The Executive Board

Agenda

Wednesday, April 8, 2015
Centralina Council of Governments
525 North Tryon Street, 12th Floor
Charlotte, NC 28202

*Chairman Michael Johnson will convene a meeting of the **Centralina COG Board of Delegates on Wednesday, April 8, 2015. A light dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held in the **Catawba Room of the Centralina COG office on the 12th floor of the 525 North Tryon Street building.***

Time	Item	Presenter
6:00 p.m.	**Dinner** *Please RSVP to Kelly Weston at kweston@centralina.org or (704) 348-2728 by* ***12:00 p.m. on Monday, April 6** so that catering can be arranged.*	Kelly Weston
6:30 p.m.	**Call to Order, Welcome & Declaration of Quorum**	Michael Johnson
	Amendments to the Agenda (if any)	Michael Johnson
Consent Items: *Consent agenda items may be considered in one motion and without discussion except for those items removed by a Board member.*		
6:35 p.m. **Item 1** *p. 5 - 8*	**Approval of the Executive Board Minutes from the March 11, 2015 Meeting** *The minutes of the March 11, 2015 meeting have been distributed to all members of the Executive Board and should be approved if correct.* **Action/Recommendation:** *I move to approve the March 11, 2015 Executive Board meeting minutes.*	Michael Johnson

Item 2
 p. 9 - 11
	Proposed Amendment to the Operating Budget for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015
	 It is recommended that the Board of Delegates of Centralina COG approve the following amendment to the Centralina COG Annual Operating Budget Ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015:
	
	 To amend the Operating Budget, the revenues are to be changed as follows:
	
	                                                 Increase Decrease
	 Federal Grants $ 97,682
	 Technical Assistance Revenue $ 1,457
	 Program Revenue $ 1,225
	 Sales Revenue $ 45,000
	                                 $145,364 $ -
	
	                 Net Increase $145,364
	
	 To amend the Operating Budget, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:
	
	                                       Increase Decrease
	 Executive and Board of Delegates $ 35,000
	 General Governance $ 81,224
	 Community and Economic Development $ 99,140 $ -
	                     $180,364 $ 35,000
	
	                Net Increase $145,364
	
	 Action/Recommendation:
	 I move to amend the Centralina COG Annual Operating Budget Ordinance in the amount of a $145,364 reduction as outlined to a budget of $6,693,379.
		Tonya Frye

Regular Business Items:		
6:40 p.m. **Item 3** 10 minutes *p. 12 - 15*	**Report of Financial Activity for the Period Ending February 28, 2015** *The Statement of Activities for the period ending February 28, 2015 reflects the expenditures incurred and revenue earned through 67% of the fiscal year. The state grant revenue and the technical assistance revenue are in line with the budget to*	Tonya Frye

The Executive Board
Agenda

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Time	Item	Presenter
	date.	
	The federal grant revenue lags behind the budget due to less Workforce Development program expenditures (only 45% of budget expended to date). The program revenue budget includes match related to the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). Management is pursuing multiple avenues to recoup this match for the SCSEP.	
	All other revenue budget variances are reasonable or immaterial.	
	The expenditures for General Governance, Community and Economic Development, and Planning Administration are slightly over budget, but are not of concern. The expenditures are less than the year-to-date recommended April 8, 2015 amended budget for General Governance and Community and Economic Development.	
	The majority of the CONNECT Sustainable Communities Initiative budget will be expended through February 2015, so timing is the primary reason this functional expenditure is over budget.	
	All other expenditure budget variances are reasonable or immaterial.	
	The report includes approximately $181,000 in unfunded expenditures for CONNECT-related close-out activities.	
	The Financial Risk Analysis is a conservative evaluation of the current year operating budget. The Budget section reflects the approved operating budget and the Actual section reflects anticipated expenditures and secured/committed revenues. Currently, the projected expenditures exceed projected revenues by $393,155. The reduction in the gap (from the February 2015 amount of $473,713) is the result of additional technical assistance project contracts, collection of SCSEP match, and receipt of revenue for surveys completed by Medicare clients who participate in health workshops that Centralina COG conducts.	
	Management is reviewing this gap regularly to ensure that the Council is progressing toward meeting revenue goals or making necessary adjustments to expenditures. Management is also tracking indirect costs and evaluating ways to minimize these costs. Centralina COG continues to incur legal fees (over $56,000 in the current fiscal year through February 2015) associated with the vendor CabAire, and staff vacancies have also hindered the recovery of indirect costs. Management is employing cost saving measures to limit the difference between costs and the amount recovered from grants and contracts.	
	Management is meeting with the budget managers and the Board's audit committee to evaluate the financial status and provide recommendations for adjustments. Management proposes a budget amendment to the operating budget to more accurately reflect financial awards.	
	Action/Recommendation: *For information and discussion purposes.*	
6:50 p.m. **Item 4** 10 minutes *p. 16 - 19*	**Volunteer Transportation Services Update** *The purpose of this presentation is to provide an update to the CCOG Board regarding the progress of the VTS program as well as to seek support in raising the mandatory 50% local match for the NCDOT 5310 funding. CCOG applied for 5310*	Katie Kutcher

The Executive Board
Agenda

Time	Item	Presenter
	grant funding for FY16 from NCDOT to continue the VTS program. The full annual operating budget is $157,233.00 and the program requires a 50% local match ($78,617.00). **Action/Recommendation:** *Review status of Volunteer Transportation Services (VTS) implementation and funding. Member governments are asked to support VTS by helping identify potential funding sources.*	
7:00 p.m. **Item 5** 10 minutes *p. 20 - 21*	**Regional Freight Update** *The regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) called for a Regional Freight Study to assess and plan for the Region's future freight system needs in order to support the Region's Manufacturing and Logistics "Super-Cluster". This Super-Cluster consists of five of the Region's six primary Industry Clusters (Logistics, Aerospace, Automotive, Energy, and Health), in combination with our workforce core competency in Advanced Manufacturing, upon which these clusters all heavily dependent.* *To meet the economic needs and improve the regional freight system to better align with local land use and transportation infrastructure, Centralina COG initiated the regional freight study. At the direction of the Executive Board, CCOG staff has been working with MPO/RPO and other partners to refine the scope of the study and to seek grant funding and local support for the initiation of the project.* *Staff will preview the status of the project, funding and next steps.* **Action/Recommendation:** *Receive as information.*	Sushil Nepal
7:10 p.m. **Item 6** 5 minutes *p. 22 - 24*	**2015 CCOG Conference Update** *CCOG staff is in the process of planning the second annual CCOG "Creative Solutions for Thriving Communities" Conference. Staff is working with CCOG Delegates serving as Conference Champions who are providing input throughout the coordination phase. The Conference Champions will present a report on these planning efforts.* **Action/Recommendation:** *For information only.*	Sarah McAulay
7:15 p.m. **Item 7** 60 minutes *p. 25 - 31*	**Government Consultant Presentations** *Centralina's strategic initiatives require increased coordination with federal and state elected officials and staff. Some organizations engage outside government consulting services to support this work. These consulting services assist in communicating with federal and state staff locally and in Washington, DC. They typically provide resources that assist with securing grants and technical advice and related services. Their ability to maintain regular contact with portions of the federal and state government (including elected officials and staff) enable the client organization to access information, resources and support more quickly. In addition, these organizations can enable our members (especially elected officials) to be more productive in managing time needed to communicate with federal and state elected officials and staff. Both firms will provide information regarding Centralina's current priority projects.* **Action/Recommendation:** *Interview Leslie Mozingo and Jennifer Imo to receive information about how government-consulting services can assist Centralina in achieving goals.*	Michael Johnson

The Executive Board
Agenda

Time	Item	Presenter
8:15 p.m. 10 minutes	**Comments from the Executive Board**	Board Members
8:25 p.m. 5 minutes	**Comments from the Chair**	Michael Johnson
8:30 p.m. 5 minutes	**Comments from the Executive Director**	Jim Prosser
	Adjournment	Michael Johnson

Item 1

Executive Board Minutes

March 11, 2015

Officers Present	Delegates Present	Delegates Not Present	Centralina Staff
Michael Johnson, Chair Sarah McAulay, Vice-Chair Bill Feather, Treasurer Patsy Kinsey, Secretary	Joe Carpenter Warren Chapman Bill Deter George Dunlap Gene McIntyre Martin Oakes Devin Rhyne	Will Cauthen Bobby Compton Martha Sue Hall Lyndell Ingram Liz Poole Jerry Simpson Jarvis Woodburn	Jim Prosser Vicki Bott Tonya Frye Blair Israel Katie Kutcher Debi Lee Mike Manis Solomon McAuley Michelle Nance Sushil Nepal Sherika Rich Kelly Weston Venecia White

Open and Welcome:
Chair Michael Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Kelly Weston, Clerk to the Board, declared that a quorum was present. Chair Johnson noted there were several new faces in attendance and asked each of the Executive Board members and staff members in attendance to introduce themselves.

Amendments to the Agenda:
Chair Johnson noted there were no amendments to the agenda. Commissioner Joe Carpenter, Gaston County, made a motion to adopt the agenda. Treasurer Bill Feather seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

1. Approval of the Executive Board Minutes from the January 14, 2015 Meeting
Vice Chair Sarah McAulay made a motion to approve the minutes. Secretary Patsy Kinsey seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

2. CONNECT Our Future Update
Sushil Nepal, Project Manager, gave the staff presentation on this item. He gave an overview of the CONNECT Our Future magazine and website.

Commissioner George Dunlap, Mecklenburg County, entered the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Commissioner Martin Oakes, Lincoln County, requested staff reprint the CONNECT magazine with the CONNECT web address listed on the front cover.

In response to a question from Council Member Devin Rhyne, City of Lincolnton, Michelle Nance, Planning Director, explained that CCOG staff will host meetings in 10 counties around the state during May and June to identify which CONNECT tools will work best in those communities.

Jim Prosser, Executive Director, requested the Executive Board members' assistance in promoting the upcoming CONNECT meetings among their staff and other local elected officials.

Commissioner Dunlap made a motion to direct staff to proceed with the CONNECT implementation plan as approved. Secretary Kinsey seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

3. Volunteer Transportation Services Program Update

Katie Kutcher, Aging Programs Coordinator, gave the staff presentation on this item. She explained that CCOG staff has applied for 5310 grant funding from the North Carolina Department of Transportation to continue operating the Volunteer Transportation Services (VTS) program. This grant requires the program to raise a 50% local match before the end of the current fiscal year.

Commissioner Carpenter asked the Executive Director to notify the County Managers that the program is in need of support for raising the local match.

Mr. Prosser asked the Executive Board members for guidance on the program. He also asked the Board to notify staff of organizations that could serve as guarantors for VTS. He added that he cannot recommend continuing the program during the next fiscal year without first identifying a funding source.

Commissioner Dunlap made a motion to direct the Executive Director to notify the VTS Board that the program will be terminated if the funding gap is not closed by June 30, 2015. Treasurer Feather seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Chair Johnson inquired if the program is Medicaid and Medicare reimbursable.

4. Aging Program Match Payments

Mr. Prosser gave the staff presentation on this item.

In response to Treasurer Feather's question, Ms. Debi Lee, Aging Programs Assistant Director, explained that the regional ombudsman program is a requirement under the Older Americans Act. The Centralina Area Agency on Aging currently has five full-time ombudsmen.

Commissioner Oakes requested a list of the volunteer ombudsmen in Lincoln County.

Treasurer Feather made a motion authorizing staff to request match payments for aging programs from county governments. Secretary Kinsey seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

5. Lumina Foundation Grant Update

Mike Manis, Community and Economic Development Director, gave the staff presentation on this item. He presented a video from the Lumina Foundation.

In response to Commissioner Carpenter's question, Mr. Prosser explained that the Lumina work program will complement the Career Headlight program.

In response to Commissioner Oakes' question, Mr. Manis noted that the $120,000 grant will fund the staff time spent on the project.

Vice Chair McAulay made a motion to authorize staff to proceed with Lumina grant implementation. Treasurer Feather seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

6. Proposed Amendment to the Operating Budget for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

Tonya Frye, Finance Director, gave the staff presentation on this item.

Commissioner Dunlap made a motion to amend the Centralina COG Annual Operating Budget Ordinance in the amount of a $65,821 reduction as outlined to a budget of $6,548,015. Vice Chair McAulay seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

7. Report of Financial Activity for the Period Ending January 31, 2015
Ms. Frye gave the staff presentation on this item.

In response to Commissioner Dunlap's question, Ms. Frye explained that CCOG is working to eliminate its funding gap by applying for grants and reducing nonessential spending.

In response to Commissioner Oakes' question, Mr. Prosser noted that CCOG can continue to operate with a funding gap because it receives a significant cash inflow from grants. He added that the organization can request advance funding from these grants.

8. Report on CCOG Office Space Lease
Mr. Prosser gave the staff presentation on this item.

In response to Commissioner Oakes' question, Mr. Prosser noted that CCOG currently leases 12,000 square feet of office space for $360,000 annually.

Commissioner Carpenter made a motion to direct the Executive Director to begin pursuing office space options. Secretary Kinsey seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Vice Chair McAulay, Commissioner Carpenter, and Council Member Rhyne offered their assistance to guide the process for identifying office space options.

9. Discussion on Potential Use of Government Consultant Services
Chair Johnson gave the presentation on this item. He noted that grant competitiveness has increased and that government consultants can assist organizations in securing grants related to strategic priorities including Water, Transportation, and Economic Development.

Commissioner Carpenter indicated that Gaston County worked with a government consultant who successfully assisted the County in securing grants.

Vice Chair McAulay suggested engaging the services of a consultant to lobby for CCOG at the state level.

By consensus, the Board expressed support for receiving a presentation from a government consultant.

Comments from the Executive Board
Commissioner Carpenter noted that he has registered to attend the North Carolina Association of Regional Councils of Government's 2015 Summit from April 27th through April 28th and encouraged the other members of the Executive Board to register as well.

Comments from the Chair
Chair Johnson noted that the Community and Economic Development Department held the Annual Advanced Manufacturing Awards in Concord last month. A trade and exports roundtable discussion with U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Jay Williams followed the event. He added that the Charlotte region ranks 33rd in the world for global economic competitiveness.

He inquired about the Board Members' interest in sending letters to state legislators from the Centralina region requesting their support for the Historic Preservation Tax Credits Bill. By consensus, the Executive Board was in favor of sending the letter. Chair Johnson added that the CONNECT magazine will be mailed to the legislators along with the letter.

Chair Johnson noted that Planning staff facilitated a two-day Town Council retreat for the Town of Weddington in February and received positive feedback from all of the Council Members.

He also pointed out that CCOG's Brownfields-Greyfields Toolkit was referenced in an e-newsletter distributed by nationally-known redevelopment consultant.

Chair Johnson noted that the Region of Excellence Awards ceremony will be held at the May 13th Board of Delegates meeting. Governments across the region are asked to submit projects and programs from their communities that exemplify controlling the cost of government, growing the economy, or improving quality of life.

Ms. Weston swore in Patsy Kinsey as Secretary.

Comments from the Executive Director
There were no comments from the Executive Director.

Adjournment
With no further business to be discussed, Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Item 2

Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Board Meeting Date:	April 8, 2015	Agenda Item Type:	Consent:	X	Regular:	
Submitting Person:	Tonya Frye	Presentation Time *(est.)*:	N/A			
Presenter at meeting:	Tonya Frye	Phone Number/Ext:	(704) 348-2716			
		Email:	tfrye@centralina.org			
Alternate Contact Person:	Bill Feather	Phone Number/Ext:	(704) 245-2807			
		Email:	wfeather@carolina.rr.com			
Submitting Department:	Finance	Department Head Approval:				

Board Expectation: *(required action or responsibility expected from Board members)*

The required action from the Executive Board members is approval to increase the Centralina COG Annual Operating Budget Ordinance by the amount of $145,364 to adjust revenues and expenditures as outlined to a budget of $6,693,379.

Description of Agenda Item: *(same wording as on agenda summary)*

Proposed Amendment to the Operating Budget for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

It is recommended that the Board of Delegates of Centralina COG approve the following amendment to the Centralina COG Annual Operating Budget Ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015:

To amend the Operating Budget, the revenues are to be changed as follows:

	Increase	*Decrease*
Federal Grants	*$ 97,682*	
Technical Assistance Revenue	*$ 1,457*	
Program Revenue	*$ 1,225*	
Sales Revenue	*$ 45,000*	
	$145,364	*$ -*

Net Increase   *$145,364*

To amend the Operating Budget, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

	Increase	*Decrease*
Executive and Board of Delegates		*$ 35,000*
General Governance	*$ 81,224*	
Community and Economic Development	*$ 99,140*	*$ -*
	$180,364	*$ 35,000*

Net Increase   *$145,364*

The budget is amended to reflect current year expenditures associated with the annual conference, contractual services for the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) grant, and additional funding associated with the Lumina grant. The additional grant revenue for the IMCP grant and the Lumina grant is reflected in federal grants revenue. The budget shows a slight increase in technical assistance revenue and in program revenue to reflect a new contract and a Wellness grant awarded. The increase in sales revenue is associated with the Centralina COG annual conference.

The expenditures are adjusted as follows:
· **Executive and Board of Delegates and General Governance:** To minimize an increase in indirect costs, the budget for the Board was reduced and the reduction was credited to the

General Governance budget. The General Governance expenditures are increased to reflect the annual conference expenses, those incurred and those anticipated to prepare for the 2015 conference, and legal expenses related to CabAire (which are approximately $40,000 through February 2015).

· **Community and Economic Development:** Expenditures are increased to include contractual services for the IMCP grant and personnel costs for the second installment of the Lumina grant.

Management requests that the Board amend the operating budget to reflect these changes to revenue and expenditures.

Background & Basis of Recommendations:
The budget is adjusted when new grants are awarded to ensure expenditures are appropriated prior to incurring the expenditure.

Action / Recommendation:
I move to amend the Centralina COG Annual Operating Budget Ordinance in the amount of a $145,364 reduction as outlined to a budget of $6,693,379.

Time Sensitivity *(none or explain)***:**	The final amendment to the current year operating budget must occur before June 30, 2015. Management will submit an amendment to the Executive Board on June 10, 2015.
Budget Impact *(if applicable)***:**	Because General Statute 159-8 requires operation under a balanced budget, this budget includes speculative revenue. This revenue is reviewed regularly within the risk analysis, and the budget is adjusted to reflect more accurately the true anticipated revenue while insuring that all expenditures are budgeted before being appropriated.
List of Attachments *(if any)***:**	Amendment #3 to the Operating Budget

Fiscal Year 2015 Proposed Budget Amendment #3

ANTICIPATED REVENUES	FY2014-2015 Operating Budget*	Amendment	FY2014-2015 Proposed Amended Budget
Program Revenues			
Federal Grants	4,816,664	97,682	4,914,346
State Grants	241,525		241,525
Technical Assistance Projects	430,900	1,457	432,357
Contracts	18,000		18,000
Program Revenue	261,674	1,225	262,899
Total Program Revenue	5,768,763	100,364	5,869,127
Other Revenues			
Member Dues Support	726,252		726,252
Interest Revenue	3,000		3,000
Sales Revenue	50,000	45,000	95,000
Total Other Revenues	779,252	45,000	824,252
TOTAL ANTICIPATED REVENUES	6,548,015	145,364	6,693,379
EXPENSE APPROPRIATIONS			
Board and Executive Committee	232,123	(35,000)	197,123
General Governance	1,514,208	81,224	1,595,431
CONNECT Sustainable Communities Initiative	1,238,913		1,238,913
Information Technology Division	201,558		201,558
Community and Economic Development	612,454	99,140	711,594
Planning Department	938,428		938,428
Area Agency on Aging	2,304,385		2,304,385
Workforce Development	1,338,785		1,338,785
Indirect Costs Representation	(1,832,837)		(1,832,837)
TOTAL EXPENSE APPROPRIATIONS	6,548,015	145,364	6,693,379

*As of March 11, 2015.

Centralina Council of Governments
April 8, 2015

Item 3

Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Board Meeting Date:	April 8, 2015	Agenda Item Type:	Consent:		Regular:	X
Submitting Person:	Tonya Frye	**Presentation Time** *(est.)***:**	10 minutes			
Presenter at meeting:	Tonya Frye	**Phone Number/Ext:**	(704) 348-2716			
		Email:	tfrye@centralina.org			
Alternate Contact Person:	Jim Prosser	**Phone Number/Ext:**	(704) 348-2703			
		Email:	jprosser@centralina.org			
Submitting Department:	**Finance**	**Department Head Approval:**				

Board Expectation: *(required action or responsibility expected from Board members)*

The required action from the Executive Board members is a review of financial information provided and comment on direction of investments for the remainder of the year.

Description of Agenda Item: *(same wording as on agenda summary)*

Report of Financial Activity for the Period Ending February 28, 2015

The Statement of Activities for the period ending February 28, 2015 reflects the expenditures incurred and revenue earned through 67% of the fiscal year. The state grant revenue and the technical assistance revenue are in line with the budget to date.

The federal grant revenue lags behind the budget due to less Workforce Development program expenditures (only 45% of budget expended to date). The program revenue budget includes match related to the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). Management is pursuing multiple avenues to recoup this match for the SCSEP.

All other revenue budget variances are reasonable or immaterial.

The expenditures for General Governance, Community and Economic Development, and Planning Administration are slightly over budget, but are not of concern. The expenditures are less than the year-to-date recommended April 8, 2015 amended budget for General Governance and Community and Economic Development.

The majority of the CONNECT Sustainable Communities Initiative budget will be expended through February 2015, so timing is the primary reason this functional expenditure is over budget.

All other expenditure budget variances are reasonable or immaterial.

The report includes approximately $181,000 in unfunded expenditures for CONNECT-related close-out activities.

The Financial Risk Analysis is a conservative evaluation of the current year operating budget. The Budget section reflects the approved operating budget and the Actual section reflects anticipated expenditures and secured/committed revenues. Currently, the projected expenditures exceed projected revenues by $393,155. The reduction in the gap (from the February 2015 amount of $473,713) is the result of additional technical assistance project contracts, collection of SCSEP match, and receipt of revenue for surveys completed by Medicare clients who participate in health workshops that Centralina COG conducts.

Management is reviewing this gap regularly to ensure that the Council is progressing toward meeting revenue goals or making necessary adjustments to expenditures. Management is also tracking indirect costs and evaluating ways to minimize these costs. Centralina COG continues to incur legal fees (over

$56,000 in the current fiscal year through February 2015) associated with the vendor CabAire, and staff vacancies have also hindered the recovery of indirect costs. Management is employing cost saving measures to limit the difference between costs and the amount recovered from grants and contracts.

Management is meeting with the budget managers and the Board's audit committee to evaluate the financial status and provide recommendations for adjustments. Management proposes a budget amendment to the operating budget to more accurately reflect financial awards.

Background & Basis of Recommendations:

Action / Recommendation:
For information and discussion purposes.

Time Sensitivity *(none or explain)***:**	As noted.
Budget Impact *(if applicable)***:**	As noted.
List of Attachments *(if any)***:**	1) Statement of Activities for Period ended February 28, 2015 2) Financial Risk Analysis as of March 24, 2015

Statement of Activities (Unaudited)
for FY2014-2015 Operating Budget
for Period Ended February 28, 2015

OPERATING REVENUES	FY2013-2014 Audited Activities	FY2014-2015 Adopted Annual Budget	FY2014-2015 Actual to-Date	% Earned or Incurred to-Date	Budget to-Date	To-Date Period Variance
Program Revenues						
Federal Grants	5,125,203	4,816,664	2,663,390	55%	3,211,109	(547,720)
State Grants	37,171	241,525	266,318	110%	161,017	105,302
Technical Assistance Projects	367,278	430,900	274,832	64%	287,267	(12,435)
Contracts	32,934	18,000	10,133	56%	12,000	(1,867)
Program Revenue	209,181	261,674	118,543	45%	174,449	(55,906)
Total Program Revenue	5,771,767	5,768,763	3,333,216		3,845,842	(512,626)
Other Revenues						
Member Dues Support	759,278	726,252	724,814	100%	484,168	240,646
Interest and General Revenue	223	3,000	233	8%	2,000	(1,767)
Sales Revenue	115,778	50,000	77,168	154%	33,333	43,834
Total Other Revenues	875,279	779,252	802,214		519,501	282,713
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES	6,647,046	6,548,015	4,135,430		4,365,343	(229,913)
OPERATING EXPENDITURES						
Board and Executive Committee	203,809	232,123	134,270	58%	154,748	20,479
General Governance	1,589,845	1,514,208	1,062,601	70%	1,009,472	(53,130)
CONNECT Sustainable Communities Initiative	2,337,042	1,238,913	1,116,870	90%	825,942	(290,928)
Information Technology Division	95,745	201,558	98,742	49%	134,372	35,630
Community and Economic Development	579,322	612,454	415,760	68%	408,303	(7,458)
Planning, Assistance, and Administration	864,558	938,428	628,022	67%	625,619	(2,403)
Area Agency on Aging	1,933,558	2,304,385	1,462,727	63%	1,536,256	73,529
Workforce Development	1,023,323	1,338,786	596,036	45%	892,524	296,488
Indirect Costs Representation	(1,548,707)	(1,832,837)	(1,271,759)	69%	(1,221,892)	49,867
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	7,078,495	6,548,015	4,243,269		4,365,343	122,074

CENTRALINA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
April 8, 2015

Financial Risk Analysis

Program	Budget		Actual		
	Revenues	Expenses	Revenues	Expenses	Gap
General Governance	19,728	1,746,331	1,773,231	1,746,331	26,900
Information Technology	127,326	201,558	181,062	193,006	(11,944)
Sustainable Communities	1,243,571	1,238,915	847,713	917,987	(70,274)
Area Agency on Aging	2,328,005	2,304,385	2,394,845	2,453,067	(58,222)
Planning Administration	900,185	938,428	730,952	960,529	(229,577)
Community & Economic Development	590,416	612,454	684,512	734,551	(50,039)
Workforce Development	1,338,785	1,338,785	1,338,785	1,338,785	-
Indirect Costs		(1,832,839)	(1,832,839)	(1,832,839)	-
					-
	6,548,016	6,548,016	6,118,262	6,511,417	(393,155)

Centralina Council of Governments

Item 4

Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Board Meeting Date:	April 8, 2015	Agenda Item Type:	Consent:		Regular:	X
Submitting Person:	Katie Kutcher	Presentation Time *(est.)***:**	10 minutes			
Presenter at meeting:	Katie Kutcher	Phone Number/Ext:	704-348-2705			
		Email:	kkutcher@centralina.org			
Alternate Contact Person:		Phone Number/Ext:				
		Email:				
Submitting Department:	Aging	Department Head Approval:	Linda Miller			

Board Expectation: *(required action or responsibility expected from Board members)*

Review status of Volunteer Transportation Services (VTS) implementation and funding. Authorize Executive Director to notify VTS Board that program will be terminated if funding gap is not closed by June 30, 2015.

Description of Agenda Item: *(same wording as on agenda summary)*

The purpose of this presentation is to provide an update to the CCOG Board regarding the progress of the VTS program as well as to seek support in raising the mandatory 50% local match for the NCDOT 5310 funding. CCOG applied for 5310 grant funding for FY16 from NCDOT to continue the VTS program. The full annual operating budget is $157,233.00 and the program requires a 50% local match ($78,617.00).

Background & Basis of Recommendations:

For years, transportation has been identified as an unmet need for older adults, people with disabilities and veterans. While there are existing transportation services, funds have decreased as much as 15% in recent years. In addition, many existing transportation services have eligibility criteria that exclude many individuals from using the service based on the individual or the trip type. Examples include Medicaid transportation or HCCBG transportation or services that may only provide medical transportation.

VTS was developed to provide transportation to older adults, people with disabilities and veterans who do not qualify or cannot access existing services in the Centralina Region through a network of certified volunteers as a response to recommendations by the Mobility Management Study conducted in the Centralina Region in 2013. VTS utilizes a network of certified volunteers to provide rides to older adults, people with disabilities and veterans in their personal vehicles. Volunteers are covered by supplemental insurance coverage through the VTS program and are eligible for mileage reimbursement. VTS reflects a grassroots effort to fill transportation gaps for those who do not qualify for existing services and relies on the help of volunteers from faith-based community groups, civic clubs and organizations, private companies, and government agencies to ensure the success of the program. The program has been very well received in the community and VTS is nearing 100 completed trips for the region.

Action / Recommendation:

Review status of Volunteer Transportation Services (VTS) implementation and funding. Member governments are asked to support VTS by helping identify potential funding sources.

Time Sensitivity *(none or explain)***:**	This is very time senstive. VTS must raise $78,617 by the end of June 2015.
Budget Impact *(if applicable)***:**	$78,617 is the required 50% match for the NCDOT 5310 grant funding for VTS. The full FY16 Annual Operating Budget is $157,233.00.
List of Attachments *(if any)***:**	VTS Funding Sheet & VTS FAQ

Volunteer Transportation Services

WHAT: Volunteer Transportation Services (VTS) is a program that provides transportation for older adults, people with disabilities, and veterans in the Centralina Region (Anson, Cabarrus, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Stanly, Rowan and Union counties) through a network of certified volunteer drivers at no cost to the passenger, although contributions are accepted.

WHY: The VTS services are being provided**:**
- To increase the Region's capacity to meet a growing need and fill a gap for riders who don't qualify for other transportation services.
- To improve the quality of life of residents who must depend on others for their personal transportation needs.
- To efficiently offer a safe and reliable transportation option that complements existing transportation services.

HOW: The service is:
- Operated by Centralina Connection, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization partnering with CCOG, other public transportation agencies, non-profits and volunteer drivers in the region.
- Simple to use. Passengers in the Centralina Region who are either 50 years of age or older, or have a self-described (temporary or permanent) disability, or who are veterans, call VTS to schedule trips.
- Flexible. VTS can provide rides to and from medical appointments, shopping, social engagements and more!
- Safe. VTS uses volunteer drivers who are 21 years of age of older, have a good driving record, a safe and insured vehicle, and have a standard North Carolina license. VTS provides them with training and VTS driver certification, mileage reimbursement at the volunteer rate and supplementary insurance coverage.
- Funded for its initial year of operation through June 2015 with a $185,000 federal grant from the North Carolina Department of Transportation. Foundation grants and private donations will help meet annual program budgets in the future.

Volunteer Transportation Services Funding Needs:

FY16 required local match for state grant funding– $80,000
- The Centralina Region has the opportunity to double the impact of local community funding for VTS's second year of operations. The NCDOT will match the local funds raised to make up VTS's full annual operating budget of $160,000.
- This funding supports the scheduling software, staffing the VTS call center, Volunteer Training, Volunteer Background Checks, Volunteer Drug Testing, Proactive Driving Training, administrative support and outreach and volunteer recruitment activity across the region.

Access to affordable, accessible transportation is an un-met need in the community. Be a part of the solution!
Please consider supporting Volunteer Transportation Services to serve older adults, people with disabilities and veterans in your community. Contact Katie Kutcher at kkutcher@centralina.org for more information.

Volunteer Transportation Services FAQ's

What is Volunteer Transportation Services (VTS)?

Volunteer Transportation Services began its development in 2013 to fill the transportation gap for adults with permanent or temporary disabilities, veterans and individuals 50 and over, in order to enhance their quality of life by providing access to daily life activities.

Why was VTS Created?

The development of a regional volunteer transportation service was the direct response to the key recommendation of the *2013 Centralina Mobility Management Study* conducted by CCOG in partnership with regional transportation providers and stakeholders.

How does VTS benefit the Community?

VTS was created to fill gaps in current transportation options for older adults, people with disabilities and veterans in the region. VTS does not duplicate existing services. The program serves people who otherwise fall through the cracks based on passenger and trip eligibility requirements. VTS is flexible and can provide trips to and from medical appointments, shopping trips, social outings and more! Trips can be arranged outside of regular business hours including evenings and weekends. Trips can be made across county lines. VTS provides additional service capacity to connect older adults, people with disabilities and veterans to our community.

Who operates Volunteer Transportation Services?

VTS is operated by Centralina Connection, a non-profit organization that partners with CCOG, whose mission is to help residents throughout the Centralina Area in need of increased non-emergency transportation options. Centralina services Anson, Cabarrus, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly and Union counties.

How is Volunteer Transportation Services currently funded?

Funded for its initial grant cycle through June 2015 with an $185,000 federal grant from the North Carolina Department of Transportation. Foundation grants and private donations will help meet annual program budgets in the future. The local match for FY14-FY15 was provided by the Centralina Council of Governments membership dues.

Describe the FY16 Funding Situation-

In the wake of the adoption of The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century also known as MAP 21, there have been numerous changes to the DOT grant process and DOT regulations. Most importantly noted, there have been changes in the Section 5310 grant funding process. The newly adopted funding guidelines categorize potential 5310 projects into two categories; Capital and Operating. Awarded operating projects will continue to be funded at 80% and require a 20% match, while awarded capital projects will now be funded at 50% and require a 50% local match. Volunteer Transportation Services is considered an "Operating" project.

In order for VTS to continue services and development in FY16, VTS must secure funding to provide the 50% match for Volunteer Transportation Services which totals $78,616.50 of the full $157,233 annual operating budget.

How does VTS work?

Volunteers are essential to the success of VTS. VTS could not serve the community without volunteers. There is a thorough multi-step process in place to screen and train volunteers in order to make VTS a safe and reliable transportation option for the community.

Passengers are screened for backgrounds and mobility issues. Once approved, a passenger can make a trip request. VTS Staff adds that trip request to a software program. The volunteer has individual access to the program to see each request that includes who, where and when. When volunteers accept requests, they assign themselves as the driver and contact the passenger to arrange a pickup time. It's just that simple. VTS also has the ability to assign drivers and communicate via phone for those who wish not to utilize the software program.

What are the volunteer requirements?

- Be at least 21 years old
- Own a vehicle and maintain a clean vehicle in safe operating condition
- Have a NC driver's license
- Carry at least NC minimum liability insurance
- Undergo background and driver record checks
- Pass drug screening
- Attend driver training and orientation which includes blood-borne pathogens, first aid, drug and alcohol awareness, aging and disabled sensitivity
- AAA Proactive Driving Course

What are the benefits to the volunteers?

Volunteers determine when and where they drive. VTS offers a flexible volunteer opportunity. VTS provides mileage reimbursement at the volunteer rate and supplementary insurance coverage for all VTS drivers.

What is the current cost per volunteer?

Not including staff time, it currently costs about $165.00 per volunteer upon initial certification. This includes all of the required expenses to maintain compliance with NCDOT standards. VTS volunteers are reimbursed at the volunteer mileage rate with NCDOT dollars and are therefore held to the same training and safety standards as NCDOT employees. This has proven to be an expensive and time-consuming practice that we plan to change in FY16 to make the program more enticing to volunteers and to reduce expenses.

How will that cost per volunteer change in FY16?

It was determined if we identify an alternate funding source for mileage reimbursement that reduces the NCDOT requirements to certify drivers. VTS will develop our own safety certification process and the estimated cost of certifying volunteers (not including staff time) can be reduced from $164.00 to around **$90.00 per volunteer.** This includes the cost of proactive driving training, drug testing and background checks for each volunteer driver.

Volunteer Transportation Services, a program of Centralina Connection, Inc.
525 N. Tryon Street, 12th Floor
Charlotte, NC 28202
(844) VTS-RIDE - centralinavts@centralina.org - www.centralinavts.org

Item 5

Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Board Meeting Date:	April 8, 2015	Agenda Item Type:	Consent:		Regular:	X
Submitting Person:	Sushil Nepal	**Presentation Time** *(est.)***:**	10 minutes			
Presenter at meeting:	Sushil Nepal	Phone Number/Ext:	(704) 348-2709			
		Email:	snepal@centralina.org			
Alternate Contact Person:	Michelle Nance	Phone Number/Ext:	(704) 688-6509			
		Email:	mnance@centralina.org			
Submitting Department:	Planning	Department Head Approval:				

Description of Agenda Item: *(same wording as on agenda summary)*

Greater Charlotte Regional Freight Study – Receive Update and provide feedback

Background & Basis of Recommendations:

The regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) called for a Regional Freight Study to assess and plan for the Region's future freight system needs in order to support the Region's Manufacturing and Logistics "Super-Cluster". This Super-Cluster consists of five of the Region's six primary Industry Clusters (Logistics, Aerospace, Automotive, Energy, and Health), in combination with our workforce core competency in Advanced Manufacturing, upon which these clusters all heavily dependent.

To meet the economic needs and improve the regional freight system to better align with local land use and transportation infrastructure, Centralina COG initiated the regional freight study. At the direction of the Executive Board, CCOG staff has been working with MPO/RPO and other partners to refine the scope of the study and to seek grant funding and local support for the initiation of the project.

Staff will preview the status of the project, funding and next steps.

Action / Recommendation:

Receive as information.

Time Sensitivity *(none or explain)***:**	None
Budget Impact *(if applicable)***:**	None
List of Attachments *(if any)***:**	None

Greater Charlotte Regional Freight Study

*"Many businesses in our communities depend heavily on our regional freight systems: our highways, railroads, air cargo and intermodal facilities, freight-related workforce, and freight-oriented land use and zoning. As our region grows, a Regional Freight Study will ensure that these systems grow in a coordinated and cost-efficient way to meet the needs of those businesses that are so critical to ensuring our region's future prosperity." **Statesville Mayor Pro Tem and CCOG Chairman, Michael Johnson***

WHAT: A Regional Freight Study that sets the framework for how we will move goods and products in and through the region and meet the needs of target industries as we continue to grow.

WHY: A plan for the effective and efficient movement of freight will:

- Support our region's primary industry clusters in manufacturing and logistics.
- Enable the region to compete more effectively for jobs and business growth, linking freight nodes, corridors and suppliers.
- Benefit your community by ensuring the needs of your freight-related industries and businesses are met.
- Allow the region to capitalize on the investment in the Charlotte Regional Intermodal Facility and increased shipping resulting from the expansion of the Panama Canal.

HOW: Centralina is partnering with a diverse group of stakeholders in the region to guide the development of a regional freight study.

- The study will be developed through a collaborative approach, with regional agencies (MPOs, RPOs), local communities and private stakeholders
- The study will be developed by December of 2016 with assistance by a qualified team hired to conduct the technical study.
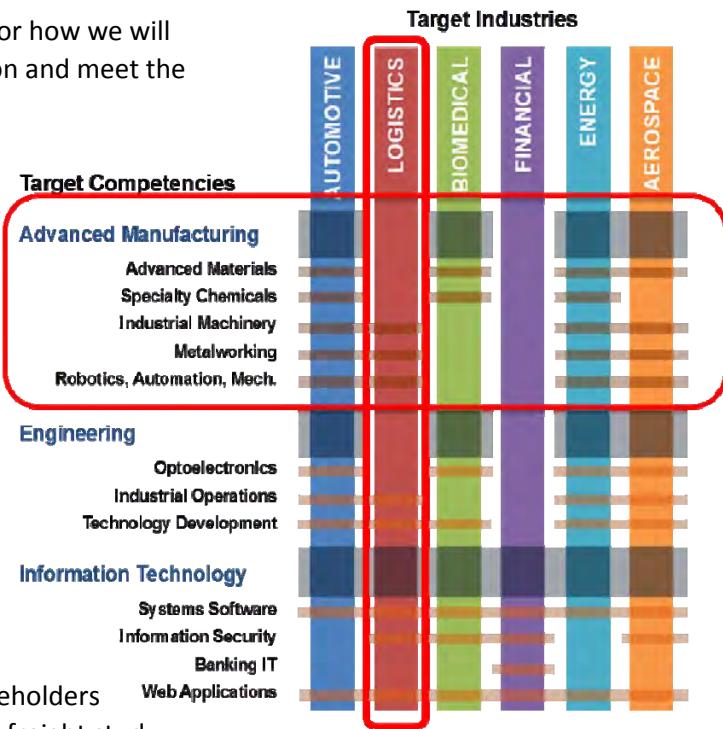
Greater Charlotte Regional Freight Study – Funding Needs [20 Months]:

Convening of Stakeholders and Administration - $250,000

- Convening of key stakeholders (Public and Private) to form a Steering Committee and Freight Advisory Group
- Periodic meetings of stakeholders to review and provide input to the technical study

Technical Assessment with Broader Public/Stakeholder Engagement - $450,000

- Analysis of existing conditions and gaps/future demand
- Best practices research, identification/prioritization of regional freight needs and performance measures
- Preparation of final findings with input from stakeholders and the public, presentation to local governments and regional agencies

Item 6

Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Board Meeting Date:	April 8, 2015	**Agenda Item Type:**		**Consent:**	**Regular:**	X
Submitting Person:	Kelly Weston	**Presentation Time** *(est.)***:**		5 minutes		
Presenter at meeting:	Sarah McAulay	**Phone Number/Ext:**		(704) 875-6872		
		Email:		srmcaulay@aol.com		
Alternate Contact Person:	Kelly Weston	**Phone Number/Ext:**		(704) 348-2728		
		Email:		kweston@centralina.org		
Submitting Department:	**General Government**	**Department Head Approval:**		Jim Prosser		

Board Expectation: *(required action or responsibility expected from Board members)*

Receive the 2015 CCOG Conference update and provide informal feedback. Save the date of December 3, 2015 for the 2015 Conference.

Description of Agenda Item: *(same wording as on agenda summary)*

CCOG staff is in the process of planning the second annual CCOG "Creative Solutions for Thriving Communities" Conference. Staff is working with CCOG Delegates serving as Conference Champions who are providing input throughout the coordination phase. The Conference Champions will present a report on these planning efforts.

Background & Basis of Recommendations:

In planning last year's Conference, staff vetted potential 2015 dates and selected December 10, 2015 as the date for this year's event. At its January 14, 2015 meeting, the Executive Board directed staff to consider identifying an earlier date, specifically the first available date following the Thanksgiving holiday. Staff further researched dates for potential conflicts and selected December 3, 2015 as the new date.

CCOG has contracted with Streamlined Business Solutions (SBS), a conference-planning consultant who has assisted staff with securing a venue for this year's event, resulting in a $9,900 cost-savings. The consultant also offers services related to sponsorship logistics and attendee registration. By also contracting with SBS for assistance in these areas, CCOG could reduce the amount of staff time invested in coordinating the Conference.

After identifying and evaluating 10 potential venues, staff has selected the Gastonia Conference Center as the site for this year's Conference.

Staff is developing a Conference schedule and programming consistent with the Creative Solutions for Thriving Communities brand and based on feedback received from last year's event. Additional Conference update reports will be presented at the June 10, 2015 Executive Board meeting and the August 12th Board of Delegates meeting.

Action / Recommendation:

For information only.

Time Sensitivity *(none or explain)***:**	None
Budget Impact *(if applicable)***:**	None. The 2015 Conference expense budget has been set for $40,000, while staff anticipates revenues from sponsorships and registration fees will total $40,000. The event is self-funding; however, the Centralina Foundation has approved a loan request to cover upfront expenses associated with planning the Conference.
List of Attachments *(if any)***:**	2015 CCOG Conference Date Selection Report

2015 CCOG Conference Date Selection

The following dates have been considered for the 2015 CCOG Conference:

- Thursday, December 10th – This date was originally selected as the date for the 2015 conference. The Executive Board asked staff to consider identifying an earlier date, specifically the first date available following Thanksgiving.

Other dates considered:
- Thursday, November 12th - Week after municipal elections
- Thursday, November 19th - Possible conflict with Aging conference
- Wednesday, December 2nd - Week after Thanksgiving
- Thursday, December 3rd - Week after Thanksgiving
- Wednesday, December 9th - Same week as 2014 Conference date; Executive Board asked staff to consider identifying an earlier date, specifically first date available following Thanksgiving

The Conference Coordinating Team proposes selecting December 3, 2015 as the date for the 2015 CCOG Conference.

Scheduling considerations:
- Local elections – Newly elected officials will likely not be sworn in until December or January. CCOG staff will ensure that these officials receive Conference marketing materials immediately following the election to allow them adequate time to register for the event.
- Student attendance – Local colleges and universities will hold final exams during the 2nd week of December.
- Charlotte Motor Speedway events – No weekday events are currently listed on the speedway's calendar for 2015 that would conflict with the conference/travel/traffic if the Embassy Suites in Concord is selected as the Conference venue.

External Agencies with potential conflicts in December:
- National Association of Counties – Fall Board Meeting – possibly early December (no elected officials from Centralina region currently serving on Board)
- NC Association of County Commissioners – Board of Directors Meeting – possibly December 2-3, 2015 (could affect 2 elected officials in the region) | Board of Trustees Meeting – December 10, 2015
- NC Water Quality Association – Member Meeting – December 10, 2015
- North Carolina League of Municipalities – Advocacy Goals Conference – possibly December
- Young Elected Officials Network – Policy Academy – possibly early December

External Agencies with no conflicts in December:
- American Planning Association – National Conference – April 18-21, 2015

- American Public Works Association – State Conference – June
- ElectriCities – Annual Conference – August 6-8, 2015 | Board Meeting – December 18, 2015
- ICMA – Annual Conference – September 27, 2015
- NC Metropolitan Mayors Coalition – Conference – November 5-6, 2014
- National League of Cities – Congressional City Conference – March | Congress of Cities – November 4-7, 2015
- NC BEMO – Summer Conference - July 23-25, 2015
- NC City & County Management Association – Winter Seminar – February 2, 2015 | Summer Seminar – June 18, 2015
- NC Community Development Association – Fall Conference – mid-November
  NC Government Finance Officers Association – Spring Conference – March | Summer Conference – July | Fall Conference - October
- NC Municipal Attorneys – Winter Conference – March 19-20,2015 | Summer Conference – August
- NC Municipal Clerks Association – Clerks' School – January | Annual Conference – late August
- NC Rural Center – Rural Assembly Day – late October
- NC Social Services Association – Annual Meeting – late October
- NC Public Transportation Association – Conference – early April
- Public Housing Authorities Directors Association – Conference – January 25-28, 2015 | Annual Convention – May 3-6, 2015
- UNC School of Government
- US Conference of Mayors – Winter Meeting : January 21-23, 2015 | Annual Conference – June 19-22, 2015

Internal Agencies consulted:
- Area Agency on Aging - Annual Aging conference date not selected yet, but looking at either October or November.

Item 7

Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Board Meeting Date:	April 8, 2015	Agenda Item Type:	Consent:		Regular:	X
Submitting Person:	Jim Prosser	Presentation Time *(est.)*:	60 minutes			
Presenter at meeting:	Michael Johnson	Phone Number/Ext:	704-348-2703			
		Email:	jprosser@centralina.org			
Alternate Contact Person:		Phone Number/Ext:				
		Email:				
Submitting Department:	Executive	Department Head Approval:	Jim Prosser			

Description of Agenda Item:

Interviews with Leslie Mozingo and Jennifer Imo regarding potential use of government-consulting services. Each firm will be provided 30 minutes for the interview.

Background & Basis of Recommendations:

Centralina's strategic initiatives require increased coordination with federal and state elected officials and staff. Some organizations engage outside government consulting services to support this work. These consulting services assist in communicating with federal and state staff locally and in Washington, DC. They typically provide resources that assist with securing grants and technical advice and related services. Their ability to maintain regular contact with portions of the federal and state government (including elected officials and staff) enable the client organization to access information, resources and support more quickly. In addition, these organizations can enable our members (especially elected officials) to be more productive in managing time needed to communicate with federal and state elected officials and staff. Both firms will provide information regarding Centralina's current priority projects.

Action / Recommendation:

Interview Leslie Mozingo and Jennifer Imo to receive information about how government-consulting services can assist Centralina in achieving goals.

Time Sensitivity *(none or explain)*:	No specific time sensitivity, although several Board priorities would benefit from guidance and support provided by this type of service.
Budget Impact *(if applicable)*:	Unknown at this time. If a decision is made to consider engagement of these services, there would need to be a plan to identify resources.
List of Attachments *(if any)*:	Funding reports for CONNEXT, Community-Based Housing, Career Headlight, Water, and Regional Freight.

![CCOG - Centralina Council of Governments]

GROWING Jobs and Our Economy | CONTROLLING Cost of Government | IMPROVING Quality of Life

Growing Our Greater Charlotte Region

We Are Growing Rapidly

The Greater Charlotte region grew in population every decade over the last 100 years. The pace of growth jumped dramatically in the 1990s, at rates which were double or triple that of the U.S. as a whole, particularly during the housing boom between 2000 and 2008.

74% Increase in population by 2050

+ 860,000 JOBS

+ 1.8 MILLION PEOPLE
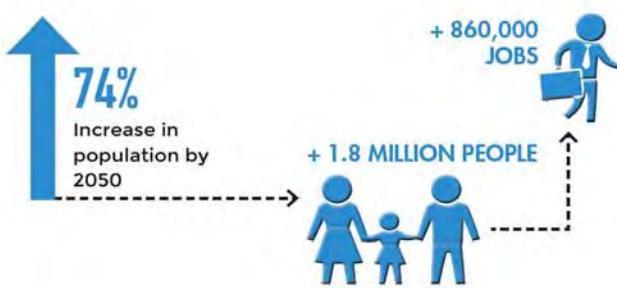
That rapid growth is projected to continue, with our region's population nearly doubling by 2050.

Economic Resilience Is Key

Between 2008 and 2010, the CONNECT region lost nearly 88,000 jobs. Job creation returned in 2011 with 24,000 jobs added to the local economy. More jobs were lost in manufacturing (a past staple in the economy) during the previous five years than all other industries combined.

88,000 JOBS

Manufacturing lost more jobs than all other industries combined
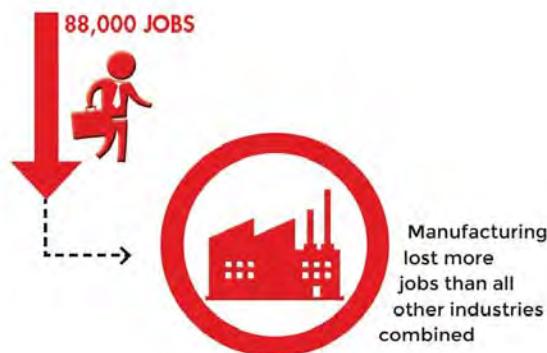
Cities and towns heavily invested in manufacturing are now reinventing themselves for new industry growth.

A Plan to Support Regional Economic & Population Growth through 2050

The CONNECT Our Future Regional Growth Framework was developed to support economic and job growth, as well as population growth in the 14-county Greater Charlotte Region through 2050. The Regional Growth Framework is a combination of a regional vision (preferred growth scenario) based on the regional priorities, and the tools, tactics and strategies to guide the economic development, jobs, housing and transportation system growth to realize the vision. The Framework was developed through extensive community-based participation, engaging more than 8,400 people over three years, and guided by a 100-member public-private Consortium. Centralina Council of Governments and Catawba Regional Council of Governments facilitated the process utilizing a $4.9 million HUD Sustainable Communities Grant.

CONNECT *Our Future*
Vibrant Communities – Robust Region
www.ConnectOurFuture.org

The Framework for Growth helps communities decide how to best utilize limited resources (infrastructure and systems) to serve that growth and provides them with tools to support their growth. The framework for growth also develops a regional context and framework for addressing issues that, to be successfully resolved, must be addressed on a regional or multi-jurisdictional basis.

The Next Steps - Building Regional Systems, Capacity, and Relationships

The primary goal of the CONNECT Our Future effort is to create a framework for guiding and investing in the region's growth and that has been completed. But the development of the Regional Growth Framework is only a beginning. It will take the continued collaborative work of residents, cities, counties, businesses, educators, non-profits, and other organizations to build the regional systems, capacity and relationships to support economic and job growth and population growth that is coming to this region's communities.

Building Regional Systems

Centralina Council of Governments is helping our region build and develop regional systems for Economic Development, Transportation and Water Resources to support jobs growth. Projects underway:

Career Headlight - A new web-based career tool that matches students and job seekers in the region with in-demand local careers, the skills needed, and local education and training. More information at http://www.centralinacareerheadlight.com/

Advanced Industries Manufacturing - The creation of an implementation-ready strategy to expand the region's advanced industries manufacturing sector.

Regional Freight Mobility Plan - A plan that sets the framework for how we will move goods and products in and through the region.

Regional Water Strategy – A cross-basin regional water strategy addressing both water capacity and quality that identifies areas of shared challenges and needs and opportunities for collaboration.

Community Housing Strategies – A community-based housing strategy that will ensure the right mix of housing in the right places to meet the demands of employers and an aging population.

Regional Transit System – A plan to develop and preserve corridors and align land uses.

Building Capacity and Relationships

The Regional Growth Framework features more than 70 tools to meet the needs of local governments such as: maximizing return on public and private investment, supporting downtown redevelopment, and aligning housing with business needs.

Capacity Building is the ongoing work to expose local government staff and officials to these tools and provide training on their use. **Relationship Building** is the ongoing work of collaborating on the regional development of systems necessary for the growth. Capacity and Relationship Building involve growing the Consortium and involving more critical parties as we work together on the regional issues that concern us all.

"Centralina Council of Governments has been a leader among regional planning agencies, and has positioned the Charlotte region to be globally competitive in the years to come by making issues of economic resilience, job creation, environmental quality, and social equity the drivers of a community-based conversation about the region's future."

Dwayne Marsh, Senior Advisor HUD Office of Economic Resilience

Join Us and Support "*CONNEXT*"!

Become a *CONNEXT* partner. Join the CONNECT Consortium; provide your personal and financial support of the ongoing work to implement CONNECT. More information on CONNECT at www.ConnectOurFuture.org

CENTRALINA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS · 525 North Tryon Street · 12th Floor · Charlotte, NC 28202 · Phone: 704-372-2416 · Fax: 704-347-4710 · www.centralina.org

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"CONNEXT" – Tools For Action

"Some cities that had an initial growth spurt have been defined by their lack of a good plan to prepare for that growth. Our big growth in this region is ahead of us, and we have a chance to get this right the first time."
Pat Riley, COO, Allen Tate Companies

WHAT: CONNECT Our Future was a three-year process to develop a regional framework for growth for the 14-county bi-state Greater Charlotte region through a comprehensive, region-wide community-based engagement process. The Regional Growth Framework is a combination of a regional vision (preferred growth scenario) based on the regional priorities, and the tools, tactics and strategies to guide housing, jobs and transportation system growth to realize the vision. But completing the framework is only the beginning. The next step of implementing the framework is just beginning. The next step of implementing the framework – called *"CONNEXT"* – is just beginning.

WHY: The regional growth framework:

- Helps address the challenges of a rapidly growing region that is expected to expand by 1.8 million residents and 860,000 jobs over the next 40 years.
- Helps communities decide how to best utilize limited resources (infrastructure and systems) to serve that growth.
- Provides tools to support every community focusing on what is most important to them.
- Develops a regional context and framework for addressing issues that, to be successfully resolved, must be addressed on a regional or multi-jurisdictional basis.

Vibrant Communities – Robust Region

HOW: Implementing the CONNECT Regional Growth Framework requires the development of regional systems, capacity building and relationship building. For the *"CONNECT"* implementation phase to move forward, it will be necessary to fund ongoing organizational support.

"CONNEXT" One Year Funding Needs:

1. Capacity Building and Organizational Support to Implement CONNECT – $250,000

- **Connect Tool Training** - Twelve training workshops with local government staff
- **Elected Leadership Forums** – Ten thought leader meetings with elected officials
- **CONNECT Consortium Leadership** – Two-three meetings of the CONNECT Consortium (elected officials, local government staff, private business leaders, non-profit leaders) to guide CONNECT work
- **Metric Development** – Developing metrics to measure regional alignment and outcomes that advance the Regional Growth Framework
- **Capacity Building Workshops** – Four workshops on top issues determined through county meetings
- **Capacity Building Webinars** – Six webinars to develop regional knowledge on top priority issues

2. Technical Assistance and Grants to Local Governments – Up to $250,000

- Competitive technical assistance and cash grants provided to local governments for projects that align with the Regional Growth Framework. At full funding, 10-20 grants of $12,500 - $25,000 each.

Community-Based Housing Strategy Pilot Program

"Residents understand the need to go beyond 'one-size, type or location fits all,' and develop housing for people at different points in their lives, with different demographics and with different incomes." –
Joe Padilla, Co-Chair and Executive Director, Real Estate Building Industry Coalition (REBIC), and CONNECT Housing Work Group Chair

WHAT: Community-Based Housing Strategies help to ensure the right mix of housing is available in the right places to meet the demands of employers, an aging population and all other residents. The pilot program will launch and conduct three Community-Based Housing Strategy pilot projects in the Centralina Region to develop and refine a process that is affordable and can be replicated for communities throughout the region. The initial phase of the first pilot project has been launched in Mooresville.

WHY: A Community-Based Housing Strategy will help support:
- The local and regional growth of jobs and the economy.
- Attracting and retaining employers with housing consistent with employers' needs.
- Life-cycle housing that meets the needs of current and future residents and enables residents to age in place in their communities.
- Resident mobility and access by ensuring that housing is located near jobs and community amenities.

HOW: The Community-Based Housing Strategy Process will include the following tasks:
1. Developing a community-based housing strategy and support the community with the 2013 regional housing market study data
2. Developing a disciplined and inclusive engagement process involving a diverse group of stakeholders from the community
3. Engaging stakeholders to identify relevant strategies that align with the community's housing needs, fit into existing community plans, and meet the community's future goals
4. Considering factors that influence housing decisions (land costs, financing, economic development).

One Year Funding Needs:

Community-Based Housing Strategy Pilot Program Support – $340,000
- **Development of Regional Model** – Create an affordable regional model for developing a Community-Based Housing Strategy through four community pilot projects.
- **How to Manual** – A manual to help communities implement a Community-Based Housing Strategy.
- **Best Practice Research** – Research best practices nationwide for aligning housing with employer needs and needs of an aging population.
- **Capacity Building & Training Workshops** – Two capacity building workshops providing training on housing best practices.
- **Capacity Building Webinars** – Four housing best practice webinars.
- **Sharing Pilot Program Practice Statewide** –Presentation at a state conference on methods for creating a community based housing strategy.

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Centralina Career Headlight

"Today's students, their parents and educators need current information about available local jobs as well as the education and training needed for them. Career Headlight brightens the pathways for prosperity for our youth."

Michael Realon, Career and Development Coordinator, Olympic Community Schools

WHAT: Centralina Career Headlight is a new web-based career tool that matches students and job seekers in the region with in-demand local careers, the skills needed, and local education and training. Centralina invested $100,000 to develop the product. The Career Headlight website:

- Is a one-stop resource that covers jobs and education in the 17-county two-state region with 50 higher education institutions, seven workforce boards and dozens of economic development agencies.
- Translates into action the award-winning Jobs, Workforce & Education Alignment Strategy of the Prosperity for Greater Charlotte Report.
- Maintains a database of existing regional industry growth and related jobs demand that will be updated regularly.
- Has been developed by the Centralina Workforce Development Board in collaboration with regional partners.

WHY: Centralina Career Headlight will help our region close the gap between employers' needs for specifically-skilled workers in emerging growth occupations, and the students and adult career-changers who are training to acquire those skills:

- Employers, job seekers and local governments wanted a better way to match people seeking careers with good paying, in-demand local jobs.
- Since half of the region's workforce crosses a county line each day, workers and students needed one tool that could give them regionwide and local county information.
- By linking the region's workforce skills and strengths and it educations assets to the specific needs of local businesses, Career Headlight boosts job growth.

HOW: Since its initial launch in Spring 2014, Centralina Career Headlight (version 1.0) has been tested and proven successful among college students and adult workers as a tool for charting personal career pathways. It's time to leverage its initial success by enhancing its capabilities (version 2.0) and expanding its reach to include high school and middle school students.

Eighteen-Month Funding Needs:

Career Headlight – $300,000

- **Annual Renewal** - software license & 17 counties' data updating
- **Outreach** – integrate into public school districts' high and middle schools
- **System Enhancements** - develop Career Headlight 2.0 (upgrading the education locator feature, developing a smart phone app)

GROWING Jobs and Our Economy | CONTROLLING Cost of Government | IMPROVING Quality of Life

Cross-Basin, Multi-Jurisdictional Water Resource Management and Planning Project

"Just as we need basin-wide planning that crosses political boundaries, we need region-wide planning that crosses basin boundaries if we are to ensure our region's ability to sustainably meet its long-term water needs." **Statesville Mayor Pro Tem and CCOG Chairman, Michael Johnson**

WHAT: The Centralina Region Cross-Basin, Multi-jurisdictional Water Resource Management and Planning project supports coordinated long-term water resource management across the region's two major river basins – the Catawba and the Yadkin-Pee Dee.

WHY: To ensure clean and plentiful water in a large and fast-growing, multiple-jurisdiction metropolitan region as it continues to grow and develop. A cross-basin regional water strategy will:

- Bring together key water management stakeholders from both basins to address challenges and coordinate plans.
- Support the economic development potential of our region and its communities.
- Provide a clear path for meeting our future water needs in ways that sustain each basin as a critical natural resource.

HOW: The Project's activities are organized around 3 main goals:

- **Cross-basin Network**. Establish a cross-basin network of water resource management stakeholders who can effectively guide long-term collaborative efforts to plan for and monitor progress towards water resource sustainability.
- **Education & Capacity-Building**. Provide awareness and capacity-building resources for top water resource management issues, to increase understanding of the region's water resource needs and support for the long-term strategies.
- **Long-Term Strategy Development**. Identify and prioritize long-term regional needs, assess present capacities and future demands, and develop cross-basin, long-term strategies to address gaps.

Eighteen-Month Funding Needs:

Cross-Basin Regional Water Resources – $275,000

- **Cross-Basin Network** – Convene a wide range of public and private stakeholders from both basins to design and launch an ongoing, voluntary coalition.
- **Policy & Technical Workshops** – Conduct 6 workshops on topics ranging from issues-awareness for elected officials to technical capacity-building for water management staff.
- **Technical Scope Development** – A collaboratively-established scope of work that outlines the processes and costs for developing a comprehensive Cross-Basin Long-Term Water Resource Management Strategy.