

COG Calendar:

- Wednesday,
December 14,
2016 TAC/TCC
Board Meeting
3-5 p.m.
- Staff Christmas
Luncheon
Thursday,
December 22nd
- COG Office
closed
December 23rd
& 26th.
- COG Office
closed January
2nd, 2017.

Around the Region

Happy Holidays

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays from the staff at Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments. We would like to thank each of you for the support and involvement throughout 2016. We look forward to interacting with each of you in 2017 as well. Have a safe & Happy New Year!



TAC/TCC Board Meeting

The next Kerr-Tar TAC/TCC meeting is **Wednesday, December 14th** from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Kerr-Tar Office. Please check our [website](#) for updates.

COG Board Meeting

NO COG Board Meeting in December. Next COG Board Meeting is Thursday, January 26th, 2017.

CEDS Meeting

The first meeting for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee will be held on **Thursday, January 12, 2017** at the House of Ribeye's in Oxford, NC.

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 (mwarren@kerrtarcog.org). Click [here](#) to view the brochure or [here](#) for an application.

Planning & Economic Development



EPA Announces Environmental Justice Small Grants Request for Proposals

The *Environmental Protection Agency* (EPA) has recently opened a solicitation for [fiscal year 2017 Environmental Justice Small Grants](#). Under this request for proposals, EPA will award grants that support activities designed to empower and educate affected communities to understand environmental and public health issues, and to identify ways to address these issues at the local level. Approximately 40 one-year projects will be awarded at \$30,000 each. The deadline for applications is **January 31, 2017**.

NCDOT Launches Annual Customer Survey

The N.C. Department of Transportation has opened the department's second annual customer survey. All citizen feedback will be collected online. Citizens wishing to participate can visit go.ncsu.edu/customerservice2016. The survey takes 15 minutes to complete and the survey link is mobile friendly.

The N.C. General Assembly requires the survey to gauge how the transportation department is providing great customer service. Participation can help NCDOT identify ways to make North Carolina transportation services safer, more efficient and customer focused. The online survey will close **December 31**. The results will be available to the public on NCDOT.gov in 2017.



Census Bureau Releases Datasets; Rural Areas Featured

This week, the U.S. Census Bureau released findings from the five-year American Community Survey. The datasets share information on various statistical categories, including housing, household income, and education. Along with the dataset release, the Census Bureau has provided new focus on rural areas through an interactive map and blog postings. The interactive map shares maps, images, and information which shows how the Census Bureau defines rural. *Random Samplings*, the agency's blog, highlights data from rural areas on topics ranging from workforce and foreign-born populations to income, among others. The 2011-2015 American Community Survey data can be found [here](#). The interactive map is available [here](#). The *Random Samplings* blog can be found [here](#).

New Smart Growth America Program Provides Technical Assistance in Connecting Small-Scale Manufacturing with Community Development

In partnership with the [U.S. Economic Development Administration](#) (EDA) and [Recast City, Smart Growth America](#) is offering [free technical assistance](#) to community leaders interested in using small-scale manufacturing to help revitalize a downtown or neighborhood and create economic opportunity. Communities selected for this opportunity will receive a professionally facilitated two- to three-day workshop, followed by a customized action plan that identifies next steps and resources available for implementation. Any units or subdivisions of regional, local, or tribal government, as well as non-profits and non-governmental organizations such as community development corporations and community foundations, are eligible to apply. Applications for this technical assistance will be accepted until **January 6, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. ET**. Click [here](#) for more information and to apply.

Planning & Economic Development

Local Food Economies

The Center for Environmental Farming Systems (CEFS) has launched a new initiative to engage local governments in the work of building local food systems. Local Food Economies (LFE) is part of NC Growing Together (NCGT), a project that aims to bring more locally-produced foods into mainstream markets. The LFE initiative was developed to support the work of local government and economic development agencies as they seek to expand the capacity and potential of businesses within the local food value chain. Click [here](#) for the Local Government Guide.

NC Lakes District Bike Plan

Regional-Wide Adoption of NC Lakes District Bike Plan: This Plan was adopted by the full TAC/TCC in October and the KTCOG Board of Directors in November. Kerr-Tar staff will present the final plan before all five county Boards of Commissioners during the months of December – February. If you would like to view a PDF copy of **NC Lakes District Regional Bike Plan**, please click [here](#).



CEDS Committee



The first meeting for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee will be held on **Thursday, January 12, 2017**. Guest speaker will be Ms. Hillary Sherman, North Carolina's Economic Development Representative for the EDA. An email invitation will be sent along with announcement on our website as the date approaches.

Many of you have received a link to complete the **NC Tomorrow Plan Survey**. If you have not already done so, please click [here](#) to complete the short survey. The deadline to complete this survey is **December 23, 2016**. The responses received will form the basis of the first CEDS meeting. For more information contact Michael Kelly (mkelly@kerrtarcog.org).

Plug-In NC Summit

Michael Kelly, Suja Jacob, and Tony Sumter attended the 6th Annual Plug-In NC Summit on November 15 at the Dorothy and Roy Park Alumni Center in Raleigh on North Carolina State's Centennial Campus. Mr. Ben Prochazka, *Director of Strategic Initiatives* for The Electrification Coalition, a nonprofit, nonpartisan group of business and community leaders committed to prompting policies and actions to facilitate the deployment of electric vehicles on a large scale, served as the Summit's guest speaker. All three participated in individualized breakout sessions on the topics of: *Policy, Fleet Management, and Charging Infrastructures* led by technical experts in the field representing various industries.



CMAQ PROJECTS for FY18 and FY19

Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) is a federal program that funds transportation projects and programs in air quality nonattainment and maintenance areas. If you are in one of our CMAQ eligible counties (Granville, Franklin and Person), please start considering possible projects for submission to us in January/February 2017. Please contact Ann Stroobant (astroobant@kerrtarcog.org) for more information.

Workforce Development

Local Career centers held many workshops to offer in the month of November, including:

- Basic Computer Skills
- Resume Writing
- Professionalism

To see the full calendar, please click [here](#). For more information please contact Kelly Hundley at khundley@kerrtarcog.org

Congratulations to Ben Foti!

Ben Foti, Youth Programs Coordinator with the Workforce Development Board, is receiving his Master of Public Administration this month from North Carolina Central University. He is graduating Summa Cum Laude with a 4.0 GPA. He is also a member of the Pi Alpha Alpha National Honor Society. Ben has served the Council of Governments in multiple positions since 2004.



Career Fair

On Monday, August 22 and Tuesday, August 23 the NCWorks Career Center in Oxford hosted GKN Driveline of Roxboro for a Career Fair. GKN Driveline is the world's leading supplier of automotive driveline technologies and systems. The career fair was to assist GKN with recruiting for a variety of available positions including machine operator, forklift driver, quality technician, and maintenance technician. After having a discussion about reaching out to other candidate pools in our region by having an offsite career fair, GKN scheduled a date and sent a recruiting team consisting of 5 Interviewers and a Scheduler to the NCWorks Career Center in Oxford for 2 full days of interviews. Over the 2 days, 45 potential candidates attended of which 35 have been invited to the GKN Roxboro location to receive pre-hire paperwork and a facility tour. Once a hiring decision has been made GKN and their eligible new hires will be participating in our On the Job Training program as the new employees adjust to their new positions. GKN is just one of the many examples of how the local Workforce Development team is using the programs and services we have to partner with and support the local business community which in turn creates opportunities that strengthen the entire community.

Career Pathways Certification

At the November 9, 2016 NCWorks Commission meeting, Kerr-Tar was one of seven Workforce Boards to receive Career Pathway Certification in Advanced Manufacturing. The recognition was the result of a collaborative effort between Vance-Granville Community College, Piedmont Community College, Franklin, Vance, Granville, Person and Warren County Career and Technical Education Directors that began 18 months ago. The program design will include classroom training with designated entry and exit points that can go from secondary school to Bachelor's level training in the Advanced Manufacturing Sector.

Thirteen of the state's 23 WDBs and seven of the state's eight prosperity zones have at least one career pathway certified by the NCWorks Commission. Kerr-Tar partnered with Durham and Capital Area Workforce Boards who were certified for Information Technology and Health and Life Sciences at the same meeting. This will enable the three boards to serve citizens from the three areas in each pathway, which is advantageous because of commuting patterns between the three Board regions.

America's Promise Grant

We received notification from the U.S. Department of Labor that we did not receive the America's Promise Grant. In total 243 applications were filed with 12 of those being funded. Thank you for the partnerships that occurred to put together this application. We will continue to look for funding for additional workforce and training opportunities for our Region.

AGING

Medicare Part D Open Enrollment

Medicare Part D Open Enrollment ends in December. The AAA assisted the Franklin County Department on Aging with its first Open Enrollment Event. Medicare beneficiaries came to the Louisburg Library to research and enroll in new prescription drug plans. Every year, starting in October through December 7, beneficiaries can choose plans that are cheaper, have little to no premium costs or they can continue to remain in their current plan. This matters because older adults often take more than one prescription drug, prescriptions may change and drug insurance plans often change how they pay for medications.

As of December 1 we have assisted nearly 50 Medicare beneficiaries within the Kerr Tar Region, with a total savings of \$5,521. Six seniors in Franklin County saved \$251 in drug plan costs, 26 Vance County seniors saved \$4,241 and Granville County serviced 15 beneficiaries with a costs savings of \$1,029.

Kerr-Tar AAA staff are certified counselors for the Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP). SHIIP counselors assist beneficiaries by comparing plans during the Open Enrollment Period; Medicare beneficiaries can save money and make certain that their 2017 plan will be the best for their needs.



Person County Senior Center Aging Plan

Kerr Tar Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is working with Person County Senior Center staff to develop its Aging Plan. We need volunteers for the Steering Committee. The first committee meeting is planned for **Thursday, January 5, 2017 from 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** at the Roxboro Senior Center, 309 Long Avenue, Roxboro.



Do you enjoy advocating on the behalf of older adults? We need you! **Volunteer!**

Currently, there are vacancies for the Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee's (CAC) throughout the region. Volunteer advocates are appointed by county commissioners to serve on CAC's. The primary purpose of a CAC is to maintain the intent of the Nursing Home and Adult Care Home Resident's Bill of Rights in facilities and to promote community involvement and cooperation with these homes to ensure quality of care. The CAC's are responsible for advising the board of county commissioners of the general conditions existing within each county. There are vacancies in the following counties.

- Franklin County – 5 Nursing Home vacancies and 6 Adult Care Home committee vacancies
- Person County – 2 on each committee (Nursing and Adult Care Home)
- Vance County – 1 on each committee (Nursing and Adult Care Home)
- Warren County – 5 Adult Care Home committee vacancies

FREE Healthy Eating for Successful Living workshop

We are looking forward to Christmas and a New Year! It will be easy to eat cookies and candy and cake! If you want to start the New Year off with improved health, sign up for the *Healthy Eating for Successful Living* workshop. The program will be held once a week for six weeks, is an evidence-based nutrition program for diverse community-dwelling adults age 60 and better. The overall goal of Healthy Eating is to increase self-efficacy and general well being by improving participants' knowledge of nutritional choices that focus on heart and bone healthy foods as well as supportive physical activities. Goal setting, problem solving and self-monitoring are used to optimize individual behavior change. Please contact the AAA if you are interested. The workshop is FREE!



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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.kerrtarcog.org

Executive Committee

Chairman

Barry Richardson
Warren County

Vice Chairman

Quon Bridges
City of Oxford

Treasurer

Jimmy Clayton
Person County

Sidney Dunston | Franklin County
Zelodis Jay | Granville County
Terry Garrison | Vance County

Tommy Hester | Vance County
John Alston | Warren County
Linda Jordon | Town of Butner
Eddie Ellington | City of Henderson
Joe Shearon | Town of Louisburg
Henry Daniel | City of Roxboro
Walter Gardner | Town of Warrenton

David Smith | At-Large
Bryan Pfohl | At-Large
Danny Wright | At-Large

Communities Served

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
City of Roxboro
Town of Stem
Town of Stovall
Town of Warrenton
Town of Youngsville

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Kerr-Tar
Regional Council
Of Governments



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.