

BERKELEY-CHARLESTON-DORCHESTER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

PLANNING, PARTNERSHIP & PROSPERITY





"...we are the Lowcountry - the complex miracle of the south, the network of never ending potential" $% \left({{{\left[{{{\left[{{\left[{{\left[{{\left[{{{\left[{{{\left[{{{\left[{{{\left[{{{\left[{{{\left[{{{\left[{{{}}} \right]}}}} \right]}}} \right.}$

- Marcus Amaker

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CHAIRMAN

It's safe to say that 2020 was a year unlike any other in our lifetimes. Covid-19 presented challenges for everyone that were only magnified for those serving in the public sector tasked with leading an effective response. Despite the obstacles faced globally, nationally and in our region, BCDCOG and its member governments worked together to help ensure a brighter tomorrow.

Charles V. ackerman

Charles W. Ackerman

Romald & Nitz





Ronald E. Mitchum BERKELEY DORCHESTER Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments is one of 10 CHARLESTO Councils of Governments COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS PLANNING, PARTNERSHIP & PROSPERITY



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CHARLESTON COUNTY Tim Mallard

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Public Service & Sewer Districts

James Island Public Service District Commissioner Kathy Woolsey St. Andrews Public Service District Commissioner Charlie Ledford North Charleston Sewer District Commission Chairman George Gomes

Various Representation

Joint Base Charleston: Commander Marc Greene SCDOT: Commissioner Robby Robbins

About BCDCOG

BCDCOG is an association of, by and for local governments that helps Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester county leaders plan for common needs, cooperate for mutual benefit and coordinate for sound regional development.



Contact Us

5790 Casper Padgett Way N. Charleston, SC 29406 Tel. 843.529.0400

BCDCOG STAFF

Administration

Ron Mitchum Executive Director Kim Coleman Executive Administrative Assistant Andrea Kozloski Deputy Director of Operations & Support Robin Mitchum Deputy Director of Finance & Administration

Customer Service

Trinamae Nelson Customer Service Supervisor Tarnesha Blake Customer Service Rep. Faythe Breland Customer Service Rep. Betty McBryde Customer Service Rep. Sybil Ross Customer Service Rep.

Finance

Katie Paschall Finance Manager Jeff Burns Grants & Contracts Compliance Admin. Jennifer Dantzler Administrative Assistant Tara Heyward Office Manager Cynthia Johnson Payroll & Benefits Administrator * Rainee Kearney Transit Coordinator Jason McGarry Procurement/Contracts Admin. Melanie Pasheluk Loan Administrator * Urvi Patel Financial Analyst Diane Riedle Staff Accountant

Marketing

Michelle Emerson Marketing & Communications Manager Daniel Brock Regional Strategist Kristin Burrows Communications Specialist Morgan Grimes Communications & Outreach Specialist * Jon Kane Advertising Sales Manager

Planning Services

Kathryn Basha Planning Director Madelyne Adams G/S Planner Shannon Bush Planner II * Sarah Cox Planner II Jon Dodson Planner II Sharon Hollis Principal Planner Kyle James Planner II * John Lambert Mobility Coordinator Kristin Miguez Senior Planner * Shivaprasad Shivananjappa (Shiv) Principal Planner Belén Vitello Planner II

Workforce Development

Sharon Goss Workforce Development Director Kameron Alston-Collins Performance Outcomes Coordinator

* Employees who joined BCDCOG in 2020

REGIONAL PLANNING

BRIGHTER DAYS AHEAD

During a normal year, BCDCOG staff participates in virtually every major planning effort of regional significance. In 2020, our planners continued to play an integral role, despite the obstacles placed in their way by Covid-19.



A Year in Review

Because while the present was uncertain, a plan for the future was still needed.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN Bright Ideas, Bold Action

NORI

CHARLEST

A key component of the BCDCOGs regional planning activities is the provision of technical assistance to member jurisdictions performing daily duties with supporting staff reviewing land development proposals or consulting with jurisdictions in development of comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances, land development regulations or special area plans.

In 2020 the BCDCOGs professional planning team assisted the City of North Charleston with completion and adoption of its 10-year comprehensive plan update: *PRIME North Charleston* and contributed a baseline data report, economic and buildout analyses for Goose Creek's 10-year Comprehensive Plan update: *Goose Creek Rising*.

At the same time the planning team needed to find new ways to engage the public. Public engagement activities were created to help virtually launch and prepare comprehensive plan updates for the towns of Harleyville and McClellanville, as well as Berkeley County - all of which are scheduled for adoption in 2021.

In addition to comprehensive plans, our planners continued coordinating ongoing initiatives throughout the last year by assisting the Town of St. George with implementation of a grant from the SC Department of Commerce's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to demolish unsafe structures and rehabilitate drainage along the rail line in the Town's Little Harlem neighborhood. Planners also coordinated with FEMA for approval and completion of *Berkeley County's Hazard Mitigation Plan*.

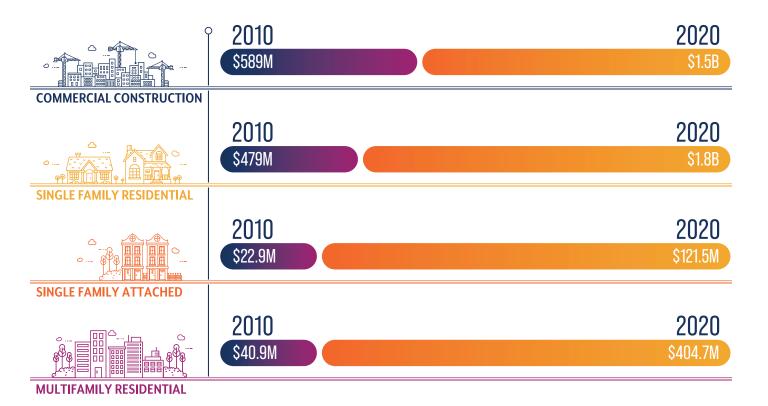
A Bridge to Somewhere

In 2020, a number of municipalities chose the BCDCOG to be the Local Project Administrators for Transportation Alternatives projects funded by SCDOT. *As Local Project Administrators* the BCDCOG was able to secure a contractor for construction of a *210-foot bicycle/pedestrian bridge* over Jeremy Creek in the Town of McClellanville. This facility will provide connectivity between the town's historic village area, a local state-charter school and beyond to newer developments. The BCDCOG is also assisting the City of Hanahan with the design and engineering of Phase III of a multi-use path providing connectivity amid a commercial area, neighborhoods, and elementary school parallel to Foster Creek Road in Tanner Plantation. Construction of both projects will occur in 2021.

Still Growing

In the past decade, the BCD region has grown exponentially. The annual value of commercial permits has risen steadily from about \$589 million dollars in 2010 to \$1.5 billion in 2020. Single-family home permit values have also kept pace with growth in the area. In 2010, the permitted value was about \$479 million, while in 2020 the permitted value was almost \$1.8 billion. Single family attached permit values grew from \$22.9 million in 2010 to \$121.5 million in 2020. Multi-family permit values grew from \$40.9 million in 2010 to \$404.7 million in 2020. All of these investments were made to accommodate the region's swelling population that is now living in the BCD region.





ONLY THE BEST AIR & WATER

WATER QUALITY

The BCDCOG coordinates activities that help carry out the goals of the Clean Water Act and integrate federal, state, and local interest. This integration is achieved through the preparation and updates of the 208 Water Quality Management Plan and the review of all permit applications concerning wastewater treatment. Industries, developers and local governments must submit facilities plans and preliminary engineering information to the BCDCOG before obtaining DHEC permits to alter discharges or install sewer lines. To enable public access to recent 208 permit activity, BCDCOG staff developed a Water Quality Permit dashboard which is accessible via the COG website.

Because stormwater doesn't recognize jurisdictional boundaries, the BCDCOG Stormwater Management committee was convened in 2019 to initiate collaboration on its management from a regional perspective. The committee is comprised of technical stormwater staff from municipalities across the region and meets on a quarterly basis to discuss and develop regional stormwater priorities. Collaborative efforts from 2020 currently underway include:

- » Creating an inventory of stormwater rate structures and fee schedules of the regulated stormwater communities in the tricounty region;
- » Compiling and combining stormwater mapping data in support of developing a regional stormwater model;
- » Development of a comprehensive list of available grants and other opportunities for funding stormwater improvement projects; and
- » Preliminary discussions of the development of regional stormwater manual and design standards.

AIR QUALITY

The BCDCOG became involved in air quality improvement in 2003, when it hosted several meetings for the three counties, DHEC and other interested parties to discuss ideas to reduce ozone emissions and other air quality improvement strategies. The BCDCOG also assisted the counties in writing their early action plans, which were incorporated into the statewide SCDHEC Plan in 2004.

Today, the BCDCOG Air Quality Coalition is one of seven regional groups in South Carolina dedicated to improving the state's air quality. Coalition meetings bring regional stakeholders from industry, government, medical and environmental groups together to address air quality issues and assure that the BCD region maintains compliance with air quality standards.

No. of 208 permit certifications issued by the BCDCOG in 2020.

229



TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

STILL ROLLING

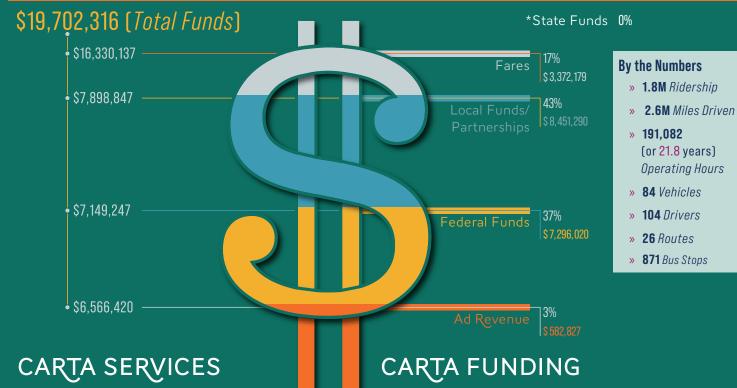
Covid-19 certainly impacted public transportation in 2020, but as an essential service CARTA continued to operate - *with increased safety measures* - throughout the pandemic.

"CARTA is a mobility lifeline for many people, including those who work in healthcare facilities, grocery stores and other critical service providers needed at this time," CARTA Board of Directors Chairman Mike Seekings said in March. "We want to offer transportation to those individuals as long as we can in a safe manner and in accordance with emergency guidelines."





How it all Adds Up 2020 Funding Sources



DASH: No-cost downtown shuttle service Express: Limited-stop commuter service Fixed Routes: Your everyday bus routes Tel-A-Ride: Service for the mobility impaired (riders must meet ADA requirements)

BCDCOG staff secured more than **\$20 million** in federal transportation grants in 2020, with uses ranging from vehicle replacement to Covid-19 safety measures. Staff is also currently managing more than **\$80 million** in federal funding across various projects (not including LCRT).



BCDCOG REACHES THE BEACH

2020 NADO Impact Award Winner

Just in time for the 4th of July holiday, BCDCOG rolled out the Beach Reach traffic monitoring app. Available for Apple and Android, Beach Reach provides users live views of traffic going to and from Folly Beach, Isle of Palms and Sullivan's Island. The app also provides information about beach parking, access, policies and more – all in a single platform.

The BeachReach app has been downloaded more than **9,000 times**.





COLLABORATION!

Prior to Covid, BCDCOG convened a Regional Transportation Forum, bringing together planners and leaders to collaborate on big-picture issues. Expect the gang to routinely get back together in 2021!



TIPS, PLEASE!

BCDCOG is tasked with updating the region's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Rural Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP), and the agency did just that in 2020. Those documents are lists of upcoming transportation projects. Federal funding on roads, bridges and more can't be spent without them.



TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROJECTS IN THE WORKS

BCD REGIONAL FREIGHT MOBILITY PLAN:

An in-depth evaluation of the area's freight conditions, trends, challenges and opportunities. Will also guide freight investment in the region. Ongoing project.

RURAL WORKFORCE TRANSPORTATION STUDY:

A regional strategy focused on improving access to job training and employment for the region's rural workforce. Completed in 2020.

RURAL LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN:

Identified the rural transportation needs in the BCD region between now and 2040. Primarily focuses on roadway network, public transportation, freight network pedestrian/bicycle facilities. Completed in 2020.

LET THERE BE (SOLAR) LIGHT

CARTA installed solar lighting at more than 70 unsheltered stops, on the way to 151 total system wide

4005

ON TRAC

The CARTA Transit Riders Advisory Committee (TRAC and ParaTRAC) is a group of 18-20 riders who advise CARTA staff and act as ambassadors for the agency. The aim of the committee is to give riders a larger voice in shaping CARTA's policies and operations. Members provide feedback to staff and make suggestions to improve service and increase communication. They also represent several major partner organizations and a wide cross section of the regional population. This committee plays a crucial role as the voice of the riders, and new ideas, concepts and opportunities are often shared with this group for insight, and even approval, before being presented to the Board of Directors.

TRICOUNTY LINK

TriCounty Link Gets "On Board" With BCDCOG

Tricounty Link is the region's rural public transportation provider. (CARTA is the urban area provider). In 2020, a realignment of governance aimed at regional collaboration transitioned oversight of TCL to the BCDCOG Board of Directors.

SO LONG, HARRY

After **50 years** in Charleston-area public transit as a driver and manager, Harry Burnell retired in February.

26

BERKELEY

W 5th St N

Summerville

FULL SPEED AHEAD (Lowcountry Rapid Transit (LCRT) is a game changer.)

LCRT is arguably the most important transit infrastructure project in the region since the Ravenel Bridge and it sets the foundation for true regional mass transit. The 21.5-mile line will be South Carolina's first high-capacity transit system and will connect the fairgrounds in Ladson to WestEdge on the Charleston Peninsula.

Much was accomplished to advance the LCRT in 2020, including the selection of a preferred alignment, along with a staggering amount of coordination - ranging from local governments to utility providers to the communities along the route.

Now, the stage is set to submit the project to the Federal Transit Administration for approval to move into the next phase - Engineering.

Year to Date Outreach & Engagement Recap







WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT working to recover in face of covid

Our region's workforce, which had been the picture of health, was battered as Covid-19 raged in 2020. The unemployment rate ballooned to a previously unthinkable **12.2**% at one point. SC Works Trident, the region's workforce development program with a mission to connect job-seekers and employers was ready - staff offered information and opportunity in a time of dire need for the region.

SC WORKS SUCCESS STORIES

While the country dealt with a pandemic the SC Works Trident staff continued in their efforts to help job-seekers find employment. For Karla Rosales and Nicholas Wiley their efforts led to successful employment.

Karla Rosales

Karla was passionate about a career as a Medical Assistant. She began training in January 2020 as part of SC Work's Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) youth program. Despite delays and uncertainty brought on by Covid, Karla followed her dream and was able to keep a 98% average in her classes. Her commitment to the program paid off and she was granted permission by Trident Technical College to take her Registered Medical Assistant (RMA) exam before completing her externship in July 2020. Karla passed her exam and was employed full time by September!

Nicholas Wiley

Nicholas enrolled in the WIOA program in March 2020. He came into the program seeking career guidance and direction. His previous employment experience consisted of odd jobs within the food and beverage industry. After talking to one of the Business Service Managers at SC Works Trident, Nick decided to participate in the SC DEW Innovation Grant under the Charleston Metro Chamber in partnership with the SC Works Trident WIOA program. While in the program, his hard work caught the eye of the lead instructor and Nick quickly became a class leader. Nick completed his OSHA 10 Certification and started a work experience program with Cullum Constructors as a General Laborer. In August of 2020, he secured full-time employment with Cullum as a Material Handler and often helps lead warehouse staff when his supervisor is out. Nick attributes his success to the program and SC Works.



SC WORKS BY THE NUMBERS

\$3,085,376

Total Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Funds managed by SC Works Trident



Occupational Skills Trainings completed in the following industries: Manufacturing, Healthcare, Transportation & Logistics, Construction, Information Technology and Hospitality (with the majority of training occurring in Transportation and Healthcare).

Of those:

59

167

On-the Job Trainings (OJT) for the adult and dislocated workers program.

49

Individuals placed in WIOA youth progam work-based learning opportunities.



23 GEDs/High School diplomas earned.



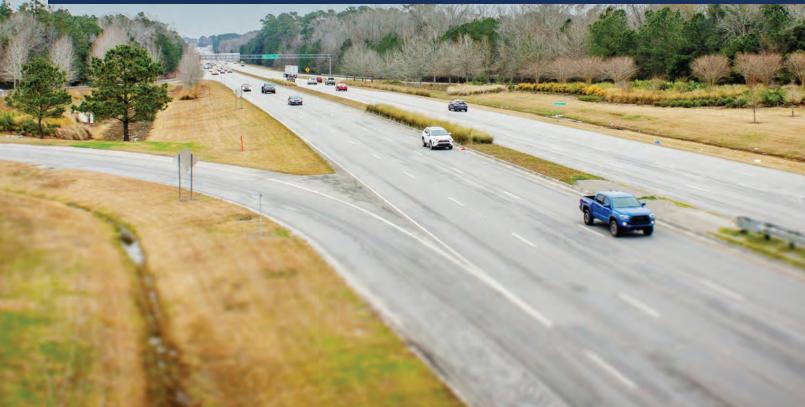
15,863 The number of calls/inquiries fielded by SC Works Trident between March-December 2020.

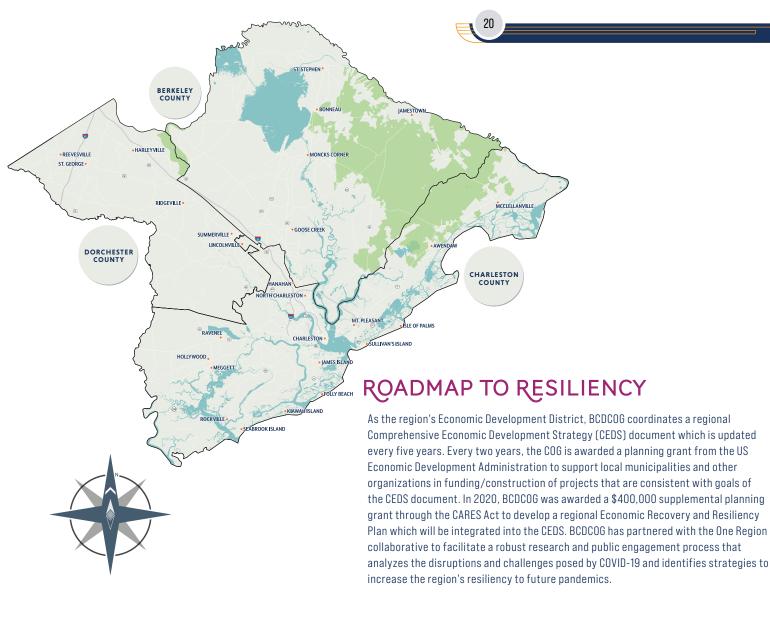


Individuals that received supportive services such as supplies, uniforms, tools or exam fees related to training.



ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT







EDA SMALL BUSINESS LOANS

Covid-19 tested our nation and region in unprecedented ways. In response, BCDCOG, via funding from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA), created the BCDCOG CARES Revolving Loan Fund. The program is aimed at stimulating long-term, private-sector investment and employment in the region.

This new effort will allow BCDCOG to assist the privatesector's recovery from economic losses related to COVID-19 and to create and retain long-term job opportunities in the region by making funds available more quickly and easily available to borrowers.

BCDCOG CARES By the Numbers:



100+: Inquiries in 2020 \$210,000: In committed or closed funding

JOINT LAND USE STUDY

For decades the BCDCOG has supported Joint Base Charleston (JBC) in efforts to coordinate with abutting jurisdictions on land development issues that may impact the military base's mission in our region. BCDCOG staff has initiated development of a supplement to the 2008 Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) to include the North Auxillary AirField facility (NAAF) in Orangeburg County and continued to host four joint quarterly meetings of the JLUS Policy Oversight Committee with the Lowcountry Defense Community Partnership Council in 2020.



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

10

BCDCOG & Leadership Charleston | Sept. 24, 2020



ENGAGE!

Public participation looked a lot different in 2020. Notably, for the first time, BCDCOG hosted dozens of Zoom meetings and on-line forums for the public, boards and committees. "*If there's a silver lining, it's that it pushed us to embrace digital engagement,*" said Andrea Kozloski, BCDCOG Deputy Director of Operations and Support. "We'll continue to use technology to expand our reach, even as things begin to return to something approaching normal in 2021."



BEST (E)FOOT FORWARD

With an emphasis on digital engagement this year, BCDCOG moved to update its website.

BCDCOG.com now features a cleaner interface and better usability.

Stop by sometime!



25

GETTING SOCIAL

BCDCOG

Facebook.com/BCDCOG Twitter: @BCDCoG Instagram: @BCDCoG

CARTA

Facebook.com/RideCARTA Twitter: @RideCARTA Instagram: @RideCARTA

TRICOUNTY LINK

Facebook.com/RideTriCountyLink

LOWCOUNTRY RAPID TRANSIT

Facebook.com/LowcountryRapidTransit Twitter: @LCRapidTransit Instagram: @LowcountryRapidTransit

SC WORKS TRIDENT

Facebook.com/SCWorksTrident Twitter: @SCWorksTrident



A.C.R.O.N.Y.M.S. (In case you need them)

AMPO: Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations **APTA:** American Public Transportation Association BCDCOG: Berkelev-Charleston-Dorchester **Council of Governments** BRT: Bus Rapid Transit **CARTA:** Charleston Area Regional Transportation Authority **CHATS:** Charleston Area Transportation Study **CIP:** Capital Improvement Plan **DBE:** Disadvantaged Business Enterprise **EA:** Environmental Assessment **EIS:** Environmental Impact Statement FFY: Federal Fiscal Year FHWA: Federal Highway Administration FTA: Federal Transit Administration **GIS:** Geographic Information System **HMP:** Hazard Mitigation Plan **ITS:** Intelligent Transit System JLUS: Joint Land Use Study JTPA: Job Training Partnership Act LCRT: Lowcountry Rapid Transit **LRTP:** Long Range Transportation Plan **MEO:** Municipal Elected Officials **MOU:** Memorandum of Understanding MPO: Metropolitan Planning Organization MTAC: Mass Transit Advocacy Committee **NADO:** National Association of Development Organizations

NARC: National Association of Regional Councils **NEPA:** National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 NTD: National Transit Database **OPT:** Office of Public Transit **PE:** Preliminary Engineering PI: Public Involvement **RPWP:** Rural Planning Work Program **RTIP:** Rural Transportation Improvement Program **RTMA:** Rural Transportation Management Association (d/b/a TriCounty Link) SCARC: South Carolina Association of **Regional Councils SIB:** South Carolina State Infrastructure Bank SEDC: Southern Economic Development Council **STIP:** State Transportation Improvement Program TAC: Technical Advisory Committee TASC: Transportation Association of South Carolina **TDM:** Travel Demand Management **TDP:** Transit Development Plan **TIP:** Transportation Improvement Program **TMA:** Transportation Management Area **TMIP:** Travel Model Improvement Program **TOD:** Transit Oriented Development **TDM:** Travel Demand Management **UPWP:** Unified Planning Work Program



BERKELEY-CHARLESTON-DORCHESTER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS





WWW.RIDECARTA.COM



WWW.RIDETRICOUNTYLINK.COM

SC WORKS TRIDENT american**job**center A BERKELEY-CHARLESTON-DORCHESTER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS PROGRAM

LC Lowcountry **Rapid Transit** Т



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2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN



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CHARLESTON AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY