

Public Comment Sought for the South Carolina Statewide Intercity and Regional Bus Network Plan

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) is seeking comment from the public on the Draft Final Report for the South Carolina Statewide Intercity and Regional Bus Network Plan (January 2012).

Title 49 U.S.C. 5311(f) requires each state to spend 15 percent of its annual Section 5311 apportionment to carry out a program to develop and support intercity bus services, unless the state's Governor certifies that the intercity bus needs are adequately met. This requirement, codified as Section 5311(f), calls for this determination to include consultation with the state's intercity bus carriers. Historically, the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) has not expended the full 15 percent and has routinely relied on the Governor's Certification to assure the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) that the State's intercity bus needs are adequately met.

The SCDOT commissioned this study, the *Statewide Intercity and Regional Bus Network Plan*, to assess whether intercity bus needs are being met in the State of South Carolina, and if not, to develop a financially sustainable network of intercity and regional bus service across the state utilizing the Section 5311(f) funds. A Technical Working Group (TWG) composed of statewide stakeholders, including intercity bus industry representatives, assisted the consultant team in its efforts.

The study substantiates that although the State is reasonably well served by the intercity bus industry, there are additional intercity bus-related needs that should preclude SCDOT from submitting the 5311(f) Governor's Certification that attests that intercity bus needs are met. The report concludes with an implementation plan, including a summary of findings and recommendations that were determined over the course of the study.

A copy of this press release and the Final Report for the South Carolina Statewide Intercity and Regional Bus Network Plan is available for public review and comment on the world web at:

http://www.scdot.org/inside/public_comment.shtml

To assist those who do not have internet access, a hard copy of this press release is available for public review and comment at the following locations:

South Carolina Council of Governments:

Appalachian Council of Governments

Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville,
Oconee, Pickens & Spartanburg
30 Century Circle
Greenville, SC 29606
(864) 242-9733

Upper Savannah Council of Governments

Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens,
McCormick & Saluda
222 Phoenix Street, Suite 200
Greenwood, SC 29646
(864) 941-8090

Lower Savannah Council of Governments

Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun &
Orangeburg
2748 Wagener Road
Hwy 302 North
Aiken, SC 29801
(803) 649-7981

Santee-Lynches Council of Governments

Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee & Sumter
36 West Liberty Street
Sumter, SC 29151
(803) 775-7381

Catawba Regional Council of Governments
Chester, Lancaster, York & Union
215 Hampton Street
Second Floor
Rock Hill, SC 29731
(803) 327-1912

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Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence,
Marion & Marlboro
2319 Regional Road
Florence, SC 29501
(843) 669-4392

Central Midlands Council of Governments
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236 Stoneridge Drive
Columbia, SC 29210
(803) 376-5390

Lowcountry Council of Governments
Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton & Jasper
634 Campground Road
Yemassee, SC 29945
(843) 726-5536

**Waccamaw Regional Planning and
Development Council of Governments**
Georgetown, Horry & Williamsburg
1230 Highmarket Street
Georgetown, SC 29440
(843) 546-8502

**Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of
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Berkeley, Charleston & Dorchester
1362 McMillan Ave, Suite 100
North Charleston, SC 29405
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SCDOT District Offices:

District 1
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District 2
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District 4
1232 J.A. Cochran Bypass
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3018 East Palmetto
Florence, SC 29506
(843) 661-4710

District 6
6355 Fain Blvd.
North Charleston, SC 29406
(843) 740-1665

District 7
US Route 178 East Bowman Road
Orangeburg, SC 29116
(803) 531-6850

Comments will be accepted until the close of business on **February 9, 2012** and should be forwarded to Mr. Mark Pleasant, Statewide Planning Chief at SCDOT, 955 Park Street, P.O. Box 191, Columbia, S.C. 29202 or pleasantmd@scdot.org.

For more information pertaining to **South Carolina Statewide Intercity & Regional Bus Network Plan or Final Report**, contact: Ms. Diane Lackey, Statewide Programs Manager, Office of Public Transit at 803-737-0146.