Kerr-Tar Regional Council Of Governments

Planning & Development for a Better Region K

Bulletin
July 2016

UPDATES

- Next Board Meeting: Thursday, August 25th @ 7:00 p.m.

- Next RAAC Meeting: Wednesday, August 3rd @ 2:00p.m.

- Annual Awards Banquet: Thursday, September 22nd

AROUND THE REGION

Annual Awards Banquet
    Thursday, September 22, 2016

The Annual Awards Banquet will be held on Thursday, September 22, 2016 at the Henderson Vance Farmers Market. Nomination forms can be found on our website, www.kerrtarcog.org, and forms must be back to Gina Parham no later than Monday, August 15th. If you have any questions please contact Gina Parham at gparham@kerrtarcog.org.

Save the Date: Local Government Managers Innovation Lab
    November 18, 2016

The Local Government Managers Innovation Lab is one of a new group of programs designed specifically for city and county managers. This one-day event held on November 18, 2016 in Chapel Hill will provide hands-on training to improve organizational effectiveness. Participants will learn to use design thinking as a practical tool to develop innovative solutions to community issues and to improve service delivery. Click here for event details.

Will 2015-2020 see an uptick in population growth in NC?

According to population projections from the NC Office of State Budget & Management, North Carolina's population growth will be steady over the decade. Read more…

US Census Bureau—2015 population estimates for counties released	The US Census Bureau released 2015 total population estimates. The Census Bureau released age, race, sex, and Hispanic Origin characteristics for the total population estimates. The data will be available through American Factfinder (http://factfinder.census.gov).
U.S. Census Bureau Summer Webinar Schedule	U.S. Census Bureau has released its summer webinar schedule. The U.S. Census Bureau has a number of data tools that provide important information to inform economic development decision-making. The Census Bureau has posted its summer webinar schedule. New webinars are being offered almost every day. This information is available at: www.census.gov/mso/www/training/index.html.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

KTRPO Prioritization P4.0 Approved	Kerr-Tar TCC/TAC met on June 23, 2016 to approve our KTRPO Prioritization P4.0 local points assignments for Regional Impact Quantitative Scores. Division 5 scores are available, please click here to view.
NCDOT Division 5 Draft Regional Impact Score Commenting Period June 20th-July 22nd, 2016	The NCDOT Division 5 Draft Regional Impact Score comment period is from June 20-July 22, 2016. For more information click here and look under the heading "Get Involved".
Friends & Allies of the Walking Movement Webinar Thursday, July 14th, 2016	On July 14th at 2:00 p.m. join America Walks for the free webinar, "Friends and Allies of the Walking Movement" as they explore how to connect with possible new partners in the work towards making America a great place to walk. For more information and to register for the webinar, click here.
NCDOT seeking public input on STIP scoring	The N.C. Department of Transportation is asking the public to provide feedback on the quantitative scores and preliminary local input points assignments for the transportation projects for the upcoming State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The STIP document is developed under the Strategic Transportation Investments law (STI), which established the Strategic Mobility Formula. In fall 2015, NCDOT and local planning organizations assembled and submitted projects for scoring after collecting public input for the 2018-2027 STIP. NCDOT is hosting 15 information sessions across the state between June 20 and July 14, to receive input on the locally identified priorities and points assignments methodologies that will result in a Draft STIP next year. Click here for a short video. Click here for more information.

Eastern Federal Lands Access Program Call for Projects Alert- North Carolina	The Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division (EFLHD) of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will be accepting Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) applications in order to develop a multi-year program of projects for Federal Fiscal Years (FY) 2017 through FY 2020. All final project approvals will be contingent upon the availability of funds in the year for which they are being requested. For more information including deadlines and applications, click here.
Healthy Communities: Improving the Quality of Life	Healthy communities don't just happen – they are created by a multitude of social, economic, environmental, and behavioral factors. Local governments play a critical role in shaping community health through the services they provide, among them: drinking water, public safety, parks, and planning. However, the growing complexity of public health requires innovative service delivery approaches, collaboration, and partnerships. ICMA's new report "Improving Quality of Life: The Effect of Aligning Local Service Delivery and Public Health Goals" seeks to advance the conversation about viewing and managing general local government infrastructure, transportation systems, water and sanitation, land use and planning, and other services as part of broader efforts to contribute to a healthy environment and support healthy lifestyles. For a free download of this publication, click here.
NC Broadband Infrastructure Information Technology Technical Assistance Program	High-speed internet, or broadband, is universally recognized as an essential asset to attract and retain businesses, prepare a digitally ready workforce, and improve government efficiency. However, significant challenges in broadband deployment and adoption remain for many in North Carolina's cities and counties. To address these local challenges, NC Broadband's Technical Assistance Program provides communities with an on-the-ground technical support team to work with communities across the state to provide needed broadband expertise. Specifically, the Technical Assistant Team partners with willing communities to develop local objectives and plans in order to do the following: 1) Understand current broadband availability. 2) Locate unserved and underserved businesses and residents. 3) Identify assets relevant to broadband deployment. 4) Build partnerships with broadband service providers; and; 5) Identify opportunities to leverage assets, reduce barriers and help make the business case. For more information contact George Collier at 919-754-6558 or email at george.collier@nc.gov.

Gov. McCrory releases State Broadband Plan	The plan finds that new technologies, user demand, and greater reliance on internet access will require ongoing infrastructure upgrades within our state. Governments can ensure a healthier broadband ecosystem by encouraging competition through updated policies and laws. In areas where competition is lacking, policy makers must empower communities to form more equitable partnerships with service providers. Developed by the Broadband Infrastructure Office within the North Carolina Department of Information Technology, the plan offers lawmakers and local officials specific recommendations to foster broadband deployment and adoption. A collaborative effort, the plan uses feedback gathered from more than a dozen stakeholder listening sessions, discussions with nearly 80 subject matter experts, and a survey of 3,500 local leaders. Click here to read the Connecting North Carolina State Broadband Plan.
Using Broadband in NC—Agro-Tourism	North Carolinians across the state are using broadband to improve their education, their businesses and their lives. This video series will highlight some of the examples of broadband building better communities. Broadband affects people and businesses in many different ways. Jane Boahn, CEO and Founder of Raised in a Barn Farm was able to reposition and grow as a result of her ability to redevelop their offerings, from a tobacco farm into a farmer's market and community venue that hosts weddings, birthday parties, live music, hay rides, and much more and utilizes broadband for payment processing, advertising, marketing, and more in rural Chocowinity, NC. To view the video, click here.
USDA seeks applications for broadband grants for rural communities	USDA is soliciting applications for grants to establish broadband in unserved rural communities through its Community Connect program. Community Connect is administered by USDA's Rural Utilities Service and helps to fund broadband deployment into rural communities where it is not economically viable for private sector providers to provide service. USDA plans to award up to $11.7 million in grants through the Community Connect grant program. The grants fund broadband infrastructure to help foster economic growth by delivering connectivity to the global marketplace. The grants also fund broadband for community centers and public institutions. The minimum grant is $100,000 for FY 2016. The maximum award is $3 million. To view rules, click here. To access information on applying for the grant program, click here.

Transportation Bill H959

Bill H959 recommended changes by the JLOTC (Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee) regarding local consultation on small transportation projects, turnpike authority, broadband in right of way and bicycle and pedestrian records. Passed House on June 2, 2016 and Senate transportation committee substitute adopted on June 15, 2016. The Senate Transportation Committee approved a Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) that would make a few tweaks to the version that was passed by the house—of note, the Senate version would add a requirement for a "reflex mirror" on the rear of a bicycle used at night (in addition to the front and rear lights required in the House version), and would remove the language about NCDOT doing a bike safety education program. Other changes as well: removes language from house version about cost of utility relocations, adds language about weight limits for construction equipment, removes section on DOT surveying changes, changes to Turnpike reporting requirements, additional requirements related to DMV use of email for notifications, removes section about delaying participation in electronic lien system, additional language about release of public record accident reports, and additional language about use of Freight Rail & Rail Crossing Safety Improvement Fund for assistance to short line railroads. Conference committee appointed June 22, 2016.

Environmental Justice 2020 Action Agenda

EPA's EJ 2020 Action Agenda will help the Agency to integrate environmental justice into everything we do, cultivate strong partnerships to improve on-the-ground results, and chart a path forward for achieving better environmental outcomes and reducing disparities in the nation's most overburdened communities. Achieving this vision will help to make our vulnerable, environmentally burdened, and economically disadvantaged communities healthier, cleaner and more sustainable places in which to live, work, play and learn. Read more...

The Big Jump Project: Bike Plans

PeopleForBikes is opening applications for an ambitious new effort called The Big Jump Project. The Big Jump Project builds on the momentum and success of the PeopleForBikes Green Lane Project that helped get protected bike lanes on the ground, into the design toolbox and established them as the gold standard for comfortable biking on busy streets. The Big Jump Project will provide a package of support to the ten places, including technical advice, leadership development, and national media exposure. Applications accepted until October 28, 2016. For more information on this project, click here.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Backpacks to Briefcases

In our June newsletter we mentioned our Backpacks to Briefcases program and the idea of increasing participant to employee engagement. Proudly we announce the amazing success of the first B2B class and the 100% placement of the individuals who attended. The weeklong, four hours per day class culminated in a successful meet-and-greet between graduates and employers. There were snacks, handshakes, and interviews, which resulted in job offers! Granville County HR, Boys And Girls Club of Central NC, and GKN Driveline of Roxboro NC were in attendance to meet our candidates for possible consideration. With such an outstanding result from our June graduates, we look forward to a new group of participants this coming July. Stay tuned as the Business Service Team exceeds expectations and places college grads into promising careers and builds even stronger relationship with local business partners.

NCWorks July 2016 Events

Workforce development is working hard to make sure classes and trainings are available for individuals seeking job opportunities.
Trainings include:
• Basic Computer Skills
• Money Management
• Resume Writing
• Interview Skills
• 1-on-1 Assistance
• Dress for Success
• Power of Networking
• Goal Setting
Please contact Lou Grillo (lgrillo@kerrtarcog.org) or 252-436-2040 for more information on the July calendar.

Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board to apply for America's Promise Job-Driven Grant Program

Funding is available to support grants under the America's Promise Job-Driven Grant Program. ETA expects to fund between 20-40 grants, with individual grants ranging from $1 million to $6 million. This competitive grant program will build on the momentum of WOIA to develop and expand regional partnerships and training opportunities, particularly for middle-to-high skilled H-1B industries and occupations, ensuring that communities fully maximize their federal, state and local funds to build a competitive workforce. Deadline is August 25, 2016. Click here for more information.

AGING

Virtual Dementia Tour

Melissa Catlett, Family Caregiver Specialist, will be helping host a Virtual Dementia Tour for Bayada Nurses and clinical staff on Monday July 11th in Charlotte, NC.

Dementia Workshop
July 26th 2-5 p.m.
Creedmoor Senior Center

Upcoming Dementia workshop hosted by Melanie Bunn, from Alzheimer's North Carolina, July 26th from 2-4p.m. at the Creedmoor Senior Center. For more information or to reserve a spot, call Cheryl Carrier at 919-528-0848. Space is limited.

Advocacy Alert: U.S. Senate Votes to Cut State Health Insurance Program Funding

The Senate Labor-Health and Human Services measure that recently passed out of the full Appropriations Committee would zero out the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). In our state, the program is called North Carolina State Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP). Eliminating SHIPs would leave millions who need support comparing coverage options, appealing denials, applying for financial assistance, and navigating increasingly complex Medicare benefits stranded—with nowhere to turn. In 2015, the SHIIP program helped North Carolina Medicare beneficiaries save $53 million in Medicare coverage and prescription drugs. This is more than the $52.1 million that is appropriated for all SHIPs nationwide and is being eliminated in the current U.S. Senate Appropriations Budget. North Carolina SHIIP is the only organization in the state that provides unbiased, accurate, highly-personalized one-on-one counseling about Medicare by phone and in-person in all 100 counties in North Carolina. In 2015, in the Kerr Tar region, more than 1,830 consumers were counseled; Saving nearly $563,000 by these individuals. The Kerr Tar Area Agency on Aging staff and several aging service provider staff are certified SHIIP volunteers who counsel beneficiaries through complex Medicare options.Contact Jillian Hardin at jhardin@kerrtarcog.org for more information.

Person County Aging Plan

Kerr-Tar Area Agency on Aging starts the process of working with Person County Senior Center staff to form a Leadership Team. The team will work to develop an Aging Plan for the county. We recently assisted Franklin County with the development of its plan. If you are from Person County and interested in serving on the Leadership Team for the Aging Plan, please contact Jillian Hardin at jhardin@kerrtarcog.org.

Kerr-Tar Area on Aging Four Year Plan Approved

The NC Division of Aging and Adult Services approved the Kerr Tar Area Plan. The "Plan" is effective from July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2020. The Division's Reviews Team conducted a through review of the plan and determined that it is comprehensive and recognizes the efforts by the Area Agency on Aging to improve access to services and promotes the well being of older adults, caregivers and their families. The Review Team identified the plan's strength's to increase capacity for outreach to caregivers and minority populations in the region. For additional information on the Kerr Tar Area Plan contact Jillian Hardin at jhardin@kerrtarcog.org.

ABOUT US

MISSION

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.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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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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