



# RURAL PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

**Fiscal Years 2026-2027**



BERKELEY-CHARLESTON-DORCHESTER  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
— PLANNING, PARTNERSHIP & PROSPERITY —

**Adopted: April 21, 2025**

**Interim Update: April 20, 2026**

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**RESOLUTION CERTIFYING  
THE BCDCOG  
RURAL PLANNING WORK PROGRAM FOR FY2026 & FY2027**

**WHEREAS**, the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments has found that the regional agency serving county governments is conducting transportation planning in a continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive manner in accordance with 23 U.S.C. 134 and 49 U.S.C. 1607, as amended;

**WHEREAS**, the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments has found the transportation planning process to be in compliance with Sections 174 and 176 (c) and (d) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7504, 7506 (c) and (d));

**WHEREAS**, the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments has found the Transportation Planning Process to be in full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Title VI Assurance executed by each State under 23 U.S.C. 324 and 29 U.S.C. 794;

**WHEREAS**, the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments has considered how the Transportation Planning Process will affect the involvement of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in the FHWA and the FTA funded planning projects (Sec. 105(f), Pub. L. 97-424, 96 Stat. 2100, 49 CFR part 23);

**WHEREAS**, the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments has considered how the Transportation Planning Process will affect the elderly and the disabled per the provision of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-336, 104 Stat. 327, as amended) and the U.S. DOT implementing regulations;

**WHEREAS**, the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments Rural Transportation Improvement Program is a subset of the currently conforming 2040 Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan;

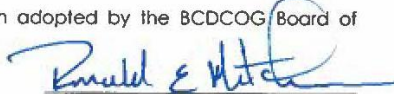
**WHEREAS**, the Transportation Plan has a planning horizon year of 2040, and meets all the requirements for an adequate Transportation Plan,

**NOW THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments Board of Directors certifies the FY2026 and FY2027 Rural Planning Work Program for the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments on this the 21<sup>st</sup> day of April 2025.

**READ AND ADOPTED** the 21<sup>st</sup> day of April 2025.

  
Caldwell Pinckney, Jr., Chairman

Certified true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the BCDCOG Board of Directors on April 21, 2025.

  
Ronald E. Mitchum

Executive Director  
Title

4/21/25  
Date

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As a regional agency serving Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties, the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments (BCDCOG) assists the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) with statewide planning responsibilities in the tri-county area. BCDCOG will undertake the following transportation planning activities within rural areas of the region during fiscal years 2026 and 2027. This document was made available for public review and comment from April 7, 2025 to April 28, 2025 with no comments received. This final document was approved by the BCDCOG Board of Directors on April 21, 2025.

**PURPOSE OF THE FY2026-FY2027 RURAL PLANNING WORK PROGRAM**

The Rural Planning Work Program (RPWP) consolidates all transportation planning and directly supporting comprehensive planning activities, anticipated for the non-urbanized area of the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester region, during the upcoming fiscal years (FY2026 and FY2027). The rural program is coordinated with comparable activities of the Charleston Area Transportation Study (CHATS) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to ensure continuity between urban and rural transportation programs. Additionally, the program is intended to provide a mechanism for the coordination of rural transportation planning efforts by local, state, and regional agencies through the BCDCOG.

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) and its modal administrations - Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) - reference this RPWP as a basis and condition for all funding assistance to state, local and regional agencies for transportation planning. SCDOT coordinates with the COG to facilitate an on-going transportation planning process that defines both urban and rural regional transportation priorities as required by 23 CFR 450.218 (a) and (b).

**BCDCOG ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT**

The BCDCOG Rural Planning Area encompasses *non-urbanized* portions of Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties that are also *not* expected to be urbanized by the year 2045. The boundaries conform to guidelines issued by FHWA and FTA, for establishing transportation study areas. Within the BCDCOG rural area, there are 10 incorporated towns and three county governments. A map showing the BCDCOG Rural Planning Area, updated to account for the 2020 urbanized area, is included on page iii.

The BCDCOG rural planning area is the responsibility of four agencies operating at different levels of government. Rural transportation policy decisions are designated to the BCDCOG Board of Directors, which is governed by its bylaws. BCDCOG is responsible for providing local technical staff support to the Board of Directors and the Rural Transportation Study Committee. The Rural Transportation Study Committee is engaged as needed and is tasked with supporting the transportation planning process by providing technical analysis and review of BCDCOG plans (including the development of the Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), programs, studies and issues, and offer guidance and recommendation to the BCDCOG Board of Directors. State participation is provided by SCDOT in conjunction with FHWA and FTA.

The RPWP is developed biannually, with updates to the document occurring in intermittent years. While it is the mission of BCDCOG to complete work planned within a program year, task elements may span multiple fiscal years and are carried forward into subsequent work programs until completion.

**STAFFING**

The work proposed under the RPWP will be accomplished by BCDCOG with the assistance and cooperative support of the participating BCDCOG member governments and private consultants, where appropriate.

*BCDCOG Staff*

A permanent, interdisciplinary professional planning staff has been assembled to carry out the RPWP. This staff consists of an Executive Director and professional, technical, and support personnel, who pursue specific BCDCOG work program task elements under the direction of the BCDCOG Board of Directors.

*SCDOT Staff*

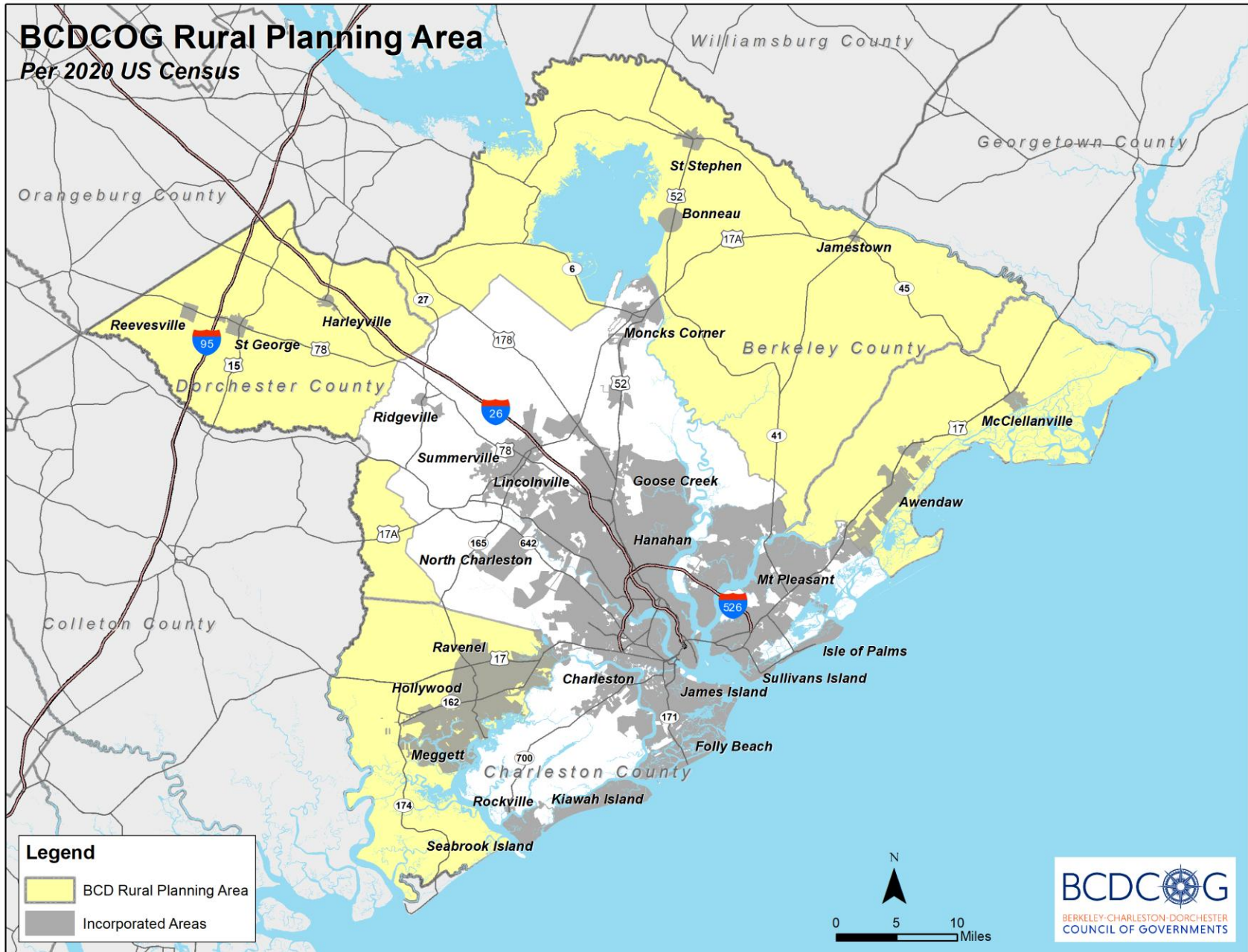
SCDOT has an extensive professional staff of transportation planners, analysts and support personnel, in transportation planning, research, data processing, and environmental impact analysis. SCDOT provides assistance to the BCDCOG on various issues as requested.

*County Planning, Engineering, GIS & Economic Development Staff for Berkeley, Charleston and/or Dorchester counties*

Staff from departments responsible for transportation planning and construction at the county level provide support to this program and the BCDCOG with planning, engineering, construction, and GIS-related data assistance.

*Municipal Planning, Engineering, Public Works, GIS & Economic Development Staff*

Staff is responsible for transportation planning and construction for municipalities in the region's rural areas. These municipalities coordinate with the BCDCOG for planning, engineering, construction, and Geographic Information System (GIS) services assistance.



## TRANSPORTATION PLANNING FRAMEWORK

On November 15, 2021 the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) ([Public Law 117-58](#)) was signed into law providing five years of funding for surface transportation infrastructure, water infrastructure, resiliency projects, and broadband. The IIJA funding bill authorized \$550 billion over fiscal years 2022 through 2026 and maintains the transportation focus on safety, keeps intact the established structure of the various highway-related programs, continues efforts to streamline project delivery, and provides a dedicated source of federal dollars for freight and micromobility projects. With the enactment of IIJA, states and local governments are moving forward with critical transportation projects.

In accordance with guidance from FHWA, FTA and SCDOT, BCDCOG has adopted performance goals and measures to assess effectiveness of the region's transportation program during the upcoming fiscal year. The processes used to identify needed transportation improvements and project selection will continue to be guided to achieve the following goals set forth in the federal planning factors (FPF) established by the FAST Act and maintained under IIJA:

- FPF-1:** *Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency.* The BCDCOG will coordinate transportation projects with SCDOT, local governments and agencies to improve economic competitiveness in the BCD Rural Planning Area.
- FPF-2:** *Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.* BCDCOG will encourage and support transportation projects that include enhanced safety features for transportation in the region. The safety measures to be included are, but are not limited to, pedestrian facilities, bicycle facilities, and complete streets while coordinating with the local and state governments to complete projects.
- FPF-3:** *Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.* Coordinated planning efforts will enhance safety and security to residents and provide options for resiliency emergency plans. Security issues will be reflected in the rural planning process as a part of goal development, needs assessment and project identification.
- FPF-4:** *Increase the accessibility and mobility of people and goods.* BCDCOG amends the 2024-2033 Rural Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) as needed. The region's travel demand modeling capability will continue to be used as a tool to analyze the current highway network and projected future network demand into the rural areas where possible. Mobility of people and freight movement will be addressed through planning for land use development that makes efficient use of the transportation infrastructure.
- FPF-5:** *Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and state and local planned growth, housing, and economic development patterns.* BCDCOG will work with state and local governments and agencies to coordinate transportation projects, including those planned in support of identified centers, Transit Oriented Development (TOD) station areas, and economic development nodes, in a consistent, equitable, affordable, and environmentally sound manner.
- FPF-6:** *Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system across and between modes, for people and freight.* BCDCOG will coordinate activities identified by examining integration of transportation systems for the region. BCDCOG will collaborate with human service transportation providers to update and administer the human services transportation coordination

plan and provide support in service coordination between the urban and rural transit systems. Transportation projects will also be designed to enhance the interface between modes through programs such as Complete Streets, Transportation Demand Management, Transportation Alternatives Programs, and comprehensive land use planning.

**FPF-7:** *Promote efficient system management and operation.* BCDCOG will work with SCDOT on funding system improvements that promote efficient operations such as project design, selection and programming.

**FPF-8:** *Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.* In all plans and projects BCDCOG will examine the existing transportation system before making recommendations for improvements. To facilitate this, the BCDCOG will continue to employ its GIS-based information system, the travel demand model for the region, and the project ranking process that emphasizes multimodal transportation solutions with the greatest benefits at the lowest cost.

**FPF-9:** *Improve the resiliency and reliability of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate stormwater impacts of surface transportation.* In all plans and projects, the BCDCOG will continue to examine the impacts of nuisance flooding and climate change/sea level rise projections on the existing transportation system before making recommendations for improvements. To facilitate this, the BCDCOG will continue to coordinate with entities, including but not limited to the Charleston Resiliency Network, to identify strategies for mitigating impacts of nuisance flooding and inadequate stormwater systems while improving the resiliency of the region's infrastructure, including transportation.

**FPF-10:** *Enhance travel and tourism.* The BCDCOG will continue to coordinate with the Charleston Visitors Bureau and regional chambers of commerce to identify transportation issues and needs for visitors, as well as the mobility of residents employed in tourism related industries.

## SUMMARY OF MAJOR PROGRAMMED ACTIVITIES

The FY2026/FY2027 BCDCOG RPWP emphasizes activities that promote the implementation of the BCDCOG 2040 Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan, which was updated and approved by the BCDCOG Board of Directors on August 24, 2020. Emphasis has been placed on developing a program which can be reasonably accomplished with available staff and consultant resources, and which is in keeping with the priorities of the BCDCOG region.

Tasks within this work program are organized into several major categories to facilitate review and management as follows:

### **Task Group A      Program Administration and Support**

This task group includes general administration, professional services, public participation, and RPWP development and maintenance.

### **Task Group B      Short-Range Transportation Planning**

This task group includes projects which can be implemented in shorter timeframes and is comprised of activities related to providing technical assistance, complete streets planning support, reporting and data collection, and GIS activities.

### **Task Group C      Rural Long-Range Transportation Planning (LRTP)**

The majority of RPWP tasks fall under this category and are either annual activities or long-term projects. Tasks include implementation of the Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan and Regional Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan, activities related to freight and transit planning, and maintenance of the regional travel demand model.

### **Task Group D      Rural Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)**

This category includes various tasks associated with the administration and maintenance of the RTIP. This document identifies projects and programs that receive various sources of federal funds covering highway, transit, and intermodal facilities and programs.

The following matrix summarizes how the FY 2026 & FY 2027 RPWP elements/tasks relate to each of the Federal Planning Factors (FPFs).

**RPWP Elements/Tasks and Federal Planning Factors (FPF) Matrix**

RPWP	Federal Planning Factors (FPF)									
	FPF-1	FPF-2	FPF-3	FPF-4	FPF-5	FPF-6	FPF-7	FPF-8	FPF-9	FPF-10
Elements/Tasks	Economic Vitality	Safety	Security	Access & Mobility	Protect & Enhance the Environment	Integration & Connectivity	System Management & Operation	System Preservation	Resiliency & Reliability	Enhance Travel & Tourism
<b>Task Group A: Program Administration &amp; Support</b>										
A1 – General Administration										
A2 – Professional Services	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
A3 – Public Participation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
A4 – RPWP Development & Maintenance	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Task Group B: Rural Short-Range Transportation Planning</b>										
B1 – Technical Assistance	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
B2 – Reporting, Data Collection & Analysis	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
B3 – GIS Maintenance & Utilization	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
B4 – Complete Streets	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
<b>Task Group C: Rural Long-Range Transportation Planning</b>										
C1 – Rural Long-Range Plan	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
C2 – Human Service Coordination	X			X		X			X	X
C3 – Multimodal Freight & Transit Planning	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
C4 – Transit Service Assistance	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
C5 – Rural Travel Demand Model	X	X		X		X	X	X		X
<b>Task Group D: Rural Transportation Improvement Program</b>										
D1 – Rural TIP Development & Maintenance	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

*Berkeley Charleston Dorchester Council of Governments*

**RURAL PLANNING WORK PROGRAM**

**FY 2026 & FY 2027**

**(July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027)**

**TASK GROUP A**

**Program Administration and Support**

A1 – General Administration

A2 – Professional Services

A3 – Public Participation

A4 – RPWP Development & Maintenance

## Task A1 – General Administration

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**Objectives:** To initiate and manage the transportation planning process, ensuring that it is continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive and that it complies with applicable state/federal laws and regulations.

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### **Methodology:**

BCDCOG will provide staff support to the BCDCOG Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and Rural Transportation Study Team, in addition to other permanent and ad-hoc committees. The primary function of staff is to implement the work tasks as described in this RPWP. Other administrative activities include, but are not limited to the following:

- A. Serve as liaison to FHWA, FTA, SCDOT, and other transportation related agencies to ensure coordination and compliance.
- B. In coordination with SCDOT, provide administrative support and technical assistance to the BCDCOG Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Rural Transportation Study Team, and other permanent and ad-hoc committees, as needed.
- C. Maintain financial records of all revenues and expenditures.
- D. Prepare and distribute meeting notices and agenda packages for all BCDCOG committees and subcommittees.
- E. Identify, prepare, and perform administrative procedures, such as quarterly reports, financial statements, and meeting documentation.
- F. Prepare required certification documentation, agreements, resolutions, memoranda of understanding, etc.
- G. Maintain agreements between local governmental agencies and the BCDCOG.
- H. Provide funds for purchase/maintenance of office inventory, including computer hardware/software and network maintenance, to support the BCDCOG planning program.
- I. Administer BCDCOG compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and address Environmental Justice principles and procedures.
- J. Administer BCDCOG compliance with SCDOT and FTA Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) programs.
- K. Attend SCDOT, FHWA, FTA and other related training sessions, workshops and meetings, as required.

### **Responsibility/Partners:**

BCDCOG, SCDOT, FHWA, FTA, and other agencies as appropriate.

**Work Schedule and End Products:**

<b>Work</b>	<b>Products</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>Proposed Funding</b>
<b>A.J.</b>	Maintain documentation of public participation opportunities and activities, including meeting and workshop notices, BCDCOG newsletters, reports, press releases, maps, slide presentations, and maintenance of website(s) – <u>On-going through June 30, 2026/2027</u>	X	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA
<b>E.</b>	Prepare meeting materials and reports quarterly – <u>On-going through June 30, 2026/2027</u>	X	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA
<b>K.</b>	Attend quarterly statewide meetings of MPO/COG staff members – <u>On-going through June 30, 2026/2027</u>	X	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA

**Task A1 Funding Sources FY2026:**

<b>FHWA (Rural)</b>	<b>\$16,000.00</b>
<b>LOCAL</b>	<b>\$4,000.00</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>
<b>% OF TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	<b>12.86%</b>

**Funding Sources FY2027\*:**

<b>FHWA (Rural)</b>	<b>\$12,000.00</b>
<b>LOCAL</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,000.00</b>
<b>% OF TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	<b>9.65%</b>

**Task A2 – Professional Services**

**Objectives:** To enhance staff capacity through utilization of procured consultants for specific engineering, planning, or other technical services as needed in support of various BCDCOG annual planning activities.

**Methodology:**

Special projects of the BCDCOG may necessitate assistance from expert technical and professional services. BCDCOG will retain the services of outside consultants to assist with technical activities and projects that implement this work program in accordance with all acceptable and organizational procurement processes as needed. Included within these procedures are:

- A. Preparation and advertisement of Requests for Proposals or Qualifications in coordination with SCDOT's LPA process.
- B. Review and scoring of submitted proposals.
- C. Recommendation of contracts to the Board of Directors/Executive Committee.
- D. Coordination of contract review by SCDOT.

**Responsibility/Partners:**

BCDCOG, SCDOT and FHWA.

**Work Schedule and End Products:**

Work	Products	FY 2026	FY 2027	Proposed Funding
A.-D.	Task orders and contracts for procured technical and professional services to support staff in the various planning activities outlined in the RPWP – <u>On-going through June 30, 2026/2027</u>	X	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA

**Task A2 Funding Sources FY2026:**

<b>FHWA (Rural)</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>
<b>LOCAL</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>
<b>% OF TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	<b>1.61%</b>

**Funding Sources FY2027\*:**

<b>FHWA (Rural)</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>
<b>LOCAL</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>
<b>% OF TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	<b>1.61%</b>

**Task A3 – Public Participation**

**Objectives:** To ensure public involvement in the development of the Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), the RTIP, and special studies by conducting public outreach in a coordinated program to ensure that all segments of the public have an opportunity to comment on long- and short-term transportation planning efforts and specific projects.

**Methodology:**

As a means of disseminating information to the public about the transportation planning program, staff will continue to advertise STIP/RTIP revisions and communicate public comments to SCDOT prior to SCDOT Commission consideration. Tasks to accomplish include, but are not limited to the following:

- A. Disseminate information through traditional and non-traditional means, including the website, briefings, news releases, annual reports, and presentations to community groups.
- B. Document all public outreach efforts and evaluate effectiveness of strategies on an annual basis to ensure they parallel the procedures promulgated in state and federal legislation.
- C. Assist SCDOT in conducting public hearings and meetings on transportation improvement projects and programs in rural areas of the region.
- D. Coordinate with SCDOT on advertisement of STIP amendments related to regional projects of statewide significance.
- E. Provide education and training to boards, commissions, and elected officials on transportation related processes and issues.

**Responsibility/Partners:**

BCDCOG, Member Governments, and other agencies as appropriate.

**Work Schedule and End Products:**

Work	Products	FY 2026	FY 2027	Proposed Funding
A.-E.	Maintain file of public participation opportunities and activities, including notices of meetings, workshops, BCDCOG newsletters, social media contacts, reports, press releases, maps, slide presentations, and maintenance of website(s): <u>On-going through June 30, 2026/2027</u>	X	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA

**Task A3 Funding Sources FY2026:**

FHWA (Rural)	\$1,200.00
LOCAL	\$300.00
OTHER	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>
<b>% OF TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	<b>0.96%</b>

**Funding Sources FY2027\*:**

FHWA (Rural)	\$1,200.00
LOCAL	\$300.00
OTHER	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>
<b>% OF TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	<b>0.96%</b>

**Task A4 – RPWP Development & Maintenance**

**Objectives:** To maintain a current Rural Transportation Planning Work Program (RPWP) describing rural transportation planning activities to be accomplished by BCDCOG in the upcoming fiscal years.

**Methodology:**

BCDCOG shall bi-annually prepare and annually update the RPWP with a description of work to be accomplished in the following two fiscal years, with cost estimates by activity or task, division of work responsibility, and identification of work items eligible for State Planning and Research (SPR) funding. Specific tasks to achieve this include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A. Prepare an update to the RPWP annually for consideration and comment by SCDOT.
- B. Submit the RPWP to the BCDCOG Board of Directors for approval prior to the beginning of the fiscal year.
- C. Post and publicize availability of the proposed RPWP for public comment.
- D. Process any necessary modifications to the RPWP with approval by SCDOT.

**Responsibility/Partners:**

BCDCOG, SCDOT and Member Governments.

**Work Schedule and End Products:**

<b>Work</b>	<b>Products</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>Proposed Funding</b>
<b>A.</b>	Prepare draft RPWP for SCDOT review: <u>February 2026/2027</u>	X	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA
<b>B.</b>	Submit RPWP for BCDCOG approval: <u>April 2026/2027</u>	X	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA
<b>C.D.</b>	Prepare necessary modifications to the RPWP: <u>As needed through June 30, 2026/2027</u>	X	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA

**Task A4 Funding Sources FY2026:**

<b>FHWA (Rural)</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>
<b>LOCAL</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>
<b>% OF TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	<b>1.61%</b>

**Funding Sources FY2027\*:**

<b>FHWA (Rural)</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>
<b>LOCAL</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>
<b>% OF TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	<b>1.61%</b>

*Berkeley Charleston Dorchester Council of Governments*

**RURAL PLANNING WORK PROGRAM**

**FY 2026 & FY2027**

**(July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027)**

**TASK GROUP B**

Rural Short-Range Transportation Planning

B1 – Technical Assistance

B2 – Reporting, Data Collection & Analysis

B3 – Geographic Information System (GIS) Maintenance & Utilization

B4 – Complete Streets

**Task B1 – Technical Assistance**

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**Objectives:** To provide technical assistance with rural transportation planning and related activities to the counties and jurisdictions within the rural transportation planning area

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**Methodology:**

Provide technical assistance to member governments, public and private organizations, and the general public as needed and requested including, but not limited to the following:

- A. Assist local governments in the assessment, interpretation and enforcement of local land use activities having an impact on transportation systems in the rural area, including provision of training on the use of scenario planning tools.
- B. Provide technical support to the County Transportation Sales Tax programs to develop project evaluation and programming for implementation.
- C. Coordinate transportation projects with the County Transportation Committees (CTCs).
- D. Continue to coordinate with jurisdictions and agencies to enhance bicycle and pedestrian connections consistent with the Palmetto Trail, Francis Marion National Forest master plan and other local and regional plans, including the advancement of the East Coast Greenway.
- E. Work with SCDOT on screening of rural transportation projects for environmental, historic, environmental justice, and civil rights concerns within proposed project areas.
- F. Assist and support local jurisdictions in developing transportation enhancement projects from inception to application and project execution.
- G. Provide support to SC Works to address the transportation needs of disadvantaged rural residents to/from job training and/or places of employment.
- H. Coordinate with local municipalities on identification of opportunities to expand broadband access in rural areas to promote regional economic activity and reduce demand on the transportation network.
- I. Provide local government assistance for all phases of transportation project development, including procurement of consultants for specific engineering, planning or other required services in support of the on-going planning activities at BCDCOG as needed.
- J. Assist with preparation of transportation elements for all comprehensive plan updates by member jurisdictions.
- K. Attend training related to rural programs and current trends in transportation planning methods (including travel and lodging expenses, registration, purchase of publications and other related expenses) to enhance staff capacity.
- L. Provide support to local transit providers in long-term system and on-going route planning.

- M. Develop, and provide support to jurisdictions in developing, a comprehensive safety action plan to better understand the safety challenges that the region's communities face, identify solutions to make our transportation network safer for all users, and support the implementation of the plan's recommendations.
- N. Support development of the Tri-County Link (TCL) On-Demand Rural Transit Development Study/Plan (referenced under Task C4 (I)) to identify solutions, including micro-transit service options, provide service planning assistance and support implementation of plan recommendations.
- O. Coordinate with SCDOT Office of Public Transit to facilitate applications made by regional agencies for FTA Sections 5310 and 5311 formula grant programs reauthorized under IJA/BIL.
- P. Continue the Mobility Management program to facilitate trip planning assistance and related travel information to citizens and transportation demand management to preserve system capacity.

**Responsibility/Partners:** BCDCOG, Consultant, BCDCOG Member Governments, SCDOT, FHWA, FTA and other agencies as appropriate.

**Work Schedule and End Products:**

Work	Products	FY 2026	FY 2027	Proposed Funding
A.O.	Copies of meetings and training notices, reports, newsletter articles – <u>On-going through June 30, 2026/2027</u>	X	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA
B.C.	Copies of County TST/CTC project status reports – <u>On-going through June 30, 2026/2027</u>	X	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA
J.	Copies of Comprehensive Plan transportation elements: <u>On-going through June 30, 2026/2027</u>	X	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA
O.	Copies of FTA funding grant applications – <u>On-going through June 30, 2026/2027</u>	X	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA
N.	Support development of Tri-County Link On-Demand Transit Development Plan and implementation of recommendations: <u>On-going through June 2027</u>	X	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA

**Summary of Select Tasks/Projects:**

Work	Project/Task	Description	Proposed Procurement	Schedule	Budget	Proposed Funding
N.	TCL On-Demand Rural Transit Development Plan Support & Implementation	Support the development and implementation of an on-demand public transportation service solution that will complement and enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of Tri-County Link's rural operation.	COG	FY 2026 – FY 2027	\$20,000	FHWA (Rural)/FTA

**Task B1 Funding Sources FY2026:**

<b>FHWA (Rural)</b>	<b>\$58,485.00</b>
<b>LOCAL</b>	<b>\$14,621.00</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$73,106.00</b>
<b>% OF TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	<b>47.02%</b>

**Funding Sources FY2027\*:**

<b>FHWA (Rural)</b>	<b>\$56,485.00</b>
<b>LOCAL</b>	<b>\$14,121.00</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$70,606.00</b>
<b>% OF TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	<b>45.42%</b>

**Task B2 – Information Reporting, Data Collection & Analysis**

**Objectives:** To collect, analyze and utilize various forms of data and prepare publications of such information in support of daily planning operations of BCDCOG and member jurisdictions.

**Methodology:**

Staff will collect and disseminate information from and to SCDOT, partner agencies and the public as follows:

- A. Provide maps and mapping services of transportation networks and traffic count locations for the region.
- B. Assist local governments and citizens in accessing and interpreting Census data results through publications, the BCDCOG data dashboard and responding to individual information requests.
- C. Collect and share statistical information and maps of Census data, population growth trends, building permits, socio-economic data, traffic counts, forecasts and congestion, including non-motorist travel patterns and use of cycling/pedestrian facilities, to individuals, agencies, and organizations in the region.
- D. Analyze data from the Census Transportation Planning Program (CTPP) to delineate commuting patterns in the region.
- E. Publish statistical and program information on the BCDCOG website and in printed publications.
- F. Research and monitor economic development and growth trends.
- G. Compile and report building permit activity throughout the region.
- H. Track issuance of water quality permits and coordinate update of the regional 208 Plan.

**Responsibility/Partners:**

BCDCOG, SCDOT, and Member Governments.

**Work Schedule and End Products:**

Work	Products	FY 2026	FY 2027	Proposed Funding
A.H.	Maintain file of reports on regional trends, newsletter articles and web postings: <u>On-going through June 30, 2026/2027</u>	X	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA
G.	Publication of quarterly Construction Activity reports: <u>Quarterly through June 30, 2026/2027</u>	X	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA

**Task B2 Funding Sources FY2026:**

FHWA (Rural)	\$5,200.00
LOCAL	\$1,300.00
OTHER	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,500.00</b>
<b>% OF TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	<b>4.18%</b>

**Funding Sources FY2027\*:**

FHWA (Rural)	\$7,200.00
LOCAL	\$1,800.00
OTHER	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,000.00</b>
<b>% OF TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	<b>5.79%</b>

**Task B3 – Geographic Information System (GIS) Maintenance & Utilization**

**Objectives:** To create/maintain/manage various database and software systems necessary for BCDCOG GIS support of planning activities.

**Methodology:**

BCDCOG staff will provide on-going GIS maintenance and technical support for various transportation planning activities including analyses for the Rural LRTP, the Rural TIP, traffic monitoring and congestion management systems, and freight movement. Anticipated activities include:

- A. Conduct on-going GIS maintenance and technical support to include updating and QA/QC of all data layers.
- B. Coordinate GIS activities within the BCDCOG, and with member jurisdictions, state and federal agencies.
- C. Continue to participate in statewide and regional forums to ensure efficient data sharing and avoid duplication of efforts.
- D. Maintain web accessible data feeds and implement enhanced web mapping applications on a quarterly basis.
- E. Utilize GIS to generate internally and externally requested maps and to perform all spatial analysis in creating office publications.
- F. Create and update a master transportation network database in ArcGIS to centrally store and manage various transportation related datasets, to support the regional travel demand forecasting system.

**Responsibility/Partners:**

BCDCOG, Member Governments, and other agencies as appropriate

**Work Schedule and End Products:**

Work	Products	FY 2026	FY 2027	Proposed Funding
A.-F.	Comprehensively review, update and maintain GIS database in coordination with county and state agencies: <u>On-going through June 30, 2026/2027</u>	X	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA

**Task B3 Funding Sources FY2026:**

FHWA (Rural)	\$1,200.00
LOCAL	\$300.00
OTHER	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>
<b>% OF TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	<b>0.96%</b>

**Funding Sources FY2027\*:**

FHWA (Rural)	\$3,200.00
LOCAL	\$800.00
OTHER	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,000.00</b>
<b>% OF TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	<b>2.57%</b>

**Task B4 – Complete Streets**

**Objectives:** To transform transportation corridors from vehicle-dominated thoroughfares into community-oriented streets which safely and conveniently accommodate all modes of travel.

**Methodology:**

BCDCOG will assist local jurisdictions and SCDOT in developing plans and projects that are context-sensitive and meet Complete Streets principles by performing activities such as, but not limited to, the following:

- A. Coordinate with local jurisdictions to develop, adopt, and implement complete streets policies.
- B. Coordinate transportation project design activities with SCDOT, County transportation sales tax and CTC programs to assist with development and design review of proposed transportation facilities such that they follow local complete streets policy as well as DOT's complete streets departmental directive.
- C. Continue to maintain/update and implement the regional pedestrian/bicycle plan, integrate targeted safety efforts and solutions within plan and project development, and support implementation of the Transit and Bus Stop Design Guidelines to ensure complete intermodal facilities are included as an integral part of the design of local roads/transportation system improvements.
- D. Attend and/or host staff training on latest planning techniques for complete streets, safety strategies and safe systems approaches, and bicycle/pedestrian facilities.

**Responsibility/Partners:**

BCDCOG, Member Governments, and other agencies as appropriate.

**Work Schedule and End Products:**

<b>Work</b>	<b>Products</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>Proposed Funding</b>
<b>A.</b>	Provide technical assistance to local jurisdictions to develop, adopt and implement complete streets policy: <u>On-going through June 30, 2026/2027</u>	X	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA
<b>B.C.</b>	Assist with development and design review of proposed transportation facilities, in coordination with project partners including SCDOT, local jurisdictions, and local transit providers, such that they follow state and locally adopted complete streets policies or directives: <u>On-going through June 30, 2026/2027</u>	X	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA

**Summary of Select Tasks/Projects:**

<i>Work</i>	<i>Project/Task</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Proposed Procurement</i>	<i>Schedule</i>	<i>Budget (Fed/Local)</i>	<i>Proposed Funding</i>
A.	Complete Streets policy development	Technical assistance – As requested	COG	FY 2026/2027	\$1,562 / \$0	FHWA (Rural)/FTA
B.C.	Support coordinated plan and project development activities	Technical assistance – As requested	COG	FY 2026/2027	\$1,563 / \$0	FHWA (Rural)/FTA

**Task B3 Funding Sources FY2026:**

<b>FHWA (Rural)</b>	<b>\$3,125.00</b>
<b>LOCAL</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,125.00</b>
<b>% OF TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	<b>2.01%</b>

**Funding Sources FY2027\*:**

<b>FHWA (Rural)</b>	<b>\$3,125.00</b>
<b>LOCAL</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,125.00</b>
<b>% OF TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	<b>2.01%</b>

*Berkeley Charleston Dorchester Council of Governments*

**RURAL PLANNING WORK PROGRAM**

**FY 2026 & FY2027**

**(July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027)**

**TASK GROUP C**

**Rural Long-Range Transportation Planning**

C1 – Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan (RLRTP)

C2 – Human Service Transportation Coordination

C3 – Multimodal: Freight & Transit Planning

C4 – Transit Service Assistance

C4 – Rural Travel Demand Forecasting

**Task C1 – Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan**

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**Objectives:** To implement a long-range transportation plan for the rural planning area that is consistent with SCDOT's Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan (MTP).

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**Methodology:**

BCDCOG's LRTP, updated every five years, guides the leveraging and coordination of investment in the region's rural transportation infrastructure. Activities to accomplish this task include, but are not limited to:

- A. Collect and maintain socio-economic data and travel characteristics for use in developing plan updates.
- B. Coordinate opportunities for public involvement, visioning and goal setting, project prioritization, and implementation strategies.
- C. Coordinate with SCDOT to provide current cost estimates and funding projections for projects proposed in the plan.
- D. Provide staff support to the Rural Transportation Study Committee in its implementation of the plan.
- E. Coordinate connectivity of bicycle/ pedestrian networks in rural areas as part of the regional micromobility plan (*WalkBike BCD*).
- F. Coordinate with SCDOT to prepare any amendments needed to ensure the BCDCOG rural plan is consistent with and implements recommendations of the statewide multimodal transportation plan.
- G. Ensure coordination between the Rural LRTP and the CHATS LRTP, County Transportation Committee projects, County Sales Tax and SCDOT Transportation Alternative programs.
- H. Seek funding to implement project-specific, financially feasible long-range initiatives, addressing system upgrades, intersections/safety, freight, bridges, maintenance/resurfacing, signalization, mass transit, and bicycle/pedestrian elements, with assistance from SCDOT.
- I. Facilitate update and amendments to the Rural LRTP as required, to include consultant assistance if needed.
- J. Coordinate inclusion of goals/targets in the LRTP within 6 months of setting, to meet performance measures established by SCDOT.
- K. Coordinate inclusion of system performance report developed and provided by SCDOT as well as other supplemental reporting undertaken by BCDCOG, in the LRTP.

**Responsibility/Partners:**

BCDCOG, SCDOT and local jurisdictions.

**Work Schedule and End Products:**

<b>Work</b>	<b>Products</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>Proposed Funding</b>
A.-H.	Maintain documentation file of all meeting notices, summaries or minutes and plan amendments – <u>On-going through June 30, 2026/2027</u>	X	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA
A.-H.	Prepare and publish amendments to the Rural LRTP as needed: <u>On-going through June 30, 2026/2027</u>	X	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA
I.	Facilitate update to RL RTP: <u>On-going through September 2026</u>	X	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA
J.	Inclusion of performance measures/targets established by SCDOT into RL RTP: <u>On-going (within 6 months of setting)</u>	X	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA
K.	Inclusion of system performance report developed by SCDOT into RL RTP: <u>March, 2026</u>	X	-	FHWA (Rural)/FTA

**Task C1 Funding Sources FY2026:**

<b>FHWA (Rural)</b>	<b>\$8,000.00</b>
<b>LOCAL</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>
<b>% OF TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	<b>6.43%</b>

**Funding Sources FY2027\*:**

<b>FHWA (Rural)</b>	<b>\$4,000.00</b>
<b>LOCAL</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>
<b>% OF TOTAL PL BUDGET:</b>	<b>3.22%</b>

**Task C2 – Human Service Transportation Coordination**

**Objectives:** To provide on-going updates to the Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan and enhance coordination among the region’s human service agencies to address existing gaps in the opportunities for transportation services provided and to eliminate duplication of services.

**Methodology:**

In order to accomplish this objective, BCDCOG staff will continue to coordinate and facilitate annual meetings of human service agencies, private transportation providers, and interested parties to do the following:

- A. Continue to identify and coordinate with agencies and services that are currently providing transportation to vulnerable population groups and the clientele that is currently being served.
- B. Assess existing services to determine overlaps and deficiencies in service being provided.
- C. Implement strategies and recommendations in the Human Services Coordination Plan to address inefficiencies and gaps in services available.
- D. Assist agencies and organizations with implementation of these strategies and recommendations through the BCDCOG’s Mobility Management program.
- E. Facilitate update of the Human Services Coordination Plan.

**Responsibility/Partners:**

BCDCOG, human services agencies, community services organizations and public/private transportation providers.

**Work Schedule and End Products:**

Work	Products	FY 2026	FY 2027	Proposed Funding
A.D.	Coordinate annual meetings of the human service Coordination Group: <u>Annually through June 30, 2026/2027</u>	X	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA
E.	Develop Human Coordination Plan Update: <u>June, 2027</u>	X	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA

**Task C2 Funding Sources FY2026:**

<b>FHWA (Rural)</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>
<b>LOCAL</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,500.00</b>
<b>% OF TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	<b>8.04%</b>

**Funding Sources FY2027\*:**

<b>FHWA (Rural)</b>	<b>\$16,000.00</b>
<b>LOCAL</b>	<b>\$4,000.00</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>
<b>% OF TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	<b>12.86%</b>

**Task C3 – Multimodal Freight & Transit Planning**

**Objectives:** To conduct multimodal transportation planning to effectively address rural freight and rural public transportation issues as needed.

**Methodology:**

Anticipated activities include:

- A. Coordinate implementation of the Regional Freight Mobility Plan that affects rural areas of the region.
- B. Provide assistance with collection and/or analysis of freight mobility to use in development of a freight module of the regional travel demand model.
- C. Continue to collect, maintain, and update socioeconomic and land use data for transit planning activities.
- D. Coordinate with local rural jurisdictions, pedestrian and bicycle advocate groups, and regional partners to implement recommended improvements identified in the regional micromobility plan (*WalkBike BCD*).
- E. Provide assistance to local rural jurisdictions to integrate transit and freight mobility within the transportation and land use elements of comprehensive plan updates as outlined in the RL RTP.
- F. Participate in the I-95 Corridor Coalition Freight Academy to expand staff freight planning capabilities.

**Responsibility/Partners:**

BCDCOG, SCDOT, FTA, FHWA, SC Ports Authority, transit providers, and other organizations as appropriate.

**Work Schedule and End Products:**

<b>Work</b>	<b>Products</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>Proposed Funding</b>
<b>A.B.</b>	Regional Freight Mobility Plan Implementation: <u>On-going through June 30, 2026/2027</u>	X	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA
<b>A.B.</b>	Work with SCDOT on improving Critical Rural Freight Corridors: <u>On-going through June 30, 2026/2027</u>	X	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA
<b>D.</b>	Coordinate with jurisdictions, pedestrian and bicycle advocates, and regional partners on implementation of priority projects identified in <i>WalkBike BCD</i> : <u>On-going through June 30, 2026/2027</u>	X	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA
<b>F.</b>	Apply to/participate in the "I-95 Corridor Coalition Freight Academy" program to expand staff freight planning capabilities: <u>Spring 2027</u>	-	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA

**Task C3 Funding Sources FY2026:**

<b>FHWA (Rural)</b>	<b>\$2,894.00</b>
<b>LOCAL</b>	<b>\$724.00</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,618.00</b>
<b>% OF TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	<b>2.33%</b>

**Funding Sources FY2027\*:**

<b>FHWA (Rural)</b>	<b>\$2,894.00</b>
<b>LOCAL</b>	<b>\$724.00</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,618.00</b>
<b>% OF TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	<b>2.33%</b>

**Task C4 – Transit Service Assistance**

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**Objectives:** To facilitate regional collaboration, coordination, and cooperation related to transit initiatives that enhance transit efficiency and effectiveness.

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**Methodology:**

Anticipated activities include:

- A. Assist SCDOT with communication and cooperation among rural transportation providers.
- B. Assist public and human service agencies in assessing gaps and barriers in transportation delivery for the general public and disadvantaged groups in the region.
- C. Assist in the assessment of mobility and multimodal needs related to economic development, including implementation of the Rural Workforce Training Study recommendations.
- D. Continue regional Mobility Management activities to advocate use of alternative transportation services and coordinate transportation for individuals seeking assistance with transportation needs.
- E. Assist SCDOT in dissemination of announcements and application packages for FTA funding opportunities available to transit and human service organizations, and transportation providers in the region.
- F. Assist SCDOT in evaluation and prioritization of recommended projects to enhance transit and transportation services for disadvantaged populations in rural areas of the region.
- G. Assist Tri-County Link with various planning studies, route evaluations, and technical assistance, including technical support for development of a trip planning application, implementing mobile ticketing and AVL systems, etc., to enhance service connecting the rural system routes with service to the urban portions of the region and Charleston Area Regional Transportation Authority (CARTA) transfer points. Also assist Tri-County Link in meeting data reporting requirements to SCDOT and to support transit service delivery.
- H. Continue the development of the Tri-County Link On-Demand Rural Transit Development Plan (FTA's AoPP awarded grant), which seeks to improve transit access and connectivity to Areas of Persistent Poverty and Historically Disadvantaged Communities in the TriCounty Link Service Area, and create a plan that connects the region's most vulnerable residents to existing and emerging job centers by filling in gaps in transit service with a modern, efficient, transit system .
- I. Support implementation of recommendations following adoption of the Rural On-Demand plan, including consultant coordination, service concept refinement, pilot planning support, performance monitoring, and coordination with Tri-County Link operations, SCDOT Office of Public Transit, and regional partners.

**Responsibility/Partners:**

BCDCOG / SCDOT OPT, Transit providers and other organizations as appropriate.

**Work Schedule and End Products:**

Work	Products	FY 2026	FY 2027	Proposed Funding
A.H.	Anticipated activities: <u>On-going through June 30, 2026/2027</u>	X	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA
H.	Develop Tri-County Link On-Demand Rural Transit Development Plan: <u>July, 2026</u>	X	X	FTA AoPP Grant
I.	Implementation support and coordination associated with the Rural On-Demand plan recommendations: FY 2026 – FY 2027	X	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA

**Summary of Select Tasks/Projects:**

Work	Project/Task	Description	Proposed Procurement	Schedule	Budget	Proposed Funding
H.	TCL On-Demand Rural Transit Development Plan	Develop an innovative on-demand transit service model for TCL to replace circuitous flag stop routing with efficient and reliable transit that expands the coverage area and connects rural areas to jobs and housing.	Consultant	FY 2026/2027 <sup>1</sup>	\$342,000	FTA AoPP Grant
					\$38,000	Local Funds

**Task C4 Funding Sources FY2026:**

<b>FHWA (Rural)</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>
<b>LOCAL</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,500.00</b>
<b>% OF TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	<b>8.04%</b>

**Funding Sources FY2027\*:**

<b>FHWA (Rural)</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>
<b>LOCAL</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,500.00</b>
<b>% OF TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	<b>8.04%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Tri-County Link (TCL) & Summerville Sub-Area On-Demand Transit Development Plan project initiated in FY 2025 (included in FY 2025 RPWP budget) with work activities continuing through FY 2026/FY2027.

**Task C5 – Rural Travel Demand Forecasting**

**Objectives:** To develop and maintain travel forecasting capability by utilizing the regional travel demand model and applying the tool to rural areas.

**Methodology:**

BCDCOG will continue to enhance capacity of the current travel demand model particularly in areas outside the urbanized area to ensure rational planning and evaluation of the regional transportation systems by conducting the following activities:

- A. Continue to collect, maintain, and update socio-economic data, land use forecasts, and roadway network geography for rural areas in the travel demand model.
- B. Update key model components as applicable to stay abreast of current growth trends and reflect a horizon year of at least 25 years from model base conditions.
- C. Employ the travel demand model to predict variations in travel patterns and utilization of transportation system in response to changes in demographics, development, and transportation infrastructure upgrades.
- D. Provide technical support and oversight to rural municipalities to evaluate transportation planning projects and/or initiatives within their jurisdictions.

**Responsibility/Partners:**

BCDCOG, transit providers, SCDOT, and other agencies as appropriate.

**Work Schedule and End Products:**

<b>Work</b>	<b>Products</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>Proposed Funding</b>
<b>A.-B.</b>	Identify funding sources for updating/maintaining the travel model database inputs (socio-economic, land use, multimodal modules, networks): <u>On-going through June 30, 2026/2027</u>	X	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA
<b>C.</b>	Develop model outputs: <u>As requested through June 30, 2026/2027</u>	X	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA
<b>D.</b>	Provide model application & support to member jurisdictions: <u>On-going through June 30, 2026/2027</u>	X	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA

**Task C5 Funding Sources FY2026:**

<b>FHWA (Rural)</b>	<b>\$2,895.00</b>
<b>LOCAL</b>	<b>\$724.00</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,619.00</b>
<b>% OF TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	<b>2.33%</b>

**Funding Sources FY2027\*:**

<b>FHWA (Rural)</b>	<b>\$2,895.00</b>
<b>LOCAL</b>	<b>\$724.00</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,619.00</b>
<b>% OF TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	<b>2.33%</b>

*Berkeley Charleston Dorchester Council of Governments*

**RURAL PLANNING WORK PROGRAM**

**FY 2026 & FY2027**

**(July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027)**

**TASK GROUP D**

**Rural Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)**

D1 – Rural Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Development & Maintenance

**Task D1 – Rural Transportation Improvement Program Development & Maintenance**

**Objectives:** Maintain an updated Rural Transportation Improvement Plan (RTIP), which extends out for the seven fiscal years that is reflected in the Statewide TIP.

**Methodology:**

BCDCOG will coordinate with the Rural Transportation Study Team, SCDOT and local jurisdictions to maintain the current RTIP for FY2024-2033 in accordance with SCDOT STIP Development Schedule. Activities for this task will include:

- A. Continue to meet with local jurisdictional transportation departments and County Transportation Commissions (CTCs) to identify future improvements in local plans, projected costs, and funding sources.
- B. Continue discussions with the Rural Transportation Study Team to consider requested amendments to the RTIP.
- C. Coordinate with SCDOT to ensure the RTIP continues compliance with all federal and state requirements.
- D. Maintain the current and updated RTIP as necessary, in cooperation with the SCDOT and local government agencies.
- E. Coordinate public reviews, final approvals, adoption, and distribution.
- F. In cooperation with SCDOT, ensure the STIP and RTIP are consistent and reflect actions by SCDOT's Commission, including a financial plan and summary of the project's purpose and need, as well as an Act 114 rating procedure and score.
- G. Initiate and develop RTIP update in coordination with the state for the new STIP window.

**Responsibility/Partners:**

BCDCOG, SCDOT, Member Governments, and other agencies as appropriate.

**Work Schedule and End Products:**

Work	Products	FY 2026	FY 2027	Proposed Funding
A.B.	Maintain file of Rural Study Team meeting notices and minutes: <u>On-going through June 30, 2026/2027</u>	X	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA
B.F.	Prepare draft RTIP amendments: <u>On-going through June 30, 2026/2027</u>	X	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA
C.-F.	Maintain file of BCDCOG/SCDOT correspondence on STIP/RTIP amendments and corrections: <u>On-going through June 30, 2026/2027</u>	X	X	FHWA (Rural)/FTA

**Task D1 Funding Sources FY2026:**

FHWA (Rural)	\$2,000.00
LOCAL	\$500.00
OTHER	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>
<b>% OF TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	<b>1.61%</b>

**Funding Sources FY2027\*:**

FHWA (Rural)	\$2,000.00
LOCAL	\$500.00
OTHER	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>
<b>% OF TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	<b>1.61%</b>

SUMMARY of ANNUAL BUDGET: FY2026 RPWP						
TASK		FUNDING SOURCES				
		PL- Consolidated		Additional Funds		Total
TASK ID	TASK DESCRIPTION	FHWA/FTA - Rural Planning	BCDCOG Match for FHWA/FTA - Rural Planning	Other Federal	Local Match	
A1	General Administration	\$16,000	\$4,000			\$20,000
A2	Professional Services	\$2,000	\$500			\$2,500
A3	Public Participation	\$1,200	\$300			\$1,500
A4	Rural Planning Work Program Development & Maintenance	\$2,000	\$500			\$2,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$21,200</b>	<b>\$5,300</b>			<b>\$26,500</b>
B1	Technical Assistance	\$58,485	\$14,621			\$73,107
B2	Reporting, Data Collection and Analysis	\$5,200	\$1,300			\$6,500
B3	Geographic Information System Maintenance and Utilization	\$1,200	\$300			\$1,500
B4*	Complete Streets	\$3,125	\$0			\$3,125
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$68,010</b>	<b>\$16,221</b>			<b>\$84,232</b>
C1	Rural Long Range Transportation Plan	\$8,000	\$2,000			\$10,000
C2	Human Service Transportation Coordination	\$10,000	\$2,500			\$12,500
C3	Multimodal Freight and Transit Planning	\$2,894	\$724			\$3,618
C4	Transit Service Assistance	\$10,000	\$2,500			\$12,500
C5	Rural Travel Demand Model	\$2,895	\$724			\$3,619
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$33,790</b>	<b>\$8,447</b>			<b>\$42,237</b>
D1	Rural Transportation Improvement Program	\$2,000	\$500			\$2,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>\$500</b>			<b>\$2,500</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$125,000</b>	<b>\$30,469</b>			<b>\$155,469</b>

\*Non-federal match for PL funds may be waived on permissible Complete Streets planning activities

SUMMARY of ANNUAL BUDGET: FY2027 RPWP						
TASK		FUNDING SOURCES				
		PL- Consolidated		Additional Funds		Total
TASK ID	TASK DESCRIPTION	FHWA/FTA - Rural Planning	BCDCOG Match for FHWA/FTA - Rural Planning	Other Federal	Local Match	
A1	General Administration	\$12,000	\$3,000			\$15,000
A2	Professional Services	\$2,000	\$500			\$2,500
A3	Public Participation	\$1,200	\$300			\$1,500
A4	Rural Planning Work Program Development & Maintenance	\$2,000	\$500			\$2,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$17,200</b>	<b>\$4,300</b>			<b>\$21,500</b>
B1	Technical Assistance	\$56,485	\$14,121			\$73,107
B2	Reporting, Data Collection and Analysis	\$7,200	\$1,800			\$9,000
B3	Geographic Information System Maintenance and Utilization	\$3,200	\$800			\$4,000
B4*	Complete Streets	\$3,125	\$0			\$3,125
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$70,010</b>	<b>\$16,721</b>			<b>\$86,731</b>
C1	Rural Long Range Transportation Plan	\$4,000	\$1,000			\$5,000
C2	Human Service Transportation Coordination	\$16,000	\$4,000			\$20,000
C3	Multimodal Freight and Transit Planning	\$2,894	\$724			\$3,618
C4	Transit Service Assistance	\$10,000	\$2,500			\$12,500
C5	Rural Travel Demand Model	\$2,895	\$724			\$3,619
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$35,790</b>	<b>\$8,947</b>			<b>\$44,737</b>
D1	Rural Transportation Improvement Program	\$2,000	\$500			\$2,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>\$500</b>			<b>\$2,500</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$125,000</b>	<b>\$30,469</b>			<b>\$155,469</b>

\*Non-federal match for PL funds may be waived on permissible Complete Streets planning activities

