



THE PALMETTO PLANNER

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Happy Spring!



*** KID CITY - The Learning Continues!!! ***

Students at Harold C. Johnson Middle School in York spent a week learning about growth as part of the Kids City Program. Kids City is an interactive process where kids experience hand-on learning about their communities while creating their own three-dimensional box city. Planning professionals worked with sixth and seventh grade classes to teach students the basics of: what is planning and why do we plan, what is zoning, how a city/community develops and provide a general understanding of the interdependency between citizens, the buildings, and the environment. On the final day of their training, students went before the "Planning Commission" to receive permits, and place their buildings on an oversized zoning map of "KIDS CITY." The "Planning Commission," staffed by KIDS CITY alumni, held rezoning requests and also made decisions when new services were needed. This is the fourth year that York County and the Catawba Council of Governments has organized this program, set up similarly to the one originally created by Charlie Compton in Lexington County.



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Residents form close relationships with workers and volunteers.



Participants are entertained and educated by the Catawba Indians at a Pow Wow event.



CHANGING THE WORLD ONE HOUSE AT A TIME

By Susan Britt, AICP

During the week of July 13 through July 19 a horde of young people (approximately 400) from all over the United States will descend upon the City of Rock Hill. They are participating in World Changers, a program initiated by the York Baptist Association. Their mission, through a coalition with the City of Rock Hill, Rock Hill Joint Venture for Affordable Housing, and other community partners, will be to help families who desperately need assistance in repairing their homes. At the same time these young people, by their personal involvement and "hands-on" experience, learn what it is like to change not only someone else's world but to have their own forever impacted. For seven years community residents have known these young people are known as the "World Changers."

Participants spent many hours in the hot summer sun.



A happy recipient receives a handicap ramp and roofing repairs.



World Changers, formed in 1990, is a youth volunteer program sponsored by the Southern Baptist Association. The main objective of the organization is to provide labor for helping local agencies that are already at work in a community serving the low income and elderly populations. World Changers teams unskilled volunteers with skilled leaders and supervisors. The participants, who pay their own expenses, are divided into work crews and spend one week in the local neighborhoods painting, re-roofing, and performing other light construction functions. To date more than 120,000 students from across the Southeast have participated in rehabilitation projects across the nation and in five foreign countries.

The City of Rock Hill Planning Department, through its Community Development Division and partnerships with Rock Hill Joint Venture for Affordable Housing Corporation and the York County Baptist Association, became a sponsoring agency for World Changers in 1996. Additional community partners have joined the program over the years. To date 129 needy families have been assisted with a monetary value of \$167,619.

As a sponsoring agency, the City of Rock Hill Planning and Development Department's responsibilities are:

- o Identify, process, and select homes of residents based on greatest need and financial means.
- o Prioritize and outline necessary repairs.
- o Purchase the materials and supplies needed to complete repairs.
- o Provide equipment, sanitation and refuse facilities for work sites.

In addition, various other City departments provide assistance during the actual week of the World Changers projects. This assistance ranges from adoption by the Fire and Police Departments of a site and crew and acting as community liaisons to the opening of neighborhood swimming pools after work hours by the Parks, Recreation & Tourism Department.

Rock Hill's partners have grown to include representation from various organizations.

- o Rock Hill Joint Venture for Affordable Housing provides the funds for building materials.
- o The York County Baptist Association provides coordination assistance for work sites and volunteers in addition to the meals each day for the workers.
- o The York County Council waives 'tipping fees' for construction debris in the landfill.
- o Rock Hill School District Three provides lodging for the volunteers in school gymnasiums.
- o The Catawba Indian Nation plans and conducts a Pow-Wow as a special event for the entertainment of the volunteers.
- o The York County Council on Aging provides meals and a meeting facility for crew leaders.

As you can see, for the City of Rock Hill, World Changers is one of the few things that has no down side. It is strictly a win-win situation for all involved. Even though World Changers is a rather ambitious name, their work in the City of Rock Hill proves that lives and circumstances can be changed, one house at a time.

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THE PALMETTO PLANNER is the official newsletter of the South Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association. Newsletter contributions are encouraged from SCAPA members and others. Material selected for publication may be edited to conform to space or other requirements. Please email contributions to the Newsletter to: Cheryl Dean:

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Articles to be published in the Palmetto Planner should be no more than 750 words. Use spell check and write in the active voice. Please include your name, organization, and contact information.

Articles may be edited.

Member News

Joe Heard, City of Hartsville Director of Planning & Development, has accepted a position as Director of the Development Services Division for the City of Asheville, NC. In his new role, Joe will be in charge of development review, ordinance drafting, and code enforcement for the City of Asheville. Joe has been an active member of SCAPA over the past 15 years, including service as SCAPA's student representative while at Clemson, member of the legislative committee, and co-chairman of the programs committee. Joe's new contact information is as follows:

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DHEC AIR QUALITY UPDATE

The Early Action Plan for Low Level Ozone reduction has resulted in an overwhelming response from South Carolina communities who want to have cleaner air sooner. 45 of 46 South Carolina counties have signed up for this program with SC DHEC (one of the highest response rates in the nation!). These counties are now forming stakeholder groups - planners, business and industry representatives, citizen groups and local officials - to propose local area projects designed to reduce low level ozone. Source Water Protection also now moves to the community level to decide how to protect drinking water in each community.

It is important that planners stay involved in local proposals because many projects may involve land use planning.

Check DHEC's website, www.scdhec.net/eqc and look under "air quality" or "water" for more information.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Sharon Richardson

A brief message this month as my schedule has gone haywire lately. I am due to leave for Denver at the end of the week to represent SCAPA at the APA Conference. From the thickness of the stack of conference materials I've received from the folks at National, I'm counting on a full and "fun" few days in the 'Mile High City'. The Chapter Delegate Assembly will be debating the final draft of APA's Homelessness Policy Guide as well as working papers on redevelopment and energy planning issues. Copies of these documents are available at www.planning.org. Meetings of the Chapter Presidents Council will take most of the rest of my time, so have no fear that I will be either bored (hmmm?) or lazy. I also understand that there will be a few sessions running concurrently at something called the National Conference, but it seems like that will remain just an unconfirmed rumor for me.

I hope many of you are making plans to attend our Winter/Spring conference in Columbia on April 9. NOTE that we will be having the conference on a Wednesday rather than a Friday — a SCAPA first as far as I can tell. We would appreciate hearing from the membership about this change. This is something that has been discussed for years so we decided to see how it would fit our chapter needs. The agenda looks like a good one with issues ranging from building neighborhood partnerships to homeland security to urban forestry to comprehensive plans. A parallel track of Academy classes will also be offered. Hope to see you at the Museum on the 9th!!!

To those folks with family in the military, our thoughts and prayers are with you. We live in stressful, trying times and those of us in the planning profession have a vital role to play in helping promote the quality of life in our communities, helping educate the public on the benefits of sustainable development and engaging the public in a healthy debate about the future. With all the changes we have felt since 9/11, the need to promote and protect our communities is more important than ever. APA's motto of "dedication to building strong, vibrant communities" remains our mission.

SCDAH - New State Income Tax Credits for Historic Properties

The South Carolina Department of Archives and History is pleased to announce the creation of new state income tax credits to benefit owners of historic properties throughout the state. The South Carolina Historic Rehabilitation Incentives Act creates two state income tax credits to encourage owners of historic buildings to undertake work that protects the historic qualities of their buildings. Section 12-6-3535 created a 25% state income tax credit for rehabilitation expenses on owner occupied historic buildings located in South Carolina and a 10% state income tax credit for income producing properties. The law took effect January 1, 2003. A credit may only be taken on projects placed in service (completed) after June 30, 2003.

Based on similar, highly successful programs in Wisconsin and North Carolina, the aim of this program is to help stimulate downtown revitalization, rescue rural properties and invigorate historic inner-city neighborhoods.

Which buildings are eligible for the 25% state income tax credit?

A building must be a "certified historic residential structure." This is an owner-occupied personal residence that is also one of the following:

- listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places;
- Contributes to the historic significance of a National Register Historic District
- Individually eligible for listing in the National Register
- An outbuilding of an otherwise eligible property that contributes to the historic significance of the property

To find out if your property is listed in the National Register, contributes to a National Register district or is eligible for listing, do one of the following: search the online database of the National Register Information System at www.cr.nps.gov/nr/, or contact your Regional Representative at the State Historic Preservation Office at www.state.sc.us/scdah/hpcontacts.htm.

What projects qualify for the 25% state income tax credit?

The work must be a "certified rehabilitation." All project work must be consistent with Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The Standards are on the National Park Service's website at www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/tax/rehabstandards.htm. The entire project must be reviewed and approved by the State Historic Preservation Officer before it starts. Only projects pre-approved by the State Historic Preservation Officer in writing will be eligible for the credit. The taxpayer must spend at least \$15,000 on eligible "rehabilitation expenses" within a 36-month period. Eligible rehabilitation expenses are limited to those defined by the law (see below).

"Rehabilitation expenses" means expenses incurred in the certified rehabilitation of a certified historic residential structure, including preservation and rehabilitation work done to the exterior of a historic structure, repair and stabilization of historic structural systems, restoration of historic plaster, energy efficiency measures except insulation in frame walls, repairs or rehabilitation of heating, air-conditioning, or ventilating systems, repairs or rehabilitation of electrical or plumbing systems exclusive of new electrical appliances and electrical or plumbing fixtures, and architectural and engineering fees.

"Rehabilitation expenses" do not include the cost of acquiring or marketing the property, the cost of new construction beyond the volume of the existing building, the value of an owner's personal labor, or the cost of personal property.

How do you get started?

Applications for the 25% state income tax credit are available from the State Historic Preservation Office.

Taxpayers must receive approval of the project from the State Historic Preservation Office before beginning the work on the historic building.

Any work undertaken without prior approval from the State Historic Preservation Office does not qualify for the credit. The completed work must be certified by the State Historic Preservation Officer to meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

There is a piggyback 10% state income tax credit for qualified rehabilitation expenditures for income-producing certified historic structures that also qualify for the 20% federal income tax credit for rehabilitation. For more information about the federal credit visit the National Park Service website www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/tax/index.htm, or call the SHPO at 803-896-6199 or 803-896-6174.

So, how do you apply the credit to your taxes?

A tax credit is a dollar-for-dollar reduction in the amount of taxes you owe. The credit can be taken only on rehabilitation expenses for properties placed in service after June 30, 2003. For certified historic residential structures, the law defines "placed in service" as the taxable year the project is completed. The credit must be taken in equal installments over a five-year period, beginning with the year in which the property is placed in service. Any unused portion of any credit installment may be carried forward for the succeeding five years. A taxpayer may only claim one credit on the same certified historic residential structure within 10 years.

Where can I get more information?

The Archives & History website has more information including links to applications. www.state.sc.us/scdah/histrapl.htm

Contact Mark Doty at 803-896-6199 or email doty@scdah.state.sc.us for further information.

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For Regional Correspondence, please see www.scapa.org. Please contact your regional SCAPA correspondent to share information about the projects and news in your community.

COMMUNITY BENCHMARKING COLLABORATIVE RELEASES THIRD-ANNUAL QUALITY OF LIFE STUDY ON THREE-COUNTY REGION

Measuring for Success 2002 examines and reports on the region's quality of life indicators

The Community Benchmarking Collaborative released the findings of the third annual study. The Collaborative goal is to provide objective, reliable information about the quality of life the BCD region. What started out as a joint project of the BCDCOG, Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce, Trident United Way, & The Community Foundation serving Coastal South Carolina, this year expanded to make sure the viewpoints of the region were represented. New partners joining the Collaborative this year include the Berkeley Chamber of Commerce, the Charleston Regional Development Alliance and the Education Foundation. Additionally, MUSC - Medical Center, also joined the effort.

Modeled after similar studies around the country, Measuring for Success studies the issues that shape the Charleston region, including jobs and wages, housing affordability, school readiness, growth of the urban area, public transportation, crime rates and more. This year's study once again includes a race relations component and a community perception survey, which was conducted by the Joseph P. Riley Institute for Urban Affairs and used to gauge opinions and perceptions about the area's quality of life and how it is changing.

In addition to reviewing the entire report, the Collaborative also identified what were considered to be the top three issues of the report: the need to create higher-paying jobs in the region; the issues of attrition in our public schools; area growth and its impact on the region. Then, groups of attendees were asked to consider one of these challenges, identify strategies to improve it and report back to the larger group. The goal of this activity was to engage the attendees in a meaningful evaluation of the information and encourage the development of strategies to address them.

City of Hartsville

by Joe Heard, AICP

The City of Hartsville is proud to announce the opening of a visitor education center at the Coker Experimental Farms National Historic Landmark. Featuring a large barn-like structure, the visitor center property contains kiosks, plaques, photographs, and audio exhibits highlighting the innovative research conducted at the experimental farm. The visitor center highlights the broad-reaching impact of Coker Experimental Farms on agricultural practices throughout the Southeast. Founded by David Coker in 1902, the experimental farms engaged in plant breeding to produce more productive, disease-resistant varieties of agricultural crops. By the time that Coker Experimental Farms earned National Historic Landmark status in 1964, 65% of cotton, 80% of oats, 75% of cured tobacco, and 40% of corn grown in the Southeast could be traced directly to seeds developed by Coker scientists. The completion of the new visitor center culminates a five-year effort to preserve this important piece of agricultural history.

The City of Hartsville has recently acquired a railroad switching yard at the edge of city's downtown. Located between the campuses of Coker College and the SC Governor's School for Science & Mathematics, the property has been a major eyesore in the community. Redevelopment of the railroad property will play a key role in tying together these two institutions, as well as tying both of them to the downtown. The purchase was negotiated by a team of representatives from the City of Hartsville, Coker College, Governor's School, and Sonoco. The City's share of the purchase price will be funded through the use of a multi-county business park. Clemson University and the SC Design Arts Partnership have completed design charettes relating to the potential redevelopment of the railroad property into a mixed-use concept featuring institutional, retail, residential, and public uses. Discussions on more detailed designs will begin later this year.

BCDCOG ASSISTS ST. STEPHEN & MONCK'S CORNER WITH GRANT AWARDS

With the assistance of the BCDCOG, the Towns of Moncks Corner & St. Stephen each received a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

The Town of Moncks Corner has been awarded a \$500,000 Community Investment (CI) Grant by the South Carolina Department of Commerce's CDBG Program to provide water service to the Perry Hill community. The residents are currently using shallow wells some of which are contaminated. The project will benefit a total of 158 persons, 123 of which are low to moderate income. Water lines will be extended by the Moncks Corner Public Works Commission to provide water to the residents of the Perry Hill community. The CDBG funds will be used to construct the main water line and provide service to the residents who have been determined to be low and moderate income. The water lines will make water service available to all 158 residents of the Perry Hill community; however, those residents determined to be low to moderate income will be provided with lateral service connections to the main water line as a part of the grant.

Provision of water to the Perry Hill community is part of a long standing objective to provide a potable water source to the residents of the Town of Moncks Corner and the surrounding community. The project will provide a safe, sanitary and decent potable water supply to residents of the Perry Hill community. This will eliminate the concerns regarding the poor water quality in the Perry Hill community and the health affects of consuming poor quality and contaminated water. The project will also make available a more efficient source of fire protection with the installation of fire hydrants resulting in a substantial reduction in home insurance premiums for local residents, many of which are elderly and on fixed incomes.

The Town of St. Stephen has been awarded a \$225,048 CI grant by the South Carolina Department of Commerce's CDBG Program. The project is designed to address the three major problems within the Town. First, there is a need to upgrade public water service to the 19 homes on South Main Street that are currently connected to an existing 2" water line. Second, there is a need to serve 10 additional homes on South Main Street that are currently utilizing contaminated and unacceptable well systems. Finally, the South Main Street as a whole need improved fire protection. The project would provide 29 homes with a source of potable water.

The Community Investment Program is designed to address essential housing and community development needs, primarily of low and moderate income persons. Funds are awarded in a statewide competition based on relative levels of need, community involvement and benefit and the impact of the project. The BCDCOG administers CDBG grants around the BCD region and is available to assist any jurisdiction in the region. For more information, contact Community Development Manager Mary Jo Thomas at (843) 529-0400 or maryjobt@bcdcog.com.

Advertising in the SCAPA Newsletter

THE PALMETTO PLANNER is a quarterly publication of the South Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association. The following information will assist you in submitting your advertising, and ensure that your ad appears as intended.

Advertisements are accepted at the discretion of the editor. Only camera-ready (high resolution) art is accepted: laser output, linotronic output, and halftone reproductions. Payment must accompany ad copy. Send your camera-ready copy, along with payment to Reva Kaufman, SCAPA, P.O. Box 683, Clemson, SC 29633-0683. For further information, call Cheryl Dean at 803-909-7222 or 1-800-922-7271, ext. 7222 or email at: cheryl.dean@yorkcountygov.com

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Upper Savannah Regional News

by Rick Green, AICP

Abbeville County

Patricia Gordon is the new Abbeville County Planning Director. She started work in early February and is actively involved in finalizing the draft zoning ordinance update and other duties.

City of Clinton

Stephanie Monroe, AICP, is the new Planning Director for the City of Clinton. She is the first-ever Planning Director for the City, and is working to set up her new department. A community charette is scheduled for April 22-25. Community Builders and Stantec Consulting will be working with residents to develop a Master Plan for the Uptown area and the city as a whole. Important upcoming projects include the rebirth of the Main Street program and the development of an Industrial Park along Interstate 26.

Greenwood City/County

Work is underway to develop an energy element for the comprehensive plan. Utility providers, government leaders, and business interests are among the groups meeting monthly to discuss and build this element.

McCormick County – County Council and the planning commission met in a joint session in February to discuss updates to the comprehensive plan. Census figures are being updated, goals are being reviewed, and maps are being developed to complete this project.

DISASTER MITIGATION PLAN UNDERWAY

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 provides for the coordination of State and local entities in forming a disaster mitigation plan and implementing the plan. The Act designates two types of mitigation plans; one being the “standard” plan and the other being an “enhanced” plan. Those States that demonstrate a commitment to comprehensive mitigation and that have an “enhanced” plan approved by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) will be eligible to receive disaster funding through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

This Act is an effort to coordinate state and local disaster mitigation by streamlining the mitigation planning and implementation processes. Each jurisdiction will be encouraged to participate in the Regional Disaster Mitigation Plan; these regional plans will comprise a statewide disaster mitigation plan. State’s that have a Disaster Mitigation Plan approved by FEMA will then be eligible to receive more disaster funding through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

The goal of a Disaster Mitigation Plan is to reduce the amount of property and human loss that will occur if a disaster hits a region. Local Hazard Mitigation Plans are needed to identify specific proposals and actions that could, if implemented, reduce a community’s vulnerabilities to future disasters. The plan will examine the specific strengths and vulnerabilities of each jurisdiction in a region and determine ways that each community can mitigate their particular losses during a time of disaster.

The State of South Carolina has charged the Council of Governments with the coordination and composition of a disaster mitigation plan for each respective region. The Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments is beginning the planning process for a regional disaster mitigation plan on behalf of Berkeley, Dorchester and Charleston Counties and local governments in this region.

This Regional Disaster Mitigation Plan must also be approved and adopted by resolution by each jurisdiction in the Berkeley-Charleston- Dorchester Region.

Over the next several months, the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments staff will be contacting relevant County or Municipal representatives.

This multi-jurisdictional plan will:

- Identify the hazards that affect the Region,
- Assess the Region’s vulnerability for each hazard, and
- Identify mitigation goals and implementation strategies for each jurisdiction.

Legislative Committee Update

By Harold LeaMond, AICP

S204. The “Takings” legislation has passed the full Senate and has been forwarded to the House. This is probably the best version of this bill with the least amount of impact for us as planners – it establishes a mediation process and requires continuing education for Zoning Officials and Planners. Please urge your House members to support this bill without amendment. If it can be passed intact this may finally end the struggle over this issue. Note that I use the word “may.”

S280. This bill would require cash compensation for terminating non-conforming uses instead of an amortization period. It is currently in the Senate Finance Committee and you should contact your local Senator and advise him that this bill would affect far more than billboards, (i.e., junkyards, adult uses), and urge that they vote against it.

H3555. This is a rehash of the Hog Farm Bill of a few years ago. It has been broadened to include poultry and livestock. There are two versions, one for cities and one for counties. This bill would not allow any local government to be more restrictive of concentrated animal feeding operations than state law. Please urge your House members to oppose this assault on Home Rule.

Three other bills, (S207, S108, and H3102) have apparently stalled for the time being.

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SCDOT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, increasing walking and bicycling offers the potential for cleaner air, greater health of the population, reduced traffic congestion, more livable communities, less reliance on fossil fuels and their foreign supply sources and more efficient use of road space and resources; and

WHEREAS, in 2001 crashes involving bicyclists and pedestrians represented 13 percent of the traffic fatalities in S.C. and in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in its February 24, 1999 Policy statement "Guidance on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Provisions of the Federal-Aid Program" urges states to include bicycle and pedestrian accommodations routinely in their programmed highway projects; and

WHEREAS, bicycle and pedestrian projects and programs are eligible for funding from almost all of the major Federal-aid funding programs; and

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Department of Transportation Commission is strongly committed to improving conditions for walking and bicycling; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) calls for the mainstreaming of bicycle and pedestrian projects into the planning, design and operation of our Nation's transportation system;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the South Carolina Department of Transportation Commission in meeting duly assembled this 14th day of January 2003, affirms that bicycling and walking accommodations should be a routine part of the department's planning, design, construction and operating activities, and will be included in the everyday operations of our transportation system; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the South Carolina Department of Transportation Commission requires South Carolina counties and municipalities to make bicycling and pedestrian improvements an integral part of their transportation planning and programming where State or Federal Highway funding is utilized.

First-ever Statewide Conference on Improving Bicycle & Pedestrian Accommodations by Bob Kudelka

By holding its first-ever statewide conference on improving bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, SCDOT brought together advocates from the private sector, highway engineers, planners and local, state and federal leaders. You might say that SCDOT showed it doesn't just talk the talk; it also walks the walk. "Transportation Choices for the 21st Century," hosted by SCDOT and FHWA, was held Dec. 1-3 in North Charleston. More than 350 people attended.

Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry, who was given a pedometer that tallied the number of steps she took, said she looked forward to hearing many new ideas generated from the conference. "I know great things are going to come from this conference," Mabry said. "It's been an amazing experience for most of us."

SCDOT and FHWA hosted the conference as part of a statewide initiative to provide safer and more inviting facilities for walking and biking. FHWA Division Administrator Bob Lee said there were more pedestrians and bicyclists killed than motorists on interstate highways in South Carolina in 2001. Providing safe accommodations for walking and biking is "critical to our mission nationally," Lee said.

The purpose of the conference was to bring together communities, interest groups, planning professionals and citizens who promote the development of quality walking and cycling facilities. The goal was to strengthen partnerships among these groups and others so communities would include these facilities in their planning of new transportation projects. Mabry said that as she travels the state, she continuously hears that the public wants pedestrian and bicycle accommodations, not only for safety reasons, but because they improve the quality of life. Improving pedestrian and bicycle accommodations can result in many benefits, Mabry said, including improving traffic safety by reducing fatalities; improving health by lowering rates of heart disease and obesity; and improving air quality.

Mabry challenged employees attending the conference to each come up with one idea, no matter how small or large, to "make a difference in South Carolina." She will be preparing a recommendation to the SCDOT Commission relating to pedestrian and bicycle accommodations. Commissioners Bob Harrell and John M. "Moot" Truluck spoke at the conference, expressing support for bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Harrell received applause from the audience when mentioning that the new Cooper River Bridge will accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians. Truluck, addressing the attendees on the final day of the conference, said he appreciated the work done the SCDOT staff in assembling the conference speakers.

Fenton energized the conference from the minute he was introduced, leaping on stage to begin a fast-talking and fast-walking (1,713 steps according to his pedometer) keynote address. He was passionate about the need to offer people safe places to walk and ride bikes, saying it not only improves health but also strengthens a community by bringing people closer together. He peppered his talk with personal antidotes about the joy he has riding bicycles with his son and walking from his home to a restaurant with his wife. Fenton said developers are finding out that subdivisions that accommodate walkers and bicyclists are more popular and that housing values increase when there is such access. This goes against the trend of subdivisions with cul-de-sacs and one main access point.

"I quickly found out there are people who are very enthusiastic about walking and cycling," Truluck said.

"It has met all of our expectations in terms of having a great conference," said Patterson. "We accomplished what we set out to do - bring all the key players to the table."



Fenton said civic commitments could occur through many ways. Schools should be built near homes to give children the chance to walk or bike home instead of building them “on the cheap land” far from easy access to neighborhoods. A person can

begin walking more by setting goals of the number of steps taken per day. Wearing a pedometer, which counts the steps, is a good way to keep track, he said. Fenton, a nationally recognized leader in his field, said he would be spreading the news of the great things happening in South Carolina.

In addition to hosting the PBS show, Fenton is Physical Activity Program Manager of the national Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center housed at the University of North Carolina. A lot of work went in to the conference. The conference steering committee was co-chaired by Ron Joye and Vivian Patterson. Committee members were Tom Dodds, Ron Joye, Pete Poore, Martha Monjo, Angela Feaster, Anne Futch, Robert I. Pratt, Mark Nesbitt, Russ Cornette, Tony Chapman, Cathy Rice, Yolanda Simons, Libby Roof, Shane Belcher, Amelia Glisson and Colette Swann.



“I thought the conference was well done,” Feda said. “It planted a seed in the minds of those who do the design work on these projects.”

Tom Dodds, Pedestrian and Bicycle Coordinator, said: “The strong participation of leaders from throughout SCDOT, as well as the many enthusiastic comments I received were very inspiring to me personally. I truly believe we witnessed South Carolina begin its move to the forefront in providing these facilities.” Director of Maintenance Jim Feda, an avid cyclist, said the conference showed the strong benefits from providing bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.

Robert Pratt, Director of Preconstruction, said the conference was very worthwhile. He was impressed by the top professionals invited to lead the various sessions. “I think it certainly should motivate people to be concerned about pedestrians and bicyclists,” Pratt said. “It even surpassed my expectations.”



Several breakout sessions covered a variety of topics: the State Planning Process, Organizing Local Efforts, Creating More Opportunities Through Local Planning, Improving Public Health Through Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities, Planning & Design of Bicycle Accommodations, Pedestrian Accommodations Planning & Design, Connecting Communities Through Trails, Successful Local Bicycle & Pedestrian Programs and Funding Projects Through Unusual Funding Sources Sponsors included ACS State and Local Solution; Barbara H. Mulkey Engineering; Cycle Safe, Inc.; Davis & Floyd, Inc.; DRMP, Inc.; Earth Tech; Fluor Corporation; HDR Engineering, Inc.; Holophane; Kimley Horne & Associates; 3M Personal Safety Products; Municipal Association of South Carolina; Palmetto Bridge Constructors; Parsons Brinckerhoff; SCANA/SCE&G; Site-Blauvelt Engineers; South Carolina Park, Recreation & Tourism; USC Prevention Research Center; and Wilbur Smith & Associates.



“This is a fantastic conference,” said Mark Fenton, keynote speaker and host of the PBS TV show, “America’s Walking.” “This is very unique to the United States and very rare to bring everyone to the table. I think that is outstanding.”



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