of Regional Councils (SCARC) meeting in Myrtle Beach on the Sunday and Monday before Thanksgiving. Clabie Edmond served as a CMCOG delegate to the SCARC Board of Directors. I would like to thank CMCOG staff members for helping to coordinate our involvement and for attending and working at the conference.

The theme of the conference was *Bridging the Gap – Bringing South Carolina's Generations Together*. The conference was designed to provide insight into the gap between the various generations in South Carolina; what we should know about it; how can we minimize it; and use our competitive advantage. The key presentations at the conference are available for your review on the CMCOG website under "Press Releases". I encourage everyone to review the presentations as they contain very useful information on the state budget and demographics of our state.

The SC COG Directors meet regularly with top State agency officials as part of our business development strategy. We market the 10 COGS as a statewide network that can deliver seamless, high quality statewide plans and services. Developing and maintain these good working relationships has benefited our organization and the other SC COGs.

CMCOG STAFF UPDATE

The CMCOG staff will have their annual Christmas luncheon on December 8th. Special thanks to the Holiday Party Committee – Cyndi Gawronski, Felicia Anderson, Fretoria Addison, Jessica Foster, Andy Simmons, Eartha Burrell and Laurie Giarratano.

We also want to wish our Board of Directors and member governments a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year. We thank you for your continued support.

Human Resources- Discrimination and Harassment Training

All CMCOG employees recently attended a discrimination and harassment training session. The training goal was to assist our agency in maintaining a safe and respectful working and learning environment. The training session described the different types of discrimination and harassment, including prohibited inappropriate behaviors; identified the CMCOG's Anti-Harassment Policy addressing these topics; and provided resources to help those affected by

Serving Local Governments in South Carolina's Midlands

cases of alleged discrimination and harassment. Employee and supervisor responsibilities when misconduct is reported or observed were also highlighted. The training session was conducted by Felicia Anderson.

HR Certification Institute - Professional in Human Resources (PHR)

Congratulations to Felicia Anderson for earning her Professional in Human Resources certification (PHR). She took the certification exam on December 2nd. The PHR certification demonstrates mastery of the technical and operational aspects of HR practices and U.S. laws and regulations.

RECOGNITION OF CHARLES WARREN

At the December 10th board meeting, Charles Warren will be recognized for his outstanding act of valor. In September, the heroic ten year old helped save an elderly woman's life. Charles was riding his bike when he saw 85 year old, Italean Hudson, lying in her yard. He stopped to make sure she was okay, and Ms. Hudson told Charles she had been unable to get up for an hour. He immediately found someone to call 911 and stayed with Ms. Hudson until help arrived.