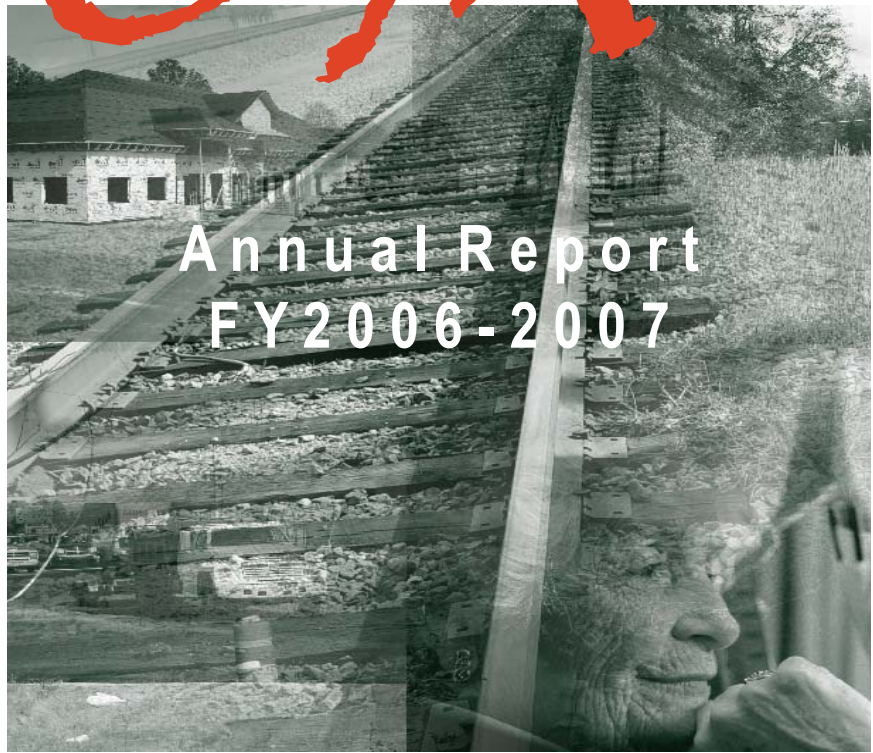


CM

Central Midlands Council of Governments



**Annual Report
FY2006-2007**



Table of Contents

Chairman’s Report	2
Executive Director’s Report	3
Caring for the Community/Community Services	4
Planning Services	10
Budgeted Revenue FY 2007	17
CMCOG Board Members	18
CMCOG Staff Directory	19
CMCOG Mission Statement	20



CMCOG CHAIRMAN

This past program year 2006-2007 marked by my second and final year as Chairman of this august body and has been a period, where, once again, the true value of the Council of Governments has been realized.

As a tool for addressing the wide variety of needs and concerns that arise throughout our region and which transcend the boundaries of individual local governments, there is no better entity in place than the "COG" which speaks volumes about the foresight of the late Governor Robert McNair, under whom the "COG" system was established in our state nearly forty years ago.

This past year, Central Midlands Council of Government (CMCOG) has continued to keep its finger on the pulse of the key issues shaping the growth and development of our region. Great efforts have been made in the past year in planning for the transportation needs of our growing communities through a combination of both long and short range planning activities at the regional and local level.

As our region's population expands and we place greater demands on our natural resources and infrastructure, environmental issues become more and more critical. To maintain air and water quality in the region, CMCOG has initiated a variety of effective measures. These include ongoing efforts to create a



regional wetlands mitigation bank and continued participation in the Early Action Compact to tackle air pollution. A third important action is support of the S. C. Attorney General's lawsuit in the U. S. Supreme Court challenging North Carolina's proposed Interbasin Water Transfer which could adversely affect water supply and quality in the Catawba and Wateree Rivers.

Our Workforce Development Board has had another outstanding year as it continued to provide quality programs to employers and employees such as job readiness and motivation, job search assistance, job placement and job retention services. These culminated in their receiving the Joe Young Award for the state's Outstanding Workforce Development Board, while the

Columbia Workforce Center received the Outstanding One-Stop Center Award.

The needs of our growing senior population were be well served this past year as the Central Midlands Area Agency on Aging celebrated its 30th anniversary, while the Central Midlands Long Term Care Ombudsman Program continued its sterling efforts in serving the needs of residents in care facilities, performing a record high number of investigations into abuse, neglect and exploitation over the past year.

I am deeply honored to serve as Chairman over the past two years and would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the CMCOG Board Directors, as well as to our Executive Director, Norman Whitaker and his staff for all their support and hard work during this time. As the COG chairmanship is passed on to State Representative Jimmy Bales, I wish him every success and I am certain that under his leadership, Central Midlands Council of Governments will continue to go from strength to strength.



CMCOG Director

The year is 2038. The Midlands of South Carolina, consisting of the cities, towns and counties surrounding Columbia, is widely recognized as one of the best mid-sized metropolitan areas in North America. The diverse population has grown to well over one-million. A variety of lifestyles--from rural to intensely urban--are available in neighborhoods and villages within a half hour's drive of the state capital/university/ technological business complex. Housing choices are abundant, and affordable housing has continued to be one of the region's great selling points.



applications of high technology such as hydrogen as a source of energy. The regional economy still benefits from the governmental and military sectors, and the business community has built upon strong markets for goods, technology and services required to support the thriving military installations.

An inter-connected regional open space network, including parks, forests, river corridors, greenways and private lands protected by conservation easements provides recreational opportunities and many environmental benefits.

Although there are traffic problems in some areas during peak commuting times, the region is connected by a balanced system of roads, public transportation, bike lanes and pedestrian paths. Bus rapid transit and commuter rail are among the travel options, but most people still get around in private vehicles. The freeway system includes toll lanes for trucks, transit and carpools. Some major transportation improvements have been financed by the private sector. Enlightened community planning techniques have allowed developers more density and mixed land uses have resulted in more self-contained neighborhoods, towns and villages, where less automobile travel is necessary, and this has helped improve air quality as well as traffic.

their central locations and appealing traditional architecture. The older suburban communities such as Forest Acres, West Columbia, Cayce, and Irmo, have developed more dense, urban centers and are the communities of choice for those wanting to be near the big city but not in it. The newer suburban areas, that came into their own in the 21st Century, including Chapin, Little Mountain, Ballentine, Blythewood, Lower Richland, Gilbert, Pelion and Swansea, have expanded in a planned and orderly manner and function as self-contained satellite cities rather than mere "bedroom communities".

Sound farfetched? Maybe, maybe not. One of the most promising techniques in regional and community planning is called Visioning --- the collaborative process of identifying a desirable future for a region, a city or a neighborhood through broad based public participation. Effective visioning is coupled with technical guidance from planning and design professionals and a realistic database of information about the present and future. All of the ideas above came from work that the CMCOG staff has done with our member governments, citizens, business groups, and partner organizations. Visioning, in itself, does not make anything happen, but when plans and programs are rooted in the best ideas of a broad cross section of a community, they tend to be more likely to be supported and therefore more likely to succeed. Our region is already highly regarded as a place to live and work. As we grow, we could lose some of the things that we now value, or we could build on what we have now, develop new strengths, and, in the process, become a world-class region.

Traditional downtowns in the county seats--Columbia, Winnsboro, Newberry and Lexington--- have become thriving, mixed use centers offering employment, housing, entertainment, arts and shopping. The established towns of Batesburg-Leesville, Springdale, Eastover and Ridgeway have become anchors for new growth. Inner city neighborhoods have thrived due to

The population is generally older, and transportation, recreation, housing, shopping and community facilities planning have all been adapted to accommodate the needs of the large, and growing, senior population.

The Midlands is a more prosperous region, thanks to aggressive workforce training and successful development of a diversified economy. There are strong concentrations in advanced manufacturing, distribution, and

Caring for the Community/ Community Services

The Central Midlands Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging (CMCOG/ AAA) is a quasi-governmental agency with a 501 (c) (3) arm that seeks to assist the more than one hundred and one thousand (101,000) older persons in the Central Midlands region to lead independent, meaningful and dignified lives in their own homes and communities for as long as possible. As the designated regional focal point on aging, the Central Midlands COG/AAA pro-actively carries out a wide range of functions related to advocacy, planning and coordinating service delivery in the region. The AAA also assists local contractors with funding, program development, and technical assistance to ensure that the best possible services are delivered to our region's elderly population. CMCOG programs that fall under the umbrella of the Area Agency on Aging include the Family Caregiver Support Program, the Insurance Counseling, Assistance and Referral for Elders (I-CARE), the Information, Referral and Assistance Program and the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program.

In FY 2006-07, the Central Midlands Area Agency on Aging celebrated its 30th anniversary of planning programs and services for the growing population of older people in Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry and Richland Counties. This milestone was celebrated with a drop-in event hosted by the Aging Department in December 2006, which was attended by over 100 people, including representatives of the Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging, past and present members of the

Regional Aging Advisory Committee (RAAC), regional providers of aging services and staff of the Central Midlands Area Agency on Aging. In October 2006, the Central Midlands Area Agency on Aging presented a certificate of appreciation to Mr. Claude Vaughn in recognition and celebration of his thirty years of dedicated service to its Regional Aging Advisory Committee (RAAC).

Over the course of the past program year, CMCOG's aging department staff have worked diligently to ensure that seniors in the Central Midlands region receive access to top-quality programs and services as it works with regional providers to competitively procure primary core services for seniors such as transportation, group dining, home-delivered meals, home care and health promotion. In May 2007, staff completed an update to the Annual Regional Aging Program Plan, which describes the priority goals, objectives and outcome measures to be undertaken on behalf of seniors within the Central Midlands region over the course of the next program year.

The Area Agency on Aging also serves as support staff to the Central Midlands chapter of the Silver Haired Legislature, which held elections in March 2007. The Silver Haired Legislature was created by state lawmakers in 1999 to advise the General Assembly on issues of importance to older South Carolinians. Participants are chosen in each county in coordination with the state's 10 Regional Area Agencies on Aging. 9 Silver Haired Legislators (4



CM Aging Department employees, back row, left to right, Christine Kalwajtys, Joe Ritchey, Shelia Bell-Ford, Anna Harmon, Sharon Seago, Felicia Anderson. Front row Susan Brower, Jackie Thompson, Ethel Montgomery, Carol Abrahamsen, LaToya Buggs-Williams, Julie Merrill, Carson Glover.

30th Anniversary

from Richland County, 3 from Lexington County and 1 each from Newberry and Fairfield counties) were elected to serve two-year terms this past year.

Information, Referral and Assistance Program

In the program year 2006-07, the Information, Referral and Assistance program of the Area Agency on Aging received a total of 2,239 calls, a decrease of 182 from the previous program year. The Information, Referral and Assistance Program serves as a central location for seniors and their families or caregivers to enquire about the different programs and services available within the Central Midlands region. In the event that the caller is unable to be assisted directly, they are referred to the appropriate agency. In the past program year, the majority of calls received by the Information, Referral and Assistance Specialist were in relation to senior's financial concerns, particularly with regard to utility, rent/mortgage payment however, calls are received on a wide range of issues from health insurance and legal concerns to nursing home and transportation-related questions.

As more and more seniors find themselves living on fixed incomes, financial issues, arising as a result of increasing housing, utility and fuel costs, are among their primary concerns. In 2005, the



Claude Vaughn receiving Appreciation Plaque from Board Member Paul Livingston.



Former CM Director Ron Althoff speaking with current Director Norman Whitaker.

Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging was awarded a grant from the South Carolina Housing Authority to administer an emergency rental assistance program in South Carolina for persons age sixty (60) and older and who are at or below one hundred twenty percent (120%) of the federal poverty level. The Information and Referral Specialist facilitated this program by screening applicants, assisting with application completion, verifying income documentation and identification and making home visits as needed. The Information, Referral and Assistance Specialist also helped applicants identify the sources of chronic financial stress and, when appropriate, referred them to

other programs and/or services in the community. The Information and Referral program was charged with the task of fairly distributing rental assistance funds that came from the State Housing Authority to the state unit on aging. In FY 2006-07, 312 contacts were

received by the Central Midlands Information and Referral Specialist regarding the rental assistance program from July 2006-June 2007, an increase of 40 from the previous program year. Ninety-five households were assisted one or more times during the period August 2006-August 2007 and \$57,532, (\$28,225 more than the previous year), was made available to seniors in the region who required assistance with rent payment.



Family Caregiver Support Program

FY 2006-07 marked the sixth year of the Family Caregiver Support Program at Central Midlands Council of Governments. The Family Caregiver Support Program provides assistance to individuals caring for family members aged 60 and older, who have health problems, and works in partnership with regional aging providers to provide a range of services to caregivers from education and outreach to respite care. The Central Midlands Family Caregiver Advocate (a licensed independent social worker) and the Family Caregiver Specialist (a master of social work (MSW) graduate) facilitate support groups for both caregivers and seniors raising children. The program has contracted with a professional trainer to deliver caregiver-training seminars in Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry and Richland counties. In FY 2006-07, the Family Caregiver Support Program was awarded a total of \$146,769 for the provision of services. These services supplemented caregivers' efforts and assets to sustain their loved ones' care in their own homes. The program serves caregivers that are caring for individuals over sixty (60), at home, with health problems. Funds may also be used to assist Seniors Raising Children (grandparents and others fifty-five and older (55+) who are the primary caregivers of children eighteen years of age and younger) with some of their expenses as they raise these children.

In FY 2006-07, the program served 354 caregivers (both caregivers and Seniors Raising Children) with reimbursement of legitimate receipts and enrolled 296 caregivers:

Many of the three hundred fifty-four (354) caregivers received up to \$500.00 during the fiscal year to assist with respite care and other supplemental services.

In addition, as a result of the Central Midlands Family Caregiver Support Program receiving a 2006 Aging Achievement Award from the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A), family caregiver staff was asked to make a number of presentations on the success of their program at a number of conferences and conventions throughout the course of the year, most notably at the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging Conference in San Francisco in July 2007, and the Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging Conference in Savannah, Georgia in September 2007.

I-CARE

The CMCOG Insurance Counseling, Assistance and Referral for Elders (I-CARE) Program provides support and advice to seniors on a wide variety of issues from prescription drugs and Medicare plans to the dangers of fraud and identity theft. The past program year, FY 2006-07 saw 6 events put on by the I-CARE staff at Central Midlands, which were attended by more than 300 people. Staff extended their outreach programs by exhibiting at 8 regional health fairs, reaching an estimated 3,000 people. Public service announcements and mailings were sent out to more than 6,000 seniors with a total of 191 individual client contacts made.



Over the course of the past program year, 18 people were trained in the I-CARE Basic course. Recognition awards and certificates were also presented to regional and state I-CARE workers as well as other program partners at the Annual Recognition Luncheon. The topics at the luncheon were the Southeast MEDIC: Working to Combat Part D Fraud, Waste and Abuse by Pam Foster of Delmarva Health Integrity and Medicare Fraud Issues in South Carolina by Judy Ehney of the Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging. Four Scam Flings were also held this past year to share information with seniors about scams and frauds in Medicare and Medicaid as well as identity theft. The event was attended by 186 people. This past program year, the I-Care Program also received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for staff's efforts to help Medicare beneficiaries take advantage of Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage, "the most significant change to Medicare since the founding of the program over 40 years ago."

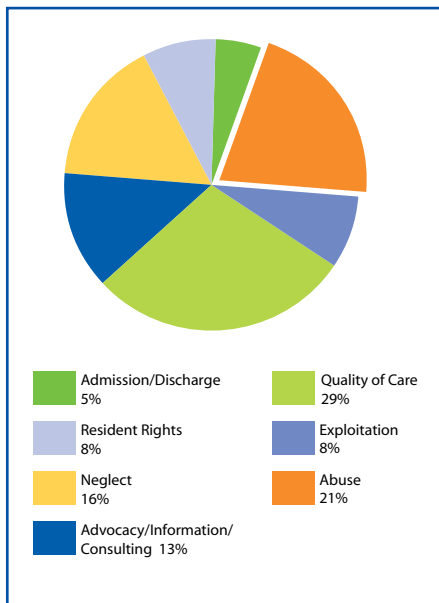
Long Term Care Ombudsman Program

The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program investigates reports of abuse, neglect, exploitation, quality of care issues and residents' rights issues on behalf of vulnerable adults in long-term care facilities. They also investigate quality of care issues and Resident Rights violations. This program provides advocacy and consultations regarding long-term care issues. Ombudsman staff conducts "Routine Visits" to long-term care facilities to ensure that residents are receiving quality care and

to address issues observed during the visit. The Ombudsman staff also was involved in monitoring facilities that were facing possible decertification. On May 18, 2006, the S.C. state legislature passed a bill which established a Vulnerable Adults Investigation Unit within the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED), which must receive and coordinate the referral of all reports of alleged abuse, neglect, or exploitation of vulnerable adults in Department of Mental Health and Department of Disabilities and Special Needs facilities. Once a report has been received, the unit will conduct investigations as appropriate or refer non-criminal reports of abuse and neglect to the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. Additionally, all vulnerable adult deaths in Department of Mental Health or Department of Disabilities and Special Needs facilities must be referred to this unit for investigation.

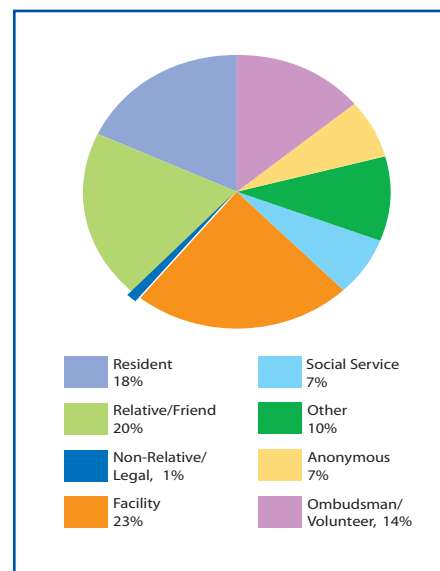
In the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, this program has entered in 1,891 complaints/consultations. Of these complaints/consultations, the following approximations were noted: 5% of the complaints/consultations entered were related to admission/discharge issues; 8% were related to residents' rights issues; 16% were related to neglect; 13% were related to advocacy issues/information/consultation cases; 29% were related to quality of care issues; 8% of the complaints/consultations entered were related to exploitation and 21% were related to abuse. A total of 127 trainings, routine visits, participation in resident/family councils, and community education efforts were also conducted during the past program year.

Fiscal Year Ending 9/30/07
**Approximations of Complaints/
 Consultations Entered**



family/friends. Their primary focus is to provide information about the Resident Bill of Rights, the Ombudsman Program, make observations and advocate as necessary. Volunteer Ombudsmen are not Certified Long-Term Care Ombudsman Investigators. A Volunteer will be an essential link between the Long Term Care Ombudsman staff and the residents in facilities. The Volunteer Ombudsman Program is continuing to recruit and train new volunteers. Thus far, 18 facilities agreed to participate in the program. The program has also developed pamphlets and posters in effort to

Fiscal Year Ending 9/30/07
Complaints Reported by:



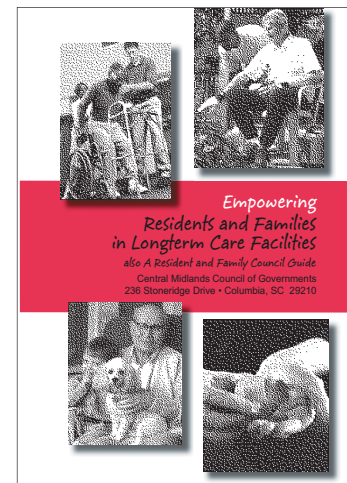
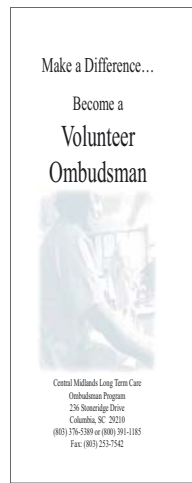
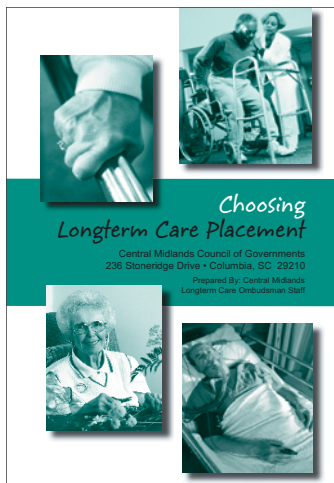
The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

The Ombudsman program receives complaints from many different sources or “complainants”. Of the complaints received during the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, 18% were reported by the resident; 20% were reported by a relative/friend; 1% were reported by a non-relative guardian/legal representative; 23% were reported by the facility; 7% were reported by a health or social service agency; 10% were reported by “other” (law enforcement, clergy, bankers, etc.); 7% were reported by an anonymous source and 14% were reported by an Ombudsman/Ombudsman Volunteer.

Implementation of the Volunteer Ombudsman Program began July 1, 2005. A Volunteer Ombudsman will make regular visits to the facilities to speak with residents and their

promote the program.

The Long Term Care Ombudsman continued this past year its outreach program through the provision of information (brochures, booklets, posters, forms, etc.) to residents, family members, facilities, and the community regarding advance directives, Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program services, Omnibus Adult Protection Act, Residents’



Rights, long-term care placement, and the Volunteer Ombudsman Program. The Ombudsman staff developed a handbook entitled *“Choosing Long-Term Care Placement”*, which was developed to assist individuals with the planning of long-term care placement. The handbook contains helpful phone numbers, websites, definitions, a checklist to consider when comparing facilities, and information about advance directives. This fiscal year, approximately 165 copies of *“Choosing Long-Term Care Placement”* were distributed. A second document, entitled *“Empowering Residents and Their Families in Long-Term Care Facilities: A Resident and Family Council Guide”* has also been developed. This handbook is designed to assist residents and their loved ones in handling concerns and/or grievances in long-term care facilities. The Ombudsman staff is also continuing its Advance Directive Project, of which the purpose is to provide long-term care facilities, hospitals, physicians, churches, and the public with updated Advance Directive forms and introduce Five Wishes, the newest Advance Directive that was signed into South Carolina law in June 2005. Over 1,200 advance directive forms have been distributed to date.



Cyndi Gawronski, CM United Way Chairwoman at the Day of Caring baseball game.

CMCOG Cares

Central Midlands COG staff once again continued its tradition of community service by raising a total \$4,251 dollars for the 2008 campaign for The United Way of the Midlands! This was an increase of over 6% from last year and our group participation level also increased. CMCOG remains a PaceSetter in our local community. Furthermore, through the selfless giving of CMCOG staff, we were able to stock all three of their local shelters of this year’s spotlighted partner agency, *“Sistercare, Inc.”* for a week in September 2007. This

past year also marks the fifth consecutive year that donations to the United Way have surpassed the previous year’s totals.

CMCOG staff also made generous contributions at Christmastime by adopting a needy family as well as by donating canned goods and toys to the CMRTA and WLTX’s Stuff-A-Bus campaign as well as participating in the United Way’s 2007 *“Day of Caring”*.

Planning Services

As our region continues to develop and grow, planning for how our communities will look in the coming years is of paramount importance. For almost forty years, planning for growth has been one of the core guiding principles of the work of Central Midlands Council of Governments.

As a regional planning entity, Central Midlands Council of Governments finds itself in the ideal location to act as the touchstone for smart growth initiatives and innovative planning projects to address our region's transportation, environmental and community, workforce and economic development needs.

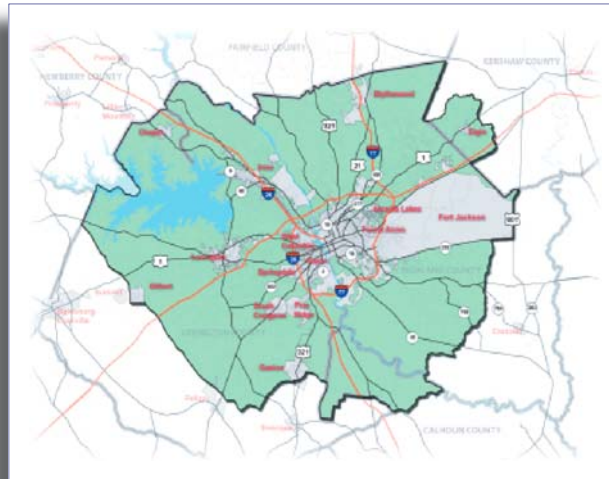
Central Midlands Development Corporation

FY 2006-07 saw the revival of the long-dormant Central Midlands Community Development Corporation. The Central Midlands Development Corporation (CMDC) is a 501 (c) (3) Non-Profit Corporation originally created in 1982 to "...further the economic development and social welfare of Central Midlands and its environs with specific emphasis on promoting and assisting the growth and development of business concerns". The corporation had been inactive since 1994. In the summer of 2006, the CMDC was reconstituted with an expanded purpose to include activities such as Community Development, Environmental Conservation, Elderly Services, and Transportation improvements. The Non-Profit 501 (c) (3) status of CMDC will allow us to pursue Grants that would expand services to these areas in the Central Midlands Region. The initial focus of the CMDC, which is chaired by Bob Hubbs, will be on (i) the protection, conservation and improvement of

the natural environment and (ii) the provision of caregiver and other social support services to the elderly and needy of the region.

Transportation

In its role as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Greater Columbia area, work began in earnest in FY 2006-07 on a major update to the Columbia area's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The Columbia Area Transportation Study (COATS) is required, by federal mandate, to be updated every five years, with the current update designed to be a true multi-modal plan that recognizes the key elements of the latest federal highway bill (SAFETEA-LU). During the course of the past program year, several key preliminary components of the LRTP were completed.



Household Surveys

CMCOG, in conjunction with the independent survey research firm, NuStats, performed a regional travel survey across the Greater Columbia area to accomplish this goal. Public participation was critical to the success of this survey to ensure that an accurate and realistic reflection of household travel patterns is captured. The data collected is critical in the analysis of household trip patterns as we begin to assess and analyze the transportation needs of the region. The surveys captured information such as travel origin and destination, times of travel, mode of travel, and general opinions concerning the region's transportation network. Each household surveyed was asked about their travel for one 24-hour period that occurred during the week. Surveys were conducted by telephone in February and March 2007.

Data Collection *Data*

FY 2006-07 also saw considerable time and effort devoted by CMCOG's transportation and research staff to the development of data to be used in the TransCAD computer model, which will form the backbone of the Long Range Transportation Plan update. Over the course of the past year, data for the plan's base year (2005) and horizon year (2035) were developed. Data variables collected for use in the model include population, number of households, household size, school enrollment figures, as well as data for different types of employment. All data was disaggregated from the county level down to the much smaller Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ) level for both the base year and horizon year. CMCOG was also fortunate to be able to draw on the wealth of local knowledge of the various planning staff of our member governments during this critical data development stage. Staff also worked on examining, and re-drawing, where necessary, the boundaries and centroid locations for the 837 Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZs) within the study area, as well as drawing on data from current transportation planning documents, and other recently-completed plans such as CMCOG's Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities Plan. Updated traffic count information was also collected, with particular emphasis placed on capturing accurate data from external traffic count stations entering the COATS study area. It is the hope that by taking such a methodical and meticulous approach to developing the raw data and the model, a more accurate and credible transportation model can be produced, which will be vital when CMCOG seeks input from the public and local elected officials, over the course of the coming year. Upon completion of the model, a range of scenarios will be able to be



Transportation Director Reginald Simmons speaks with a member of the public at a Transportation Drop-in.

run, which will be used to rate, rank and identify transportation projects for inclusion in the final version of the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan, which is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2008.

Research & GIS *Research*

CMCOG's research department compiles and analyses a variety of data pertaining to growth and development within the Central Midlands region, for use in a wide range of the agency's planning efforts. In FY 2006-07, work was completed on the 2006 Commercial Real Estate Survey, the 2006 Multi-Family Housing Report and the 2006 Building Permit Activity Reports. Development remained strong in our region in FY 2006-07, with a record high total of 9,119 residential units permitted for construction across the region in 2006. Retail development was also impressive; with more than 3 million

square feet of new retail space under construction in 2006. More than 2,600 new apartments and condominiums were under construction in 2006, with a further 3,400 planned for construction in the coming years. Staff also compiled a short mid-year building permit activity report on activity in the first six months of 2007. Data from these reports is a key component in creating data for the COATS Long Range Transportation model.

Sub-Area Plans *PLANS*

Two years ago, CMCOG announced the first of its sub-area plans. The initial study was performed on the S-48 Corridor in Chapin, which had been the top-ranked need in the 2025 Long Range Transportation Plan. In December, 2006, CMCOG and its consultant Parsons Brinckerhoff won the statewide award for Outstanding Planning Project

– Small Jurisdiction for the S-48 Corridor Study at the American Planning Association South Carolina Chapter Annual Conference. CMCOG was lauded for its efforts to develop a land use and design plan for the Columbia Avenue Corridor that links Interstate 26 with the town of Chapin. The plan recommended zoning changes to the corridor along with a series of public infrastructure improvements that would facilitate traffic movement while providing an attractive entryway to the community.

Following on the success of its initial sub-area plan, work began in FY 2006-07 on a second similar study in Lower Richland County. The Lower Richland study will emphasize and identify the key linkages between transportation facilities and existing and future land uses within the study

Transportation Plan, to assess the current state of the region’s freight transportation and logistics systems, determine the needs of the systems’ principal users, develop a strategic vision to guide future policy development, and to recommend priority improvements to the system. The final plan, which is scheduled to be completed by the Spring of 2008, will identify the major transportation flows for highway, railroad and air freight within the Central Midlands region. It will also specify the principal strengths and weaknesses inherent in the system, will include a survey of the transportation and logistics practices of major manufacturers and freight generators and will aid in the development of a comprehensive strategic vision and tactical plan for freight movement region-wide.



area and will identify a range of multimodal transportation alternatives for analysis and possible implementation. This will be a cooperative process, involving much public participation, as well as soliciting input from the many affected public agencies, private transportation providers, and other stakeholders in the study area. The Lower Richland Sub-Area Plan is scheduled to be completed by Spring 2008. Plans are also in the works to undertake a third sub-area plan in the rapidly growing White Knoll area of Lexington County in the upcoming fiscal year.

Motor Freight Study

The ongoing Motor Freight Transportation Plan is being produced as a component of the Long Range

Congestion Management Plan

As the Central Midlands continues to grow, it is expected that more and more of our region’s highways will become increasingly congested. This past program year, CMCOG staff started work on a congestion management plan for the Columbia area. The study will evaluate the region’s multi-modal transportation system to include current and future conditions and develop performance measures and methods of data collection to be used to further evaluate congestion. The second phase of the plan will determine potential congestion management strategies and their potential benefits. It will include performing travel time runs along identified highway corridors, collecting historic traffic volume, crash and freight movement data

“The Town of Batesburg-Leesville and the City of Newberry both received the maximum permissible grant amount of \$500,000.”

with the goal of identifying the worst congestion locations, determining the causes of congestion and developing plans to mitigate congestion. The COATS Congestion Management Study is scheduled to be completed by the summer of 2008.

Community & Economic Development

Community and economic development continued to receive considerable attention from the planning staff of Central Midlands Council of Governments. In addition to closing out five previously-funded projects and continuing the diligent administration of fourteen ongoing Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects, a further nine applications, totaling more than \$2.3 million, were submitted to the State of South Carolina for consideration for funding over the course of FY 2006-07, of which only one was not funded. The applications covered a wide range of activities from housing rehabilitation, infrastructure improvements, installation of Wi-Fi, drainage projects and planning studies.

The Town of Batesburg-Leesville and the City of Newberry both received the maximum permissible grant amount of \$500,000. In Batesburg-Leesville, these monies will be used to undertake a drainage project in Williams Street benefiting 86 low and moderate income persons. The City of Newberry will use its funds to install city-wide Wi-Fi capabilities in an attempt to make the city more competitive from a community development perspective. The Town of Batesburg-Leesville received a second CDBG grant in December 2006,



when it was awarded \$460,439 for comprehensive housing rehabilitation activities, to include rehabilitation, repair, demolition and clearance to 16 homes on Line Street in the Batesburg portion of the town. Fairfield County received \$413,550 in the same funding round to perform similar activities to benefit 17 homes along Fish Hook Road in the Jenskinsville area of western Fairfield County.

The City of Newberry and the Town of Eastover were the recipients of CDBG funds in the amount of \$20,000 each to undertake needs assessments in their respective communities. Eastover will

undertake a full assessment of all their community development needs, while in Newberry, the condition of housing in the city's poorer areas will be assessed.

CMCOG was also awarded two local planning grants totaling \$50,000 each. These funds will be used for the development of

new community development projects for eligible units of local government in the region, as well as to continue with the Central Midlands portion of the state-wide economic development project to locate and map water and sewer lines using GIS, on which work began in the previous fiscal year. Over the course of the year, staff held a total of 73 visits and discussions with various local governments in the region concerning the CDBG program and potential projects; made 20 presentations to local government's councils and the CMCOG Board and held 17 public hearings as well as working closely with Lexington County's CDBG Entitlement Program to provide administrative services and technical assistance to subgrantees of Lexington

County. Staff also completed a comprehensive re-write of the 2007-2012 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), which, after adoption by the CMCOG Board of Directors, was submitted to the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) for approval.

Environmental Planning

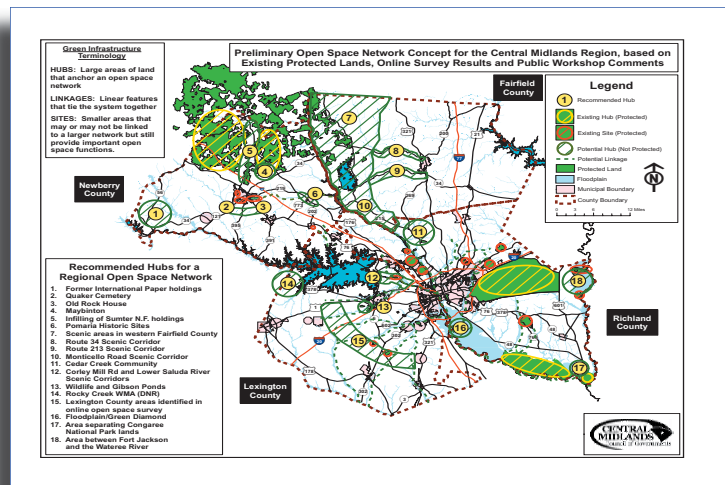
As our region grows and develops, it becomes increasingly important that environmental issues remain key factors in our planning initiatives, as a growing population places additional burdens on our region's water supply and other infrastructure and stresses the importance of protecting existing areas of natural beauty and other open spaces to provide for healthier environment in which to live. Central Midlands Council of Governments serves as the designated 208 Water Quality Management Area for our region. In FY 2006-07 256 208 water quality permit applications were processed as well as oversaw two minor amendments to the 208 Water Quality Management Plan; the expansion to 25 MGD of the City of Cayce's wastewater treatment plant, and an expansion of Carolina Water Service's service area.

Air quality issues remained at the forefront of many of CMCOG's planning initiatives this past program year. Although the Midlands has not fallen into non-attainment of federal air quality emissions standards, CMCOG is mindful that the quality of our air must be improved given the intense commercial and residential growth and subsequent increase in vehicle miles driven region-wide over the course of the past decade. As well as participating in an air quality "Early Action Compact," which allows a region to submit an enforceable State Implementation Plan outlining steps that will be taken to maintain compliance

with the ozone standard, thereby deferring any potential non-attainment designation and give the area additional time to demonstrate attainment of the standard, CMCOG staff participated in the "Take A Break From The Exhaust" program. This voluntary program, devised by SC DHEC, serves to raise awareness of the emissions we produce through our driving habits each day. Points were awarded to individuals who carpooled to work or lunch, or who used flex-time or tele-commuted as well as showing the amount of emissions and pollutants reduced by an individual who used environmentally commuting practices. "Take A Break From The Exhaust" illustrated how small measures at the individual level can help to drastically reduce the amount of noxious emissions and pollutants we release.

Green Infrastructure Plan Completed

FY 2006-07 saw the completion of the Central Midlands region's first comprehensive Green Infrastructure Plan, on which work had begun in the previous program year. The Central Midlands Green Infrastructure Plan is a concept document for preserving open space within our region and which has as its key goal, the



creation of a conceptual network of protected open spaces within the region. CMCOG hopes that this regional vision will serve as inspiration to groups and individuals at the county level and below to take action and to begin working to create this open space network, as the CMCOG acts solely as an advisory agency and has no authority to acquire land or regulate its uses.

To better coordinate and guide the planning process, a Green Infrastructure Steering Committee was formed in January 2007. Their overall goal

for this effort was and is the protection of open spaces within the region. Prior to its formation, CMCOG staff members conducted research and collected data on existing public and protected lands within the region, as well as identifying areas of significance that would be worthy of protection. Much of this information was displayed visually, using ArcView and ArcGIS mapping software. The steering committee provided valuable input and recommendations for how CMCOG staff members should begin engaging the public at large about open space preservation. With the assistance of the Committee, an online Green Infrastructure survey was developed, which garnered around 300 unique responses from around the region. A series of public workshops was also held around the region in the summer of 2007 to solicit further input on open space preservation.

The result of this extensive public participation process was the development of a series of goals and immediate, short, mid and long-term action steps, which CMCOG hopes will continue to make open space preservation a reality within our region. The four primary goals of the Green Infrastructure Plan are to create a vision for open space preservation at the county level and below by establishing county-level green infrastructure committees, which would identify priority open preservation areas at their respective levels, turning a regional concept into a regional plan, using preservation priorities developed at the local level. The Green infrastructure plan also calls for the incorporation of working lands into regional/county preservation plans and the involvement of farmers and foresters in the planning process; the implementation of regional/county open space preservation plans through such measure as the inclusion of landowners in county-level steering committees, as liaisons for reaching out to fellow landowners to request conservation easements, and by identifying financial (and other) resources for protecting and preserving open space. CMCOG also hopes to expand its open space preservation vision to incorporate other COGs state-wide, by encouraging COGs adjacent to CMCOG to undertake similar open space preservation initiatives within their own regions, thereby laying the framework for the creation of a statewide

network of protected open spaces and serve to ensure that green spaces remain protected for the benefit of current and future generations.

Wetlands Mitigation Bank

Since 2004, Central Midlands Council of Governments has been involved in the process of establishing a Mitigation Banking Instrument in the region. After receiving a favorable response to proceed from the Mitigation Bank Review Team, a detailed study of the proposed sites from which mitigation credits might be obtained was undertaken by CMCOG staff and its consultant. This study included wetlands delineation, a topographic survey and a botanical survey. Lengthy negotiations also took place between CMCOG and the property owner to create an agreement whereby monitoring wells could be placed on the site. The information received from the various studies and from the monitoring wells will aid in the determination of potential restoration activities on the sites. Work on establishing a mitigation bank will continue through the upcoming program year.

Water Quality

The question of our region's future water supply has increasingly become a key issue over the course of the past 18 months, particularly in response to a proposal by the cities of Concord and Kannapolis in North Carolina to transfer water from Catawba river basin and discharge it, after treatment to the Pee Dee basin. This Inter-Basin Water Transfer, given the current drought conditions in the southeastern United States, has the potential to adversely impact water quality and supply downstream on the Wateree and Congaree Rivers in the Midlands region. While recognizing that water is a regional resource, and not for the exclusive use of one jurisdiction or another, the CMCOG Board and other affected local governments have passed resolutions opposing the proposed inter-basin water transfer. Currently, the State of South Carolina's Attorney General, McMaster has filed suit regarding this matter in the U.S. Supreme Court. The result of this proposal could have wide-reaching ramifications and will be followed with great interest in the coming months by CMCOG planning staff.

Workforce

Local Planning

The provision of planning assistance to local governments is one of the foundations on which the Central Midlands COG was created. In the past program year, CMCOG planning staff has completed a Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Springdale and received contracts to perform updates to the Comprehensive Plans of the City of Forest Acres, and the towns of Batesburg-Leesville, Lexington and Blythewood. Over the past year, the CMCOG planning department has also provided staffing assistance to the Town of Blythewood and completed an update to the Town of Springdale's zoning ordinance. CMCOG planning staff has also taken a lead role in providing continuing education to planners from around the region and beyond. Staff held a total of 70 continuing education sessions and 26 orientation training sessions during FY 2006-07.

Workforce Development

The Midlands Workforce Development Board (MWDB) is the Workforce Investment Act Administrative (WIA) unit for Richland, Lexington and Fairfield Counties, and is committed to building an integrated workforce development system that effectively pools the resources of 14 diverse partner agencies and delivers optimal quality customer focused service. Partner agencies include local area school districts, county social service providers, the state vocational rehabilitative agency, the state Employment Security Commission, local community action council, and private non-profits. The services provided are targeted at both youths aged 14 to 21 and adults aged 21 and over and include programs such as job readiness and motivation, job search assistance, job placement and job retention services.

The goal of Midlands Workforce Center is to simplify the process for businesses of finding well-trained, highly qualified employees. The Midlands Workforce Development Board lists jobs, prescreens applicants based on the specifications of individual employers, interviews applicants and can provide invaluable labor market information as well as assisting with specific training needs. Some of the business services available in the Workforce Center include: Workkeys profiles and assessments; Incumbent Worker Training; Employed Worker Training; On-the-Job-Training. The MWDB can also design Customized training programs at the request of individual employers.



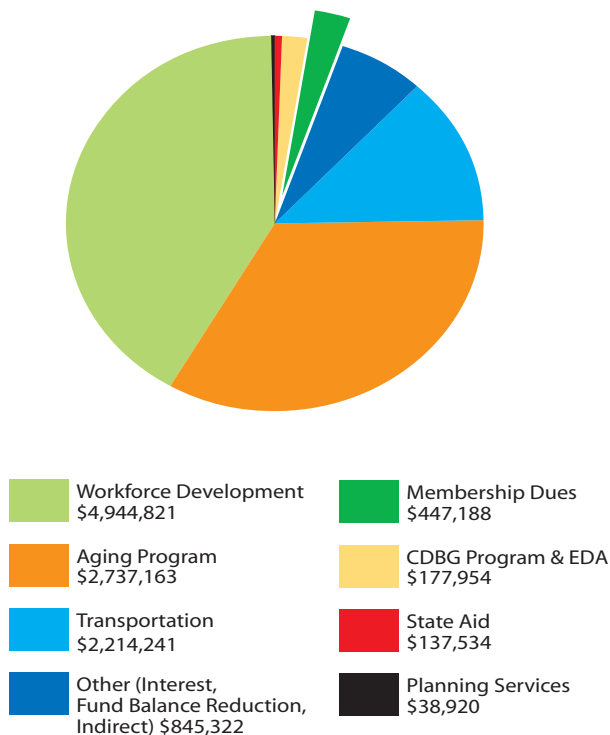
This past program year, the Midlands Workforce Development Board was the recipient of two major awards; the Joe A. Young Outstanding Local Workforce Investment Board, while the Columbia Workforce Center won the Outstanding One-Stop Center Award.

The Joe A. Young Award recognizes outstanding achievement by a Workforce Investment Board involved in meeting the workforce development needs of its region. The State Workforce Investment Board felt that the Midlands Workforce Investment Board merited the award in 2007...“having raised its vision to a new level over the past year by renewing emphasis on building a demand-driven system which aligns workforce development initiatives with education and economic development needs.” The MWDB met or exceeded WIA performance standards while increasing the number of participants who receive customer-focused and friendly services. WIA enrollments increased 90%, with an increase of more than 245% in Dislocated

Worker enrollments. The MWDB was praised for its mobilization of WorkKeys, Unemployment Compensation registration, WIA certification and training and resume and interviewing workshops, in response to recent layoffs. The aggressive, award-winning public information campaign introduced by the MWDB was also worthy of note, as was the Customized Training program that was implemented this past year, which developed “New Wave” On-The Job Training agreements, a program that resulted in the hiring of 14 WIA clients in high-skilled occupations. The MWDB was also awarded the state’s first S.C. ACT council Award of Excellence for its development efforts and layoff response.

The Midlands Workforce Center (MWC) in Columbia, operated by the Midlands Workforce Development Board, was named the Outstanding Workforce Center for its exceptional response to employees needs following recent layoffs, through collaboration with One-Stop partners, which resulted in the on-site WIA registration of more than 600 participants. In partnership with the Employment Security Commission mini Onestops were set up at two Employment Expos, providing more than 10,000 jobseekers with access to partner resources. Recognizing WorkKeys as a predictor of job success, the MWC administered 12,460 WorkKeys assessments to 3,343 OneStop customers. This resulted in 2,009 Job Ready Cards awarded and 40 jobs profiled with 21 different employers.

REVENUE FY 2006-2007





CMCOG BOARD

Russell David Brown, Chairman - Jimmy C. Bales, Vice Chairman

July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007

FY 2007

FAIRFIELD COUNTY - 3

M. Stephen Brakefield
R. David Brown
(CMCOG CHAIRMAN)
Carnell Murphy

LEXINGTON COUNTY - 10

William B. Banning
John Carrigg
M. Todd Cullum
George H. "Smokey" Davis
William C. "Billy" Derrick
Melanie P. Ellerbe
Katherine L. Hubbard
Johnny W. Jeffcoat
Wilber Lee Jeffcoat
VACANT - Lexington County Council

NEWBERRY COUNTY - 3

Vina Abrams
Hodge Harmon
Henry B. Summer

RICHLAND COUNTY - 11

Earl F. Brown, Jr.
Larry C. Cooke
Joyce Dickerson
Valerie Hutchinson
Norman Jackson
Michael A. Letts
Paul Livingston
Joseph McEachern
Bernice G. Scott
Craig Wall
Sarah B. Watson

BATESBURG-LEESVILLE

Todd O'Dell

CAYCE

Avery B. Wilkerson, Jr.

COLUMBIA - 6

E. W. Cromartie, II
Sam Davis
Tameika I. Devine
John N. Hardee
Dr. Milton Kimpson
Cathy Novinger

FOREST ACRES

Mark Williams

IRMO

Barry A. Walker, Sr.

LEXINGTON

T. Randall Halfacre

NEWBERRY

(Mr.) Zebbie Goudelock

SPRINGDALE

Pat G. Smith

WEST COLUMBIA

Bobby E. Horton

WINNSBORO

Dr. Roger A. Gaddy

**FAIRFIELD COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION**

Rep. Creighton B. Coleman

**LEXINGTON COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION**

Rep. Edward H. "Ted" Pitts

**NEWBERRY COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION**

Rep. Walton J. McLeod

**RICHLAND COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION**

Rep. Jimmy C. Bales
(CMCOG VICE-CHAIRMAN)

KERSHAW COUNTY

*(Kershaw County
Transportation issues only)*
Robert T. Boland

**ADVISORY MEMBERS
(NON-VOTING)**

Arcadia Lakes

Richard W. Thomas

Blythewood

Pete Amoth

Chapin

Stanley E. Shealy

Eastover

Christopher K. Campbell, Sr.

Pelion

Charles Haggard

Pine Ridge

David L. Busby

Prosperity

Bruce A. Connelly

Ridgeway

Charlene Herring
Mayor of Ridgeway

South Congaree

Larry Jackson

Affiliate Member

Dr. Marshall "Sonny" White, Jr.



CMCOG STAFF

ABRAHAMSEN, Carol
Aging Program Specialist

ANDERSON, Harriet
Special Assistant to
the Director

ANDERSON, Felicia
Ombudsman Investigator

BART, Roland
Senior Transportation
Planner

BELL, Aaron
Principal Transportation
Planner

BELL-FORD, Shelia
Administrative Assistant II

BLOCKER, Nevetta W.
Asst. Director/
Finance Director

BUGGS-WILLIAMS,
LaToya Ombudsman
Investigator/Volunteers
Coordinator

BURRELL, Eartha
Accountant

COOLEY, Robin R.
Manager, Community &
Economic Development

COON, Candace
GIS Technician

GEALY, Evelyn •
Research Associate
Demographics

GAWRONSKI, Cyndi
Community Development
Planner

HARMON, Anna H.
Manager, Regional Long
Term Care Ombudsman
Program

HUFFMAN, John A. *
Contract Consultant
(Planning & Grants)

KELLY, Clifton •
Mail Clerk/Courier/
Vehicle (PT)

KENT, Jason
GIS Manager

MAULDIN, Ben
Director, Planning &
Research

MERRILL, Julie
Aging Program
Specialist

MILHOUSE, Tasha
Receptionist/
Administrative Assistant I

MONTGOMERY, Ethel
Manager, Contracts &
Grants

RITCHEY, Joe
Family Caregiver
Advocate

ROPEL, Malia
Accountant

RYAN, Joseph
Senior Planner
(Environmental)

SEAGO, Sharon
Director, Area Agency on
Aging

SHEALY, Ken *
Contract Consultant
(Special Projects)

SHULER, Wayne
Chief Planner

SIMMONS, Andy
Manager, Information
Services

SIMMONS, Reginald
Director, Transportation

SPARKS, Angela
Accounting Clerk

SPROUSE, Gregory
Principal Planner,
Planning & Research

THOMAS, Shirley
Senior Ombudsman
Investigator

THOMPSON, Jackie
Information, Referral &
Assistance Coordinator

WADDELL, Dee
Ombudsman Program
Coordinator

WHITAKER, Norman
Executive Director

WILLIAMS, Fretoria
Administrative Assistant I

* Contract Employee
• Part-Time

WORKFORCE EMPLOYEES

AUSTIN, Bonnie
Director, WIA Program

BALL, Ann
WIA Information
System Analyst

BEAGEN, Tammy
WIA Senior Planner

BUTLER, Barry
WIA Grants Coordinator

CATOE, Jeremy
WorkKeys Planner

CAULDER, Mike
WIA Principal Planner

HART, Diane
Administrative

KELLER, Charlie
Manager, WIA Research
& Analysis

SUTTON, Sheron N.
WorkKeys Assmt Proctor/
Developer

WHITE, Chris
WorkKeys Program
Manager

WILSON, Sara
Business & Industry
Consultant



Mission Statement

To provide the highest quality of planning, technical assistance and services to local governments, businesses and citizens in the Central Midlands region.

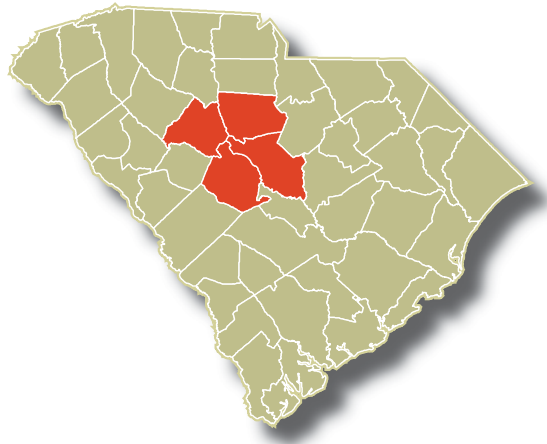
Guiding Principles

- Provide a regional forum where any local government can have issues heard and needs addressed.
- Advocate on behalf of regional governments, businesses and citizens.
- Provide planning and technical assistance with current and future needs of the region in mind.



Since 1969, the Central Midlands Council of Governments (CMCOG) has been assisting local governments develop local and regional plans within the four midlands counties (Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland) of South Carolina, as well as providing local governments with planning and technical support to improve the quality of life within the region.

CMCOG currently consists of 14 member governments and serves in excess of 600,000 people by providing a regional forum, which allows local officials to seek out common goals and address regional concerns. Today, CMCOG provides a variety of local and regional planning services and technical assistance to local governments within the four-county region.



Central Midlands Council of Governments

236 Stoneridge Drive • Columbia, SC 29210

Phone: 803.376.5390

Fax: 803.376.5394

www.centralmidlands.org

