

CATAWBA REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR MEETING

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Catawba Regional Center  
Rock Hill, South Carolina  
November 21, 2024

A regular meeting of the Catawba Regional Council of Governments Board of Directors was called to order at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 21, 2024. Notice of the meeting was sent to the local newspaper and posted on the Council’s website.

The following members were present:

Chester

Joe Branham, Vice Chair  
Bill Bundy  
Randy Ligon  
Carlos Williams

Union

Doug Gilliam  
Ernest Moore  
Harold E. Thompson  
Leroy Worthy

York

Debi Cloninger (Zoom)  
Brent Faulkenberry  
Mike Fuesser (Zoom)  
Watts Huckabee  
Tom Hyslip (Zoom)  
Bo Legg  
Todd Lumpkin (Zoom)  
Stacey Moore  
Chad Williams

Lancaster

Alston DeVenny  
Charlene McGriff, Chair

The following members were absent:

Chester

Nettie Archie

Lancaster

Sean Corcoran  
Steve Harper  
Eddie Moore  
Brandon Newton  
Russell Patrick

York

Dean Faile  
David O’Neal  
William Roddey  
Guynn Savage  
Laura Ullrich

Union

Phillip Russell II

Others present included the following:

Guests

Josh Edwards (Zoom)                      Jason Paul  
Kimbery Green, SC DOT (Zoom)      Joe Sturm, SC DOT  
Dennis Marstall

Jim Walden (Zoom)  
Yiyun Zou, SC DOT (Zoom)

Staff

Steve Allen                                      Randy Imler  
Amy Chitwood                                  Marty Little

Grazier Rhea

Following the Call to Order and Invocation, a motion was made to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2024, COG Board Meeting. The motion was duly seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously as written.

I. Presentation of the COG FY24 Annual Audited Financial Statements and 15-Year (2009-2024) Retrospective

Mr. Randy Imler reviewed the CRCOG's 2024 Financial Statements and stated that the COG received an unmodified, or "clean," audit report from Burkett & Burkett CPAs. He then provided a 15-year retrospective of financial performance for CRCOG and the Catawba Regional Development Corporation (CRDC).

**Catawba Regional Council of Governments – FY09 through FY24**

The total net position of CRCOG, inclusive of GASB 68 and 75 pension and other post-employment benefits liabilities, increased from \$4,293,554 in fiscal year (FY) 2009 to \$15,556,020 in FY24. Net position increased from \$4.3 million in 2009 to \$8.1 million in 2013; CRCOG implemented GASB 68 (pension) and GASB 75 (OPEB) in 2015 and 2018, respectively, which reduced total net position due to these accounting liabilities. Total net position increased from a low of \$3.85 million in 2019 to \$15.55 million in 2024 due to approximately \$10 million in EDA COVID-19 Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) grants, changes in pension and OPEB balances, and profitable Council operations. GASB 68 and 75 liabilities are incurable at the local level.

Unrestricted Net Position (UNP) decreased from \$889,971 in 2009 to (\$3.5 million) in 2024. CRCOG implemented GASB 68 (pension) and GASB 75 (OPEB) in 2015 and 2018, respectively, which dramatically reduced total UNP due to the addition of the unfunded pension and OPEB accounting liabilities. Total UNP increased from a low of (\$4 million) in 2022 to (\$3.5 million) in 2024 due to changes in pension and OPEB accounting liability balances and profitable Council operations.

Total CRCOG fund balances increased from \$4,421,422 in FY09 to \$20,374,721 in FY24, an average of 24% per year. Unlike the statement of net position, the fund balance statements do not include GASB 68 and 75 liabilities. Increases from FY13 to FY19 were due largely to assumption of other regions' RLF funds. Increases from FY20 to FY24 were due largely to EDA COVID-19 RLF grant proceeds and profitable Council operations.

CRCOG's unassigned fund balance increased from \$913,256 in FY09 to \$1,449,356 in FY24, an average increase of 3.9% per year. A decline in FY20/21 was due to the pandemic and repayment of a portion of the Council's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan. CRCOG unassigned fund balances have recovered to \$1.45 million at FYE24 due to profitable Council operations.

**Catawba Regional Development Corporation – FY09 through FY24**

Mr. Imler reported on CRDC's total net position, which increased from \$849,292 in FY09 to \$2,976,126 in FY24, an average increase of 16.7% per year. A jump between FY16 and FY17 was related to the Neighborhood Initiative Program (NIP) grant due to the cleared lots that remained in inventory after the demolition of the properties' blighted houses. A significant increase in FY19 was due to the assumption of the Lower Savannah DOE RLF. An increase in FY24 was due largely to the net gain on the sale of real estate (219 Hampton Street).

From FY09 to FY24, the CRDC unrestricted net position increased from \$368,048 to \$1,563,784, an average increase of 21.6% per year. Again, the large increases in FY17 and FY24 were due

primarily to the NIP program grant and the gain on the sale of real estate, respectively.

II. Presentation of the October 31, 2024, (4-month interim) FY25 Operating Statement

Ms. Chitwood presented the October 31, 2024, (4-month interim) internally generated operating statement. Operating revenues were \$1,156,539, and operating expenses were \$974,303, with revenues exceeding expenditures by \$182,236. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and Brownfields (SCDES and EPA) passthrough revenues and expenditures totaled \$976,090. EDA COVID-19 RLF grant revenue was \$804,295. This grant has now been fully drawn down. Total revenues exceeded expenses by \$986,531. The Board received this report as information.

III. Consideration of Transportation Items

1) Safety Targets for 2024-2025

Mr. Allen presented the SC Department of Transportation (DOT) 2024-2025 FAST ACT Safety Targets for adoption (attached). The five targets include the following: total traffic fatalities, traffic fatality rate per 100 million miles traveled, total serious injuries, serious injury rate per 100 million miles traveled, and non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries. The safety targets are adopted on an annual basis, and CRCOG has historically adopted the Statewide targets.

2) TIP Amendments

Mr. Allen also provided an overview of the recommended Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendments (attached), which would add three intersection projects in Chester, Lancaster, and Union Counties to the TIP while removing one Lancaster County system improvement project. These amendments are recommended by the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC).

3) LRTP Amendments

Mr. Allen provided an overview of the recommended 2015-2040 Long Range Transportation Plan's (LRTP) Priority Projects List amendments (attached). The TAC recommends that three Chester and Lancaster County projects be added to the list and one York County project be removed.

A motion came from the Executive Committee, and, following discussion, passed unanimously to approve the SC DOT 2024-2025 FAST ACT Safety Targets, the proposed TIP amendments, and the recommended 2015-2040 LRTP amendments for priority projects.

IV. Presentation by SC Department of Transportation about Regional Mobility Management

Mr. Joe Sturm, chief of the SC DOT Regional Mobility Program, discussed SC DOT's regional mobility strategy, which includes a focus on "transportation corridors of significance" within each COG region and Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The corridors will include key

transportation projects, which are being added to the region's TIP and LRTP. The Catawba Region is one of the pilot regions for the corridor strategy. CRCOG's planning staff, working with SC DOT, has evaluated data to identify 19 corridors of significance throughout the region. SC DOT has provided data and potential project information, along with a cost-benefit analysis for each project within each corridor. Projects are reviewed by COG staff and the TAC and then presented for consideration by the COG Board for inclusion in the TIP and LRTP.

V. CDBG and SC RIA Applications Reminder

Ms. Rhea provided the Board with an update on when grant applications for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and SC Rural Infrastructure Authority (SC RIA) programs are due. The COG's Community Development Department sent out a notice to local governments and water and sewer districts on November 11 about grants that will be due in March and April. The CDBG application request deadline is mid-March 2025 with applications due in mid-April. Localities can request up to \$1,000,000 in CDBG funds for water, sewer, and stormwater projects. SC RIA infrastructure construction and planning applications will be due in mid-March 2025. The COG asked localities to fill out a Local Government Request for Grant Application Assistance form if application assistance is desired. The Department requested that these forms be submitted no later than January 10, 2025.

VI. Announcement of 2025 COG Board Meeting Dates

Mr. Imler presented the following meeting dates for the upcoming year. These dates are subject to change.

- February 27, 2025 (Joint meeting for CRDC Annual Membership Meeting)
- May 22, 2025
- August 14, 2025
- November 20, 2025

VII. Other Business

There was no other business.

VIII. Regional Roundup

Representatives from each county provided brief highlights about projects and activities in their respective cities and counties.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Randy Imler  
Executive Director

### Consideration of Transportation Items

Mr. Allen will present transportation planning items for the Board’s consideration, including a proposed amendment to the Catawba Region’s Transportation Improvement Program, proposed amendments to the 2015-2040 Long Range Transportation Plan’s (LRTP) Priority Projects List, and adoption of the SCDOT 2024-2025 FAST ACT Safety Targets, as recommended by the Transportation Advisory Committee and the Executive Committee.

<b>TIP Project Amendment Project Addition</b>			
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Cost Estimation</b>
US 521 /Rebound Rd (S-29- 75)	Lancaster	Intersection	\$2,550,000
SC 215 Beltline Rd/SC 49 Monarch Hwy	Union	Intersection	\$ 1,975,000
SC 99/SC 97	Chester	Intersection	\$3,200,000
<b>TIP Project Amendment Project Removal</b>			
Taxahaw Road from MM 7.3-9.4	Lancaster	System Improvement	\$886,000

<b>LRTP Priority Projects Amendments</b>			
<b>New Projects</b>			
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Cost Estimated</b>	<b>County</b>
<b>US 321 (JA Cochrane Bypass) from Columbia Street to SC 9/(Lancaster Highway)</b> US 321/SC 9 US 321/Chester Commons US 321/Wilson Street US 321/Columbia Street	Corridor Intersection Improvement Projects	\$7,180,000	Chester
<b>SC 9 from Southbound Off-Ramp (I-77 Exit 65) to SC-901 (Edgeland Road)</b> SC 9/ I-77 Off and On Ramps at Exit 65 SC 9 Commerce Drive (local) SC 9/SC 901 (Edgeland Rd)	Corridor Intersection Improvement Projects	\$1,480,000	Chester

<b>US 521 Business from North Park Drive to Barr Street</b> North Park Drive/US 521 Business SC 200 Monroe Hwy/US 521 Business (Main Street) Lancaster Square Center/US 521 Business (Main Street) Woodland Drive/US 521 Business (Main Street) E. Spring Street/US 521 Business (Main Street) E. Barr Street/US 521 Business (Main Street)	Corridor Intersection Improvement Projects	\$3,790,000	Lancaster
<b>L RTP Priority Projects Amendments Remove Projects</b>			
<b>US 321 Bypass/SC 5 (Liberty Street)</b>	Intersection Improvements	\$500,000	York

**SCDOT 2021-2025 PM 1 Safety Performance Targets**

SCDOT PM 1 Safety Performance Measure	2021-2025 Targets
Total Traffic Fatalities	1080.0
Fatality Rate	1.782
Total Serious Injuries	2764.0
Serious Injury Rate	4.561
Non-motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries	453.4