



Executive Director's Report

DECEMBER 2009

Ron Mitchum, Executive Director
Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester
Council of Governments

Listed below is a sampling of some of the activities that staff has been involved in during the last month.

Special points of interest:

- *BCDCOG Internet Mapping website available:*
<http://bcdcog.binarybus.com>
- *2008 Traffic Count Maps are currently available.*
- *BCDCOG's Revolving Loan Fund Program currently has funds available. Contact the COG office for more information.*
- *1998-2008 Traffic Count Publication now available.*
- *BCDCOG 2009 Regional Directory publication now available. Contact Andrea Kozłowski for copies.*
- *The BCDCOG Trident Rideshare website is now active. Go to www.TridentRideshare.org to register!*

1. Staff continues to provide planning support to the City of Hanahan. This includes staffing the Planning Commission, Design Board, and briefing Council in regards to planning & zoning. Staff is also assisting the City with their official Zoning map. Staff presented Council with recommended revisions.
2. Staff has been attending various business fairs and company events to promote the newly released rideshare website www.TridentRideshare.org.
3. Staff continues to process 208 Water Quality Management Plan sewer and septic permit applications. 4 applications were processed in November.
4. Staff is continuing work with all three Counties, and the Charleston Regional Development Alliance to update the current list of available properties. Staff added new properties to the CRDA searchable database. Staff is working with CRDA to determine next steps for data purchases & improvements to the searchable web-based mapping tool.
5. Staff has continued work on the Town of Moncks Corner Berkeley Habitat for Humanity Affordable Housing Project. Staff reviewed and submitted Habitat closing documents to SC Commerce.
6. Staff attended a meeting of the Edisto Island Open Land Trust to discuss how the BCDCOG can assist with an application for National Scenic Byway status for SC-174.
7. We continue to provide established supportive services to the following agencies:
 - Financial management and procurement services for the Tri-County Link Agency (RTMA).
 - Financial and Grant Management services for the Lake Marion Water Agency.
 - Mapping and data management services for the Charleston Regional Development Alliance.
8. Community Development staff continued to work on the Town of Harleyville's Sewer Pump Station Upgrade project. The rehabilitation of the sewer pump station is complete.
9. Community Development staff continued work on the Town of Summerville Habitat Hometown Investment project. Construction of the final house is complete. Staff is compiling final financial information and preparing the project for close out.
10. Staff continued work on the Town of Ridgeville's Treeland Lane Water Line upgrade. The project is out for bid.
11. Staff continued work on the Minority Business Development Committee. Staff presented the final recommendations from the consultant team to the Board in October.
12. Community Development staff finalized work on the Town of Hollywood's walking path project. Delivery and installation of exercise stations is complete.
13. Staff continued work on Berkeley County's Wassamassaw Community water line project. Staff is securing easements at the intersection of Highway 176 and Cooper Store Road.
14. Staff continued work on the City of Folly Beach Comprehensive Plan. Staff is preparing a supplement to the 2005 Plan. Staff reviewed the current plan's future land use map with the Planning Commission.
15. Staff continued to attend the regular SC Coastal Information Network meetings. BCDCOG assisted with public outreach for and attended a workshop about shoreline change.
16. Economic Development staff continued work on the Quick-Jobs Development Center in Dorchester County. Staff continues to attend regular progress meetings. Staff has conducted one-on-one interviews with laborers as part of Davis-Bacon.
17. Staff continued work on the Town of Ravenel's Archies Drive Sewer Line Project. Staff is compiling documentation for beneficiary information and final construction documents for bidding.
18. Staff will be hosting a series of webinars focusing on a variety of planning-related issues. The sessions will fulfill AICP credits for planning professionals and commissioners. Contact Kathryn Basha for schedule.

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19. Staff continued to coordinate and support the consultants on the Folly Beach Traffic Study, Commuter Rail Study, and the mode split module upgrade to the Travel Demand Model.
 20. Staff attended a meeting of the Charleston County Transportation Committee regarding a transportation study for the Boeing Plant.
 21. Staff continued work on the Town of Ravenel Depot Railroad Museum project. Staff coordinated with Charleston County Grants Admin to complete the environmental review of the project. Staff developed itemized bid plans for the Town to review..
 22. Staff made a presentation to the St. George Planning Commission about form-based codes and will give the presentation to Town Council.
 23. Staff prepared and submitted the EDA Semi-Annual Report.
 24. Staff hosted a fall meeting of the GIS User Group.
 25. Staff hosted a meeting of the Commuter Rail Subcommittee. A presentation was given on the status of the Commuter Rail Feasibility Study.
 26. Staff continued working on the Town of Hollywood's Baptist Hill Road Affordable Housing Infrastructure Grant. Staff submitted and received approval of a project extension to complete final disbursements and close out the project.
 27. Staff continued work on the Air Quality Coalition. A Coalition Meeting was held in October. Staff is preparing for the January 13th Air Quality Coalition Meeting.
 28. Staff presented information on the BCDCOG's role in the CARRI program to the Leadership Charleston group.
 29. Staff is continuing to coordinate with the Town of Summerville's election to participate in the Community Development Block Grant Program as an entitlement community.
 30. Staff continued to monitor the Federal Register, E-Civis.org, and grants.gov for potential funding sources.
 31. Staff is continuing work on updating the CHATS Long Range Transportation Plan. A series of public meetings were held throughout the region. More information can be found at www.bcdco.com or contact our office.
 32. Staff continued preparation of the JLUS Implementation Grant Application. Staff attended a Defense Community Conference to assist with the Joint Land use Implementation efforts.
 33. Staff provided support and oversight to the FTA Section 5316/5317 subrecipient.
 34. Staff continued work on mapping building permit data for the TAZ update.
 35. Staff completed work on updating the BCDCOG website, visit www.bcdco.com to see the newly designed website.
 36. Community Development staff continued work on the Town of Lincolnville's Dunmyer Hill Road Interconnect Phase II Project. Staff submitted and received approval of a project extension to complete final disbursements and close out the project.
 37. Staff continued work on the Berkeley County Comp Plan. Staff has developed the Economic Development, Transportation, and Community Facilities Goals with the Planning Commission at their workshops. Staff is preparing a Community VIZ model to support the Comp Plan.
 38. Staff continued working with CARRI staff to transition the Resilient Communities project to the BCDCOG for facilitation.
 39. Staff continued work on the Town of St. Stephen Sewer Line Upgrade project. BCWS completed review, rating and ranking responses to Request for Engineering Proposals and are currently negotiating a contract for engineering services.
 40. Staff continues working with Dorchester County and EDA on the new EDA project awarded for water & sewer infrastructure to the new industrial park at East Edisto. Staff has submitted the 3rd quarter ARRA and EDA reports for approval.
 41. Staff reviewed the Environmental Assessment document for the improvements to Bacons Bridge Road.
 42. Staff continued work on the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants. Staff has forwarded all applications and supporting documentation to the State Energy Office .
 43. Staff is preparing data to update travel model for base year of 2008 and a horizon year of 2035.
 44. Staff participated in DHEC's Anti-Idling round table discussions.
 45. Staff completed work on the Berkeley Dorchester Hazard Mitigation Plan and submitted it to the SC EMD. The final report can be found at www.bcdco.com.
 46. Staff coordinated with SCDOT staff on policy, project status, transit planning, ARRA funding, and TIP updates.
 47. Staff continued work on the Dorchester County Zoning Ordinance update. Staff attended several workshops about form-based codes in Summerville sponsored by and hosted by the Charleston Trident Association of Realtors.
 48. Staff continued work on the City of Goose Creek's Comp Plan. Staff attended a steering committee, presented an updated Natural Resources element, draft Cultural Resources element, and had preliminary discussions on the Community Facilities element.
 49. Staff prepared and submitted an application to the Federal Transit Administration for the FFY 2008 Transit Program allocation.
 50. Community Development staff continued work on the Town of Summerville's Brownsville Water Upgrade. Staff re-submitted a project amendment for an additional water line on Boone Street. Staff submitted Phase II bids to SC Commerce for review and approval. Phase I part of the construction is nearly completion.
 51. Staff continued participating in Place-Matters Creating Resilient Communities project. Staff attended the monthly teleconference and gave an update regarding the regional blueprint and CARRI.
 52. Staff continued to market the Revolving Loan Fund and manage the current loans. There are funds available, please send referrals to the COG office.
 53. Staff met with and discussed potential CDBG projects with several units of local governments.
 54. We of course continue to provide demographic information, water quality permit data, traffic count data, and maps to realtors, member governments and members of the public. Some examples include the following:
 - Prepared data for model runs for Johns Island road project scenarios.
 - Prepared a drive-time analysis with labor force data for a site in Dorchester County.
 - Provided Charleston County Planning with a GIS Shapefile for 208 sewer service/management areas.
 - Provided a non-profit organization with a radius demographic report.
 - Provided the Berkeley County Administration Department with population estimates for Berkeley County.
 - Provided a consultant with a GIS Shapefile for traffic count stations in the region.
 - Provided a consultant for the Boeing transportation study with model run assistance.
 - Provided a Midlands Economic Development Agency with building permit information.
 - Provide Mt. Pleasant Waterworks with demographic data for the Town.