

CATAWBA REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Catawba Regional Center
Rock Hill, South Carolina
February 13, 2025

A regular meeting of the Catawba Regional Council of Governments Executive Committee was held in-person, at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 13, 2025.

The following members were present:

Nettie Archie
Joe Branham, Vice Chair
Alston DeVenny
Charlene McGriff, Chair

Todd Lumpkin
Harold Thompson
Chad Williams

Others present were:

Staff

Steve Allen
Amy Chitwood
Randy Imler

Tyler Lewis
Eleanor Mixon

Following the Call to Order and Invocation, a motion was made to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2024, COG Executive Committee meeting.

I. Review of 12/31/24 (6-month) Interim Operating Report

Ms. Chitwood reviewed the December 31, 2024, (six-month interim) FY25 operating statement. Operating revenues were \$1,797,989, and operating expenses were \$1,485,303, with revenues exceeding operating expenditures by \$312,686. This year, Catawba Regional received a one-time payment of \$100,000 as a part of the state's appropriation. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and Brownfields (SCDES and EPA) passthrough revenues and expenditures totaled \$1,255,740. There has not been any uninsured replacement cost from storm damage yet. EDA COVID-19 RLF grant revenue was \$804,295; this grant has now been fully drawn down. There was a transfer to the Catawba Regional Development Corporation of \$46,950 for the resurfacing of the parking lot. Total revenues exceeded expenses by \$1,070,031. The Executive Committee received this report as information.

II. Brownfields Program Update – SC BEST, EPA, and BCRLF Programs

Mr. Lewis presented an update on the Brownfields Program. The Executive Committee serves as the Brownfields Task Force. Mr. Lewis reviewed the current brownfields site list and provided background on some of the projects. Through the SC BEST and EPA Community-Wide Brownfield Assessment grant programs, assessment work has been completed on 10 sites while assessments on four are ongoing. There is one large project in each county in the region. Two projects in the Town of Lowrys and Union County will be completed by the South Carolina

Department of Environmental Services (SCDES). After discussing the projects, Mr. Lewis reviewed the current budget for the EPA and SC BEST programs. To date, between anticipated work and work that has been completed, \$480,053 of the available funds have been allocated to site work. Lastly, Mr. Lewis reviewed a mapping tool that is being developed for Catawba Regional's brownfields work throughout South Carolina, which includes Brownfields Cleanup RLF (BCRLF) projects, SC BEST sites, and EPA assessment work from the current EPA grant and the 2018 grant. Projects from Catawba Regional's earlier EPA assessment grants will be added to the mapping tool. The Executive Committee received this update as information.

III. Consideration of Transportation Items

1) 2024 SCDOT State Transportation Asset Management Plan (STAMP) System Performance Report

Mr. Allen presented the 2024 STAMP System Performance Report, a copy of which was provided to the Executive Committee. This report is updated every two years and presents the baseline, performance/condition measures, targets and the progress made towards achieving those targets. The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) recommends adoption of the 2024 SCDOT STAMP System Performance Report.

A motion was made, duly seconded, and, following discussion, passed unanimously to adopt the 2024 SCDOT Strategic Transportation Asset Management Plan System Performance Report.

2) 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 four Lancaster and York County corridor and intersection improvement projects be added to the list.

A motion was made, duly seconded, and, following discussion, passed unanimously to recommend the proposed 2015-2040 LRTP priority project amendments, as presented, to the full COG Board for approval.

3) TIP Amendments

Mr. Allen also provided an overview of the recommended 2024-2033 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendments (attached), which would add four projects in Chester, Lancaster, and York Counties to the TIP. These amendments are recommended by the TAC.

A motion was made, duly seconded, and, following discussion, passed unanimously to recommend the proposed 2024-2033 TIP, as amended, to the full COG Board for approval.

IV. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Imler discussed the news about a potential pause in federal grants and loans. Mr. Imler indicated that Catawba Regional has the financial resources to weather the ongoing uncertainty, if

needed. Catawba Regional has some exposure to federal funding. Catawba Regional does not have any grants with diversity, equity, and inclusion as a goal but does have grants related to the environment, one of which has been paused. The EPA assessment grant is proceeding as usual, but the grant that SCDES received to recapitalize the BCRLF is temporarily on hold. Potential grants that Mr. Imler thinks may be at risk include the Community Development Block Grant program, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funds, and environment-related grants, potentially including brownfields. Mr. Imler has communicated with Catawba Regional staff and has shared that the COG maintains a strong financial position. Staff were encouraged to continue excellent and impactful work.

Last week, Catawba Regional had a meeting with the South Carolina Association of Counties, the Municipal Association of South Carolina, and city and county managers. Mentioned as a priority at the 2025 Annual Elected Officials Forum and at the city and county managers meeting was workforce housing. Catawba Regional will hold a meeting in March to discuss this issue. It is anticipated that this will lead to a regional workforce housing study spearheaded by the COG and funded by Catawba region localities. The study is anticipated to provide data and identify gaps in the workforce housing market, which varies throughout the region. He expressed hope that the plan also will identify actions that localities may take in the short and long run to assist with workforce housing needs.

V. Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Randy Imler
Executive Director

Consideration of Transportation Items

Mr. Allen presented transportation planning items for the Executive Committee’s consideration, including proposed amendments to the Catawba Region’s Transportation Improvement Program, amendment to the 2015-2040 Long Range Transportation Plan’s (LRTP) Priority Projects List, and adoption of the 2024 SCDOT Strategic Asset Management Plan - System Performance Report, as recommended by the TAC from their February 4, 2025, meeting.

Priority Projects Amendments New Projects			
Project Name	Project Type	Cost Estimated	County
SC 55 from SC 557 to Paraham Road SC 55 & Highway 557 SC 55 & Griggs Road SC 55 & Lincoln Road SC 55 & N Paraham Road	Corridor and Intersection Improvement Projects	\$8,350,000	York
US 521/N Hampton Street from Marion Street to Richland Street US 521/N Hampton Street & Marion Street US 521/N Hampton Street & Matson Street US 521/N Hampton Street & E Hilton Street US 521/N Hampton Street & Richland Street	Corridor and Intersection Improvement Projects	\$3,490,000	Lancaster
SC9/W Meeting Street from N Catawba Street to W Meeting Street SC9/W Meeting Street & N Catawba Street SC9/W Meeting Street & N Main Street SC9/W Meeting Street & S Wylie Street SC9/W Meeting Street & N French Street SC9/W Meeting Street & Woodland Drive SC9/W Meeting Street & Pine Street SC9/W Meeting Street & Memorial Park Road SC9/W Meeting Street & Plantation Road	Corridor and Intersection Improvement Projects	\$3,840,000	Lancaster
S-275 (Saluda Street) from JA Cochrane Bypass to Hudson Street Chester S-275N/Saluda Street & J.A. Cochran Bypass Chester S-275N/Saluda Street & Wylie Street Chester S-275N/Saluda Street & York Street/Hudson Street	Corridor and Intersection Improvement Projects	\$5,750,000	York

TIP Project Amendment New Projects			
Project Name	County	Project Type	Cost Estimated
SC-55/Lincoln Road	York	Intersection	\$680,000
US 521 Corridor Study	Lancaster	Corridor Study	\$300,000
US 321/Lancaster Hwy (SC-9)	Chester	Intersection Study	\$100,000
SC 9 (Pine Street to Memorial Drive)	Lancaster	Corridor Study	\$300,000