

CATAWBA REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING

Catawba Regional Center
Rock Hill, South Carolina
February 5, 2026

A regular meeting of the Catawba Regional Council of Governments Board of Directors was called to order at 4:43 p.m. on Thursday, February 5, 2026. Notice of the meeting was sent to the local newspaper and posted on the Council’s website.

The following members were present:

Chester

John Agee
Joe Branham, Chair
Carlos Williams (Zoom)

Union

Ernest Moore
Harold E. Thompson, Vice Chair
Leroy Worthy

York

Debi Cloninger
Mike Fuesser
Watts Huckabee
Bo Legg
Todd Lumpkin (Zoom)
Chad Williams

Lancaster

Corey Barnes
Brian Carnes
Alston DeVenny

The following members were absent:

Chester

Nettie Archie
Randy Ligon

Lancaster

Sean Corcoran
Charlene McGriff
Eddie Moore
Brandon Newton

York

Dean Faile
Brent Faulkenberry
Tom Hyslip
Stacey Moore
William Roddey
Guynn Savage
Heath Sessions
Laura Ullrich

Union

Doug Gilliam
Phillip Russell II

Others present included the following:

Guests

James Bennett, CRDC
Carmen Miller

Jason Paul
Grier Sandifer, CRDC

David Turner, CRDC

Staff

Steve Allen
Ed Brock
Amy Chitwood

Randy Imler
Tyler Lewis
Eleanor Mixon

Elizabeth Morgan
Grazier Rhea
Chris Schwartz

Following the Call to Order and Invocation, a motion was made to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2025, COG Board Meeting. The motion was duly seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously as written.

I. Presentation of 12/31/2025 (6-month interim) CRCOG Financial Statements

Ms. Chitwood presented the December 31, 2025, (6-month interim) internally prepared FY26 CRCOG financial statements. As of December 31, total assets equaled \$22,365,425, \$11,179,961 of which were restricted loans receivable for the Revolving Loan Fund, and total liabilities were \$659,133. The fund balance total was \$21,706,292. Unrestricted funds equaled \$1,401,736 while the restricted funds equaled \$20,101,662 and were mostly for the Revolving Loan Fund. Year-to-date operating revenues were \$1,747,130 (approximately 54% of the budget), and operating expenses were \$1,544,236 (approximately 48% of the budget). Revenues exceeded expenditures by \$202,894. There were passthrough revenues and expenditures for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Brownfields (SCDES and EPA), and Workforce Housing Study. After passthroughs, the year-to-date income was \$202,894. The Board received this report as information.

II. Presentation of New CRCOG Website

Mr. Lewis presented the new Catawba Regional website and discussed the resources available on the website. This website incorporates the region's workforce development website and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) website. Previously these websites were hosted independently. It is anticipated that the website will be released later this month.

III. Consideration of Transportation Items

Mr. Allen provided an overview of recommended FY 2024-2033 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendments (attached), which would add 5311 Rural Transportation Program and 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities Program projects to the TIP for The Connector in Chester County, Lancaster Area Ride Service in Lancaster County, and York County Access in York County. Additionally, a 5311 Rural Transportation Program pilot program for Union County would be added to the TIP. The South Carolina Department of Transportation has mandated that COGs program 5311 Rural Transportation Program and 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities Program projects into the TIP.

A motion was made to approve the proposed FY 2024-2033 TIP amendments to add 5311 and 5339 Program projects to the TIP. The motion was seconded, and following discussion, the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Agee indicated that his wife is the chair of the senior services board for Chester County, the operator of The Connector transit service in Chester and Union Counties. It was determined that there was no financial benefit to him or his family, so this was not considered a conflict of interest for the vote to be considered.

IV. Executive Director's Report and Programmatic Update

Mr. Imler provided a brief update on COG operations and programs.

- All 10 of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and SC Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) grant applications that the COG Community Development Department submitted in fall 2025 were awarded for a total grant amount of \$6.9 million. With these

new grant awards, the Community Development Department is now managing 75 projects for \$152.8 million in grant funds with an additional \$4.8 million pending for 6 projects. Combined, this is a total of \$157.6 million in grants with total project costs of \$219 million. The spring round of CDBG and SC RIA grants are in development and will be submitted in April. It is now time to think about and discuss potential projects for the fall funding rounds.

- In early January 2026, Catawba Regional COG held the Catawba Regional Elected Officials Forum in collaboration with the region’s Chambers of Commerce. Over 200 people attended this event.
- The Regional Workforce Housing Study is underway and making progress. The second round of focus groups will take place in April, and it is anticipated that the study will conclude during summer 2026.
- Catawba Regional COG is providing Financial Management Services for Santee Lynches COG on an interim basis.
- The Catawba Regional WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) program was monitored by the SC Department of Employment and Workforce (SC DEW) at the end of 2025. There were no findings in the programmatic or financial monitorings. Presently, the COG is meeting or exceeding all of the workforce goals for the current program year as negotiated with SC DEW. Catawba Regional was awarded “High Performance Workforce Board” grant funding from SC DEW; these funds will primarily be used for computer replacement in the workforce centers. Mike Geddings, the chair of the Catawba Regional Workforce Development Board, was named the “2025 SC COGS Volunteer of the Year.”
- Congress recently approved \$466 million for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) for FY 2026, a modest \$2 million reduction below FY 2025 levels. EDA Economic Adjustment (EA) funding is up by \$6.5 million, and workforce training grant funding increased by \$10 million. The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC) were funded at parity with last fiscal year, \$200 million and \$20 million, respectively. The FY26 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Bill will keep the federal workforce development program funding at or very near to current funding levels through September 30, 2026. The FY26 bill funded the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at \$7.2 billion higher than FY25. The FY26 bill provided over \$6.99 billion for HUD’s Community Development Fund, including level funding of \$3.3 billion for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula program.

V. Other Business

There was no other business.

VI. Regional Roundup

Representatives from each county provided brief highlights about projects and activities in their respective cities and counties.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Imler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "l".

Randy Imler
Executive Director

*Note: These Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) project amendments were passed as presented on 2/5/2026.

CRCOG Rural Transportation Providers FY 2024-2033 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment 5311 and 5339 Program							
Chester County	5311 Rural Transportation Program						
	Fiscal Year	FY 25-26	FY 26-27	FY 27-28	FY 28-29	FY 29-30	FY 31-32
	Administrative	\$142,549	\$142,549	\$146,825	\$151,230	\$155,767	\$160,440
	Operations	\$469,485	\$469,485	\$483,570	\$498,077	\$513,019	\$528,410
	ADA Capital	\$ -	\$520,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Capital	\$108,530	\$108,530	\$2,611,786	\$115,139	\$118,594	\$122,151
	Total	\$720,564	\$1,240,564	\$3,242,181	\$764,446	\$787,380	\$811,001
	5339 Bus and Bus Facilities Program (2023 Discretionary Grant)						
		Estimated Total Project	Federal Amount	State Mass Transit Funds (SMTF)	Local Funding		
	Administrative	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
	Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
	ADA Capital	\$520,000	\$520,000	\$ -	\$ -		
	Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
	Total	\$520,000	\$520,000	\$ -	\$ -		
Lancaster County	5311 Rural Transportation Program						
	Fiscal Year	FY 25-26	FY 26-27	FY 27-28	FY 28-29	FY 29-30	FY 31-32
	Administrative	\$155,230	\$155,230	\$159,887	\$164,684	\$169,624	\$174,713
	Operations	\$432,247	\$432,247	\$445,214	\$458,571	\$472,328	\$486,498
	ADA Capital	\$ -	\$736,500	\$ -	\$418,500	\$ -	\$569,200
	Capital	\$38,170	\$38,170	\$39,315	\$40,495	\$41,709	\$42,961
	Total	\$625,647	\$1,362,147	\$644,416	\$1,082,250	\$683,661	\$1,273,372
	5339 Bus and Bus Facilities Program (2023 Discretionary Grant)						
		Estimated Total Project	Federal Amount	State Mass Transit Funds (SMTF)	Local Funding		
	Administrative	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
	Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
	ADA Capital	\$736,500	\$736,500	\$ -	\$ -		
	Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
	Total	\$736,500	\$736,500	\$ -	\$ -		
York County	5311 Rural Transportation Program						
	Fiscal Year	FY 25-26	FY 26-27	FY 27-28	FY 28-29	FY 29-30	FY 31-32
	Administrative	\$61,300	\$68,900	\$70,970	\$74,520	\$78,240	\$82,150

	Operations	\$328,800	\$365,780	\$384,070	\$403,275	\$415,370	\$436,140
	ADA Capital	\$372,750	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Capital	\$83,670	\$95,434	\$98,290	\$101,230	\$140,260	\$107,380
	Total	\$846,520	\$530,114	\$553,330	\$579,025	\$597,870	\$325,670
	5339 Bus and Bus Facilities Program (2023 Discretionary Grant)						
	5339 Bus and Bus Facilities Program (2023 Discretionary Grant)	Estimated Total Project	Federal Amount	State Mass Transit Funds (SMTF)	Local Funding		
	Administrative	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
	Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
	ADA Capital	\$372,750	\$372,750	\$ -	\$ -		
	Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
	Total	\$372,750	\$372,750	\$ -	\$ -		
Union	5311 Rural Transportation Program (Pilot)						
	Fiscal Year	FY 25-26	FY 26-27	FY 27-28			
	Administrative	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -			
	Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -			
	ADA Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -			
	Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -			
	Total	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$37,000			