

COG Calendar:

- CEDS Meeting
May 24th @
House of
Ribeyes
- Next COG Board Meeting,
May 25th @
6:30 p.m.
- Next TAC/TCC Meeting,
May 25th @
3-5 p.m.
- Office Closed
Monday,
May 29th for
Memorial Day

Around the Region

COG Board Meeting

COG Board Meeting will be held at the COG office on **May 25, 2017** at 6:30 p.m. Draft budget will be presented.

CEDS Meeting

The next Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **May 24** at the House of Ribeyes in Oxford. This process is an important requirement for EDA purposes and must be completed every 5 years. The first two meetings consisted of a SWOT Analysis and breakout sessions.

North Carolina's EDA Representative, Hillary Sherman welcomed a new baby boy, Benjamin Lamar Zelenka into the world at 3:58AM on April 20. We are happy to report that Hillary and baby Benjamin are doing well!

TAC/TCC Meeting

The May TAC/TCC Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, **May 25** at 3:00 pm at the COG office. The speaker will be Sarah Lee, an engineer with the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Strategic Prioritization Office of Transportation (SPOT).

NCLM Infrastructure Symposium

The North Carolina League of Municipalities and Smith Moore Leatherwood invite you to join us for a local infrastructure mobile tour, lunch keynote address on the shifting infrastructure landscape in cities and towns, three collaborative panel conversations with an opportunity for at the Raleigh Convention Center on **May 18, 2017**. To register, click [here](#).

If You Have Sidewalks, You May Not Need a Separate Walking Trail

All you really need is a map and/or signs that show people a measured route. Kannapolis, NC has a "Loop the Loop" route that is part of the city's Discover a Healthy Life Initiative with a goal of increasing physical activity of its residents. "Bring a friend, meet new friends, enjoy the scenic downtown—all while exercising." Residents are invited to track their mileage and complete 150 miles by the end of 2017. At the end of each quarter participants are eligible to earn prizes. Learn more at www.kannapolisnc.gov/looptheloop Even a small town could do this.

Around the Region Continued

COG Employee Spotlight

Melissa Catlett, Family Caregiver Resource Specialist and Region K Senior Games Coordinator, has been with the COG for ten and a half years. Currently Melissa is busy with her North Carolina Family Caregiver Support program, conducting Healthy Eating for Older Adults classes, meeting with caregiver support groups, and Alzheimer's support groups. Meanwhile, coordinating 2017 Region K Senior Games, that began on March 23rd with opening ceremonies in Warren County and will end on May 18th with Silverarts and Awards in Granville County. Senior Games is a holistic approach to keeping the body, mind, and spirit fit while enjoying the company of friends, family, spectators and volunteers for persons age 55 and better. Melissa resides in Vance County and in her spare time, she volunteers for Special Olympics in Vance County, spends time with her husband, Steve, and son, Camden, who is actively involved in acting and Melissa is his biggest fan, never missing a show! Melissa also has a love for her friends, two fur-babies, and chic-fil-a (which she has for breakfast six days a week). The COG is very privileged to have such a great employee!



NC Rural Center 2016 Impact Report

To read this report: [2016 Impact Report](#).

Kerr-Tar Council of Governments Revolving Loan Fund

The Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments administers a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to assist existing businesses as well as new entrepreneurs in securing financing they are otherwise unable to secure through traditional channels. The primary goal of the RLF program is to create new jobs in the region. Preference is given to businesses that will add full-time skilled or semi-skilled positions. The source of funding is the Federal Economic Development Administration (EDA). Some specific guidelines may apply. The Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments welcomes partnering with other lenders to assist local area business to succeed and thrive. For more information contact [Mark Warren](#). Click [here](#) to view the brochure or [here](#) for an application.

Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE): Interactive Data and Mapping

Interactive map providing access to health insurance coverage data by county, with option to focus results by age, gender, race/ethnicity, and income. [Read article...](#)

You Decide: What Determines County Jobless Rates?

Dr. Mike Walden of NCSU has a column that addresses the NC economy. His most recent column on county jobless rates provides some interesting information. We encourage you to read the whole article, but here are his conclusions: "So what are the conclusions from this analysis of county unemployment rates? First, today's job market values education. One of the challenges for high-unemployment counties is losing their best and brightest to the state's big cities. Second, the results are consistent with businesses preferring a fitter and "cleaner" workforce. Anything job-challenged counties can do to reduce obesity and addictions among their workforce can help in job recruitment. Last, population growth matters. Over one-third of our state's counties are losing population. It's difficult to increase jobs and lower unemployment in this situation. Can we reduce the spread between our county jobless rates? Or, are such differences inevitable and a "fact of economic life" we have to live with? You decide." To read the whole column: <http://www.ncspin.com/what-determines-county-jobless-rates/>

Planning & Economic Development

Upcoming Meeting on Draft 2018-2027 STIP in Mid-May

A meeting including representatives from the NCDOT is being planned for mid-May in the Kerr-Tar offices to discuss the STIP Prioritization Process as well as questions and concerns related to the Draft STIP that will be finalized in June. The possibilities of developing an alternate criteria will also be discussed. Please [click here](#) to see the Kerr-Tar projects in the Draft 2017-2028 STIP so that you can check to see if you have concerns. The date for this meeting will be finalized soon!

FTA Announces \$55M Funding for Low- or No-Emission

The main purpose of the Low-No Program is to support the transition of the nation's transit fleet to the lowest polluting and most energy efficient transit vehicles. The Low-No Program provides funding to State and local governmental authorities for the purchase or lease of zero-emission and low-emission transit buses, including acquisition, construction, and leasing of required supporting facilities. Only \$31.5 million is available under the Continuing Resolution that expires on April 28, 2017. Synopses and full announcement are posted on Grants.gov site as opportunity [FTA-2017-003-LowNo](#). Proposals must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov website by 5 p.m. Eastern Time on **6/26/2017**. Click [here](#) for more details.

Community Workshops for NC Public Transportation Division Strategic Plan

For the press release and May 2017 workshop schedule please [click here](#).

The N.C. Department of Transportation is developing the Public Transportation Statewide Strategic Plan to improve bus, rail, and paratransit services across the state by better matching transit services to the needs of North Carolinians. For more information, please visit <https://www.ncdot.gov/nctransit/strategicplan/>

Granville County Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update

Granville County has the oldest CTP (2008) in the Kerr-Tar RPO and is in the process of being updated. The Granville County Transportation Planning Committee, CAMPO and Kerr-Tar RPO staff are currently working with NCDOT on the update. Following on from the comprehensive public survey, we are looking at pedestrian, bicycle and public transportation needs at the upcoming monthly meetings. The Granville County Transportation Planning Committee normally meets the first Tuesday of every month at the Granville Expo Center.

NADO on the Hill

In March, Diane Cox, Executive Director, and Michael Kelly, Regional Planning Director, attended the National Association of Development Organizations' Policy Conference in Washington, DC. "NADO on the Hill" allowed COG staff to meet with their elected officials about EDA funding and federal funding of local district projects, important to the region. While there, Michael and Diane attended various seminars on a variety of topics ranging from transportation and infrastructure to workforce to rural policy.





Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments Broadband Summit

On April 6, the COG hosted a regional broadband summit at the Granville County Expo and Convention Center. This Summit provided our regional partners an opportunity to learn valuable techniques for implementing broadband from Person County, officials from the NC Broadband Infrastructure Office, North Carolina's USDA Field Representative, and Service Providers CenturyLink and Verizon. The event was well attended.

Town of Bunn Planning & Zoning Board

Michael Kelly and Mark Warren with the COG conducted a training with members of the Town of Bunn's Planning and Zoning Board on April 17. This five member volunteer board is comprised of individuals interested in planning-related issues in Bunn. Members are appointed from either the Town's Corporate Limits or ETJ.



2020 Census Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) Workshop

The region's first informational workshop for the 2020 Census Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) was held on April 17 in Granville County. The Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program invites local governments to review the Census Bureau's list of residential addresses for their area and recommend any updates or changes. An accurate and complete census is important to your community. The LUCA Operation is the one and only opportunity for tribal, state, and local governments to review and comment on the Census address list, which will serve as the foundation for the 2020 Decennial Census. For more information, click [here](#).

North Carolina Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations 2017 Annual Conference

Ann Stroobant, Regional Planner & RPO Coordinator, attended the North Carolina Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations 2017 Annual Conference in New Bern April 26-28. The conference theme was "Planning in a Time of Change." The Conference featured a comprehensive array of high quality technical sessions, special speakers, and timely agency updates. More than 350 participants from MPOs, RPOs, NCDOT, the consultant community, transit agencies, and other organizations attended the conference. While transportation planners, engineers, and consultants made up the core participants, the conference also offered an opportunity for transit administrators, elected officials, land-use planners, public health professionals, students, and others to learn more about a variety of transportation related topics.

North Carolina Rural Day

On May 8-9, the North Carolina Rural Center hosted Rural Day in Raleigh. This event provided attendees with an opportunity to speak to state officials about the needs of rural North Carolina. Speakers included: Governor Roy Cooper, Lieutenant Governor Dan Forest, Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger, House Speaker Tim Moore and Agricultural Commissioner Steve Troxler. The two-day event was filled with activities to promote rural North Carolina and allowed a chance for participants to meet with their County's respective elected officials.

NC Bike Summit - November 3-4: Wilmington, NC

The 2017 NC Bike Summit promises to be packed full of information useful to bicycle advocates, transportation planners, business owners, elected officials, tactical urbanists, public health practitioners, and livability and sustainability professionals. The mission of the summit is to: Foster collaboration; Educate and Inform; and Promote bicycling as a valid form of transportation and as an economic driver. Visit <http://www.bikewalknc.org/nc-bicycle-summit/>

Planning & Economic Development Continued

Bridge Replacement

Replace Bridge No.143 on Dave Winston Road (S.R. 1441) over Johnston Creek in Granville County-The bridge was built in 1960 and needs to be replaced in order to meet state and federal criteria and to ensure that it stays safe for many years. Right of Way Acquisition in Year 2017-Construction in Year 2018

You can expect to see representatives of NCDOT visit the bridge site. In fact, you may already have noticed biologist, environmental scientists, engineers, planners, surveyors, architectural historians, or archaeologists surveying the area.

Public involvement is an important part of the highway project development process. NCDOT encourages citizen involvement on transportation projects, and will consider all suggestions. Your opinion is important to us. Please send all comments, concerns, or questions **by May 15, 2017** to Mrs. April Annis, 919-707-6011 or aannis@ncdot.gov.

CCX Transportation and Freight Master Plan

The Carolinas Gateway Partnership (CGP), the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), and North Carolina Department of Commerce (NCDOC) are partnering with CSX to develop the Carolina Connector Intermodal Facility (CCX) in Edgecombe County that will provide intermodal access to Rocky Mount, the Twin Counties (Nash and Edgecombe County), the Triangle, and all of eastern North Carolina. The construction of CCX will also provide rail intermodal access to the Port of Wilmington. In order to maximize the number of jobs created by CCX, the area around the site and transportation connections between the site and other potential freight nodes need to be planned. For more information, please click [here](#).

Workforce Development

North Carolina Employment and Training Association (NCETA) Annual Conference

Deborah Cozart, Performance and Accountability Coordinator, recently attended the North Carolina Employment and Training Association (NCETA) annual NCETA conference which was a Celebration of 50 Years of Excellence. Truly a lot has changed over the past 50 years. And this conference provided her a chance to gain up-to-date knowledge on the ever evolving changes and existing issues in workforce development practices. According to Dr. Robert J. (Bob) Witchger, President of the North Carolina Employment and Training Association, "Workforce development issues have never been more important than they are today", and as a result, NCETA concentrated their conference planning efforts on "*Focusing on Frontline Workforce Development Professionals*". Click [here](#) to read more...



WIOA Success Story

Are you having a hard time landing a job and feel defeated or frustrated? NCWorks Career Centers have staff that can help assist you. If you need a little inspiration, read this success story and how an individual that had been released for prison was having a difficult time finding employment and through meetings with an employee at NCWorks Career Center, proper training and certification, is now a full-time employee. Click [here](#) for the entire story.

ABS Nominations- Student and Grad

WIOA Participant Jasmine Tanner has received the annual Outstanding Graduate award presented by the PCC Continuing Education Department at their Spring 2017 Convocation. Jasmine was the highest achieving student in the Certified Logistics Technician class. She was also instrumental in tutoring other students during the semester. For this award, two nominations are taken each year by each division within Continuing Education.



NCWorks Career Pathways Conference

The NCWorks Career Pathways Conference will be in Cary, NC **May 17th-19th**. This conference will be great for workforce and education professionals. Click [here](#) for more information and to register for the conference.

Advanced Manufacturing Skills Training Alliance Cruisers 2017 Event

SAVE THE DATE: The Advanced Manufacturing Skills Training Alliance Cruisers 2017 event is scheduled for **June 21, 2017** from 9:00 am - 1:30 pm. There will be two panel discussions hosted, a tour of Franklinton High School, and local Workforce Development Boards and Vance-Granville Community College will have information tables related to career pathways. We will also serve lunch. Please click [here](#) to view the Save the Date flyer! Check back for more information coming soon. We look forward to seeing you there!!

AGING

Save the Date – Region K World Elder Abuse Awareness Walk

Please **MARK YOUR CALENDARS** for the 3rd Annual Region K World Elder Abuse Awareness Walk to be held on **June 15, 2017**. This year the event will be hosted by Vance County. Start time is 8:30 am with Registration; Walk to start at 9:30 am. Location has been set as, Dabney Elementary, 150 Lanning Road Henderson, NC. If you have any questions or wish to register as a vendor please contact [Kim Hawkins](#), Regional Ombudsman at (252)436-2050 or 1(866)506-6223. We are looking forward to seeing you on June 15, 2017 in Vance County.



SHIP/Medicare

Low Income Subsidy/Extra Help Outreach Events:

Franklin County

May 26, 2017 @ Franklinton Senior Center –602 E Macon St., Franklinton, NC 27525

2017 Region K Senior Games

Senior Games kicked off on Thursday, March 23, 2017 at John Graham Gymnasium, in Warren County with opening ceremonies, basketball shooting, and a fun walk. In the month of April, seniors participated in bowling, golf, badminton, croquet, table tennis, track events, pickleball, and much more. Senior Games will come to a close on Thursday, **May 18th** at Oxford City Hall in Granville County with SilverArts and Awards.



Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments

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Bryan Pfohl | At-Large

Danny Wright | At-Large

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Franklin County
Granville County
Person County
Vance County
Warren County

Town of Bunn
Town of Butner
City of Creedmoor
Town of Franklinton
City of Henderson
Town of Kittrell
Town of Louisburg
Town of Macon

Town of Middleburg
Town of Norlina
City of Oxford
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Town of Stem
Town of Stovall
Town of Warrenton
Town of Youngsville

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MISSION STATEMENT

Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments aims to promote regionalism that provides opportunities for local governments to enhance and improve the quality of life for our citizens through effective delivery of services and programs.