

Regional Planning

- COG's new online service, *Trident Rideshare*, is up and running! Commuters throughout the tri-county area now have a single convenient destination to identify fellow carpoolers, vanpoolers, and bike-to-work buddies. Mobility Manager Vonie Gilreath is promoting the new service to large employers and civic groups throughout the tri-county area. Vonie also serves individuals in need of trip planning by helping them navigate public- and private-sector transit services. Please call or e-mail Vonie at mobility@bcdcog.com with any questions or requests for services.
- COG staff began updating the Berkeley-Dorchester Hazard Mitigation Plan in July, with funding from FEMA through the state's Emergency Management Division, and completed a first draft for EMD's deadline, September 27, 2009. EMD is now reviewing the document, which is due to FEMA February 10, 2010. EMD has requested that COG staff convene another meeting of the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee, which is scheduled for December 7. The plan will be presented to the COG Board for a resolution of support once it achieves state and federal approval.
- About 40 attended the third gathering of the BCD Air Quality Coalition October 14, 2009 in the BCDCOG Boardroom. The group viewed presentations from the American Lung Association, DHEC, Charleston County CARE, GEL, and BCDCOG Mobility Manager Vonie Gilreath. Discussion focused most significantly on differences between evaluations of the region's air quality by US EPA and the American Lung Association.
- With the federal Office of Economic Adjustment and North Charleston staff, COG staff is devising a proposal and application for funding to implement the Joint Land Use Study II recommendations regarding directing development away from accident-potential zones around Charleston Air Force Base. Project manager Jessica Gillis met with OEA staff in early November to refine the proposal for submittal this month.
- COG staff continues its support of the PlaceMatters team as it develops planning scenarios and recommendations to the BCD Region for "Creating Resilient Communities." The project will encourage the Region to grow in patterns more resilient to natural disasters like hurricanes. PlaceMatters provided data support to the aforementioned Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- COG staff sits on the "See 2030 Steering Committee," an arm of the Urban Land Institute's South Carolina chapter. See 2030 is an education and outreach effort to support regional planning in tri-county area.

- COG staff continues to serve on the Community Mitigation Agreement Committee and supports its planning process for revitalizing neighborhoods proximate to the new North Charleston port terminal.

Local Government Planning and Technical Assistance

- Several communities adopted comprehensive plan reviews or updates in 2009, with BCDCOG staff assistance – Summerville, Hollywood, and St. George – while several more are underway: Berkeley County, Goose Creek, and Folly Beach. Berkeley County Planning Commission meets every third Monday of the month for a comprehensive plan workshop; similarly, the Goose Creek Steering Committee meets every third Tuesday, and the Folly Beach Planning Commission convenes every first Monday.
- Dorchester County Planning Commission is considering form-based coding and performance zoning strategies to guide the development of land and implement the recently adopted Comprehensive Plan. COG staff is assisting every second Tuesday of the month at the County Services Building in Summerville.
- COG staff is working with the City of Hanahan to update its Official Zoning Map. The Planning Commission unanimously recommended the application of new zoning districts, which were established in the zoning text rewrite adopted by City Council last December. The new districts aim to replace an existing suburban strip commercial district with zoning standards better suited to downtown Hanahan. The Commission's proposal is undergoing City Council ordinance process.
- COG staff is also providing current planning services (development review and rezoning recommendations) to the City of Hanahan.

Information Resources

- COG staff convened the Lowcountry GIS Users Group in the BCDCOG Boardroom Monday, November 9. About 25 GIS professionals attended and learned more about statewide geographic information systems data collection and sharing from the State's GIS coordinator.
- COG staff is available as a resource to member local governments developing and implementing transportation and regularly attends meetings or runs the travel demand model for transportation improvement projects throughout the Region.



**PLANNING DEPARTMENT
REPORT TO COG BOARD
December 4, 2009**

- COG staff continues to support the Charleston Regional Development Alliance with mapping services in their regional economic development efforts.
- COG staff fields information requests on a daily basis from member local governments and their consultants as well as members of the real estate development industry and the general public. Most requests involve mapping, aerial photography, road improvements, traffic counts, building permit activity, population projections, and other data analysis. Many more requests like these are satisfied by BCDCOG's Online Mapping Tool (bcdcog.binarybus.com).

Outreach and Education

- COG is hosting certification maintenance and continuing education courses for professional planners and planning commissioners in the region. First Friday Lunch and Learn sessions are available to planners, planning commissioners, and other planning and zoning officials. Planning and zoning orientation training, required by the State for appointed officials, is taking place in the BCDCOG Boardroom again Friday December 11. Please contact Kathryn Basha for more information.
- COG staff participates in the South Carolina Coastal Information Network, a coalition of agencies and groups interested in reaching local elected and appointed officials with coastal planning and management issues. SCCIN is hosting three educational workshops about shoreline change for local elected officials and planning commissioners across the South Carolina coastal area. One of these took place at the Lowcountry Graduate Center November 4, 2009. The program is yet another opportunity for planning and zoning officials to receive state-required continuing education credits. The group's website is active at www.sccoastalinfo.org.