

CHAIR: Gary Brewer • **VICE CHAIR:** David Dennis • **SECRETARY:** Mike Seekings • **TREASURER:** David Chinnis • **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Ronald E. Mitchum

**Berkeley/Charleston/Dorchester (BCD)
Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Group**

August 28, 2026

10:00 a.m.

5790 Casper Padgett Way
North Charleston, SC 29406

Barrett Lawrimore Large Conference Room

AGENDA

Call to order/Welcome

- Opening Prayer
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Introductions & Quorum Determination [Reminder – Sign in Using QR Code]

Old Business

- Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grant Funding (Justin Pierce, CC EM)
- Knox Electronic Key System Proposal (Charleston County)
- Emergency Vehicle Preemption
- Survey (BCDCOG)

Committee Reports

- Lowcountry sUAS working group
- LCRT Fire/Life Safety & Security committee
- Policy & Procedures
- Communications
- Training
- Planning

New Business

- Confirm MAC Group mission statement
- Recent public safety “wins”
- Population forecasts
- CY 2027 meeting schedule
- Around the Room

Next Meeting

- October 23, 2026

Meeting Adjourn

PLANNING, PARTNERSHIP & PROSPERITY

5790 CASPER PADGETT WAY • NORTH CHARLESTON, SC 29406 • TEL 843.529.0400

**BERKELEY-CHARLESTON-DORCHESTER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATION GROUP (MAC)**

**Meeting Notes
April 24, 2026**

The Multi-Agency Coordination Group (MAC) met on Friday, April 24, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the Barrett Lawrimore Conference Room at Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments, 5790 Casper Padgett Way, North Charleston, SC 29406.

Multi-Agency Group (MAC) Attendees

Rick Dangerfield; Allyson Burrell; Angela Raney; Brock Clary; Chase Miller; Chimere T. Myers; Chris Hirsch; Christopher Swift; Christopher Zak; David Palawasta; Greg Chesher; John Cooper; Joseph Stocking; Kathryn Basha; Kim Bailey, Kyle James; Michael Gay; Owen Levinson; Rick Fluegge; Sam Gaither; Steve Gottula; William White; Richard Porzia; Tony Failla; Ryan Hinson; Rick Gebhardt; Kim Winn; Mark Dodson; Brandi Griffith; Nancy Peacock; Pat; Carter; Cole Shirley; Harry Bunch Jr.; Jennifer Dantzler

Call to Order

Kyle James, Planner II, Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Government, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. followed by welcome, introductions, quorum determination, an opening prayer by Chaplain Angela Raney, and the pledge.

Consideration of Minutes: January 23, 2026

The Multi-Agency Coordination Group (MAC) approved the January 23, 2026, meeting notes as presented.

Presentations

- **UAS Grant Funding/sUAS Regional Working Group (Brandi Griffith, CCEM/Chase Barron, JBC Geospatial Integration Officer)** - The MAC Group received an update on a [newly awarded \\$1.9 million Department of Veteran Affairs \(DVA\) Military Enhancement drone-related grant](#). The grant includes: 30 UAS drones, drone operating management systems, and 30 licenses. A regional UAS working group is being developed to determine program structure, operational direction, required sub-working groups, and agency participation. Upcoming actions will be a working group meeting scheduled for May 13, 2026. Invitations will be expanded to agencies with existing drone programs and additional grant implementation details will be shared once finalized. The Regional Planning Team will finalize the sUAS working group structure, distribute meeting invitations and provide additional grant implementation updates.
- **Recent Training Activities (Steve Jones, FBI)** – The MAC Group received an overview of recent regional training activities on March 23, 2026, and March 24, 2026, involving: Hostage Rescue Team (HRT), SWAT operations, maritime rescue capabilities, local agency partnerships, and training focused on combat search and rescue capabilities, including water rescue operations and high-risk response scenarios. The training emphasized the importance of maintaining strong regional relationships, shared relationships, shared capabilities and operational coordination for agencies to be notified in advance to reduce conflicts with airport operations, dispatch centers, Coast Guard activities, medical helicopter operations, and public release information that is limited to protect operational security and tactics. The MAC Group was also briefed on an upcoming military games planned for Charleston, Charlotte, and Greensboro. Charleston may host activities between June 25, 2027, and July 4, 2027, at the following locations within our region: Patriots Point, The Citadel, and maritime venues. The event could involve approximately 10,000 participants across the three locations. Planning considerations and potential impacts include security requirements, emergency response planning, public safety coordination, and increased regional activity.

Old Business

- **Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grant Funding (Brandi Griffith, CC EM)** – Tri-County emergency managers are collaborating to position the region for Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) designation. Work continues with SLED and Homeland Security regarding regional qualification scoring. Population size remains a consideration, but risk scoring and regional critical infrastructure may strengthen the application. The MAC Group discussed whether additional counties, such as Jasper County, should potentially be included. The MAC Group noted that expanding the region may be worth evaluating based on examples from other designated areas. They will continue to evaluate regional structure, they will plan a UASI seminar with partners in the fall, and they will continue to coordinate with state and federal partners. The draft FFY 2027 White House budget currently decreases total UASI funding compared to the previous FFY and would require a local match.
- **2020-2025 Strategic Plan Close Out (Rick Dangerfield, North Charleston Fire Department)** – The MAC Group was informed that the 2020–2025 strategic plan has officially been closed, but there are still pending items that can carry-over into an updated strategic plan. The remaining unfinished or ongoing items will be transferred to the MAC Executive Board for consideration during development of the next strategic plan. The MAC Executive Board will then determine future strategic priorities, and the new strategic planning discussions will begin before the next quarterly meeting.
- **Knox Electronic Key System Proposal (Rick Dangerfield, North Charleston Fire Department)** – The MAC Group was provided an update on Charleston County’s pursuit of FEMA grant funding to replace manual Knox Boxes with electronic systems. Grant application preparation is underway, but the Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO) for the grant program is not yet released. Current estimate is approximately 3,300 Knox Boxes countywide with a conservative preliminary quote of approximately \$2.2 million. Application needs are agency information, employment numbers, vulnerability statement, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for participating agencies. Concerns and questions included compatibility with Knox key switches, electronic gates, existing access systems, mutual aid operations, and the need to ensure police, schools, and other agencies can benefit from the system. Charleston County will follow up with the Knox representatives regarding gate access compatibility, existing key systems, electronic access capabilities, and Charleston County will continue to develop a grant application and coordinate with participating agencies.

Committee Reports

- **Executive Committee**
 - **SS4A Grant Program (Kyle James, BCDCOG)** – The MAC Group discussed the SS4A grant program funding opportunity made available through USDOT. The program’s latest Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is now open, and the application deadline is May 26, 2026. For this cycle, the program is emphasizing public safety-focused projects. There is a match requirement of 20% non-federal funds.
 - **Preliminary Survey for the Strategic Plan Update (John Cooper, BCDCOG)** – The MAC Group were informed of the preliminary findings from BCDCOG’s survey on shared needs among public safety agencies. The survey findings will help to inform the structure of the MAC Group’s strategic plan update. So far, approximately 30 responses have been received from roughly 115 members. Members were encouraged to complete the survey using the provided QR code and had the opportunity to take the survey during the meeting. BCDCOG will close the survey soon and report the findings at the next MAC Group meeting.
 - **Training Committee (Berkeley County Emergency Management)**
 - **LCRT Fire/Life Safety & Security Committee**

New Business

- **Round The Room** – The MAC Group members discussed:
 - Improving regional awareness of available resources
 - Standardizing resource types
 - Improving information sharing during disasters and mutual-aid responses
 - CAD-to-CAD integration
 - Better resource tracking for a shared understanding of available equipment and capabilities

Grant writing support such as a MAC Group subcommittee to share grant-writing expertise, assist smaller agencies, and increase regional success rates. The group agreed this would be a valuable resource and will add grant-writing support concept to future MAC planning discussions.

Next meeting

The next MAC Group meeting will be on Friday, July 24, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at BCDCOG 5790 Casper Padgett Way, North Charleston, SC 29406, Barrett Lawrimore conference room.

Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. James thanked everyone for attending today's meeting and reminded attendees to make sure that they had signed in using the QR Code and adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Please extend an invitation to all police chiefs, sheriffs, fire chiefs, emergency managers, coroners, and other leaders from your jurisdiction and neighboring jurisdictions to come to meet with us as we work together in strengthening and improving public safety coordination, response, homeland security planning, and emergency communication.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Dantzler

By the Numbers: The Growth Shaping Our Region

The charts below highlight key data shared during Reality Check 2.0, illustrating the region's projected growth in population and jobs and their impacts on the region. These insights served as the foundation for the collaborative table discussions.

Fig. 1: Historic and forecasted population growth by county, 2010–2045

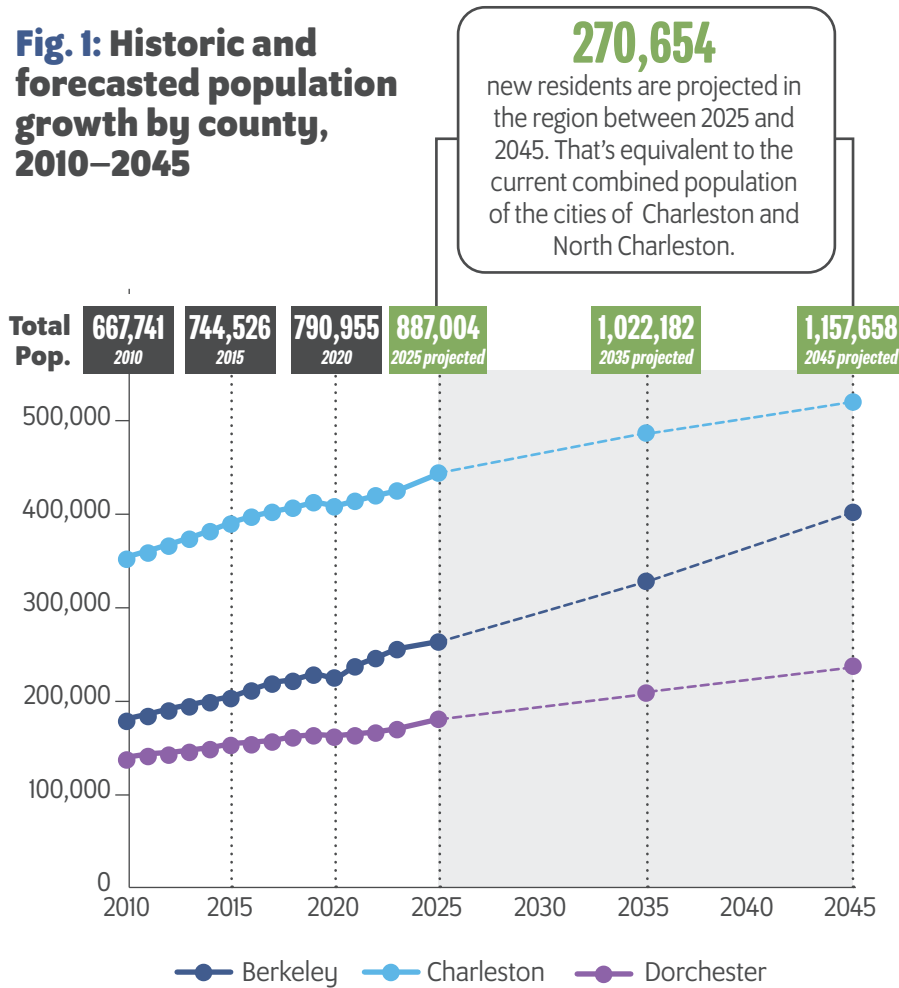


Fig. 2: Forecasted population growth by county, 2025–2045

Berkeley County is forecasted to grow by more residents than Charleston and Dorchester Counties combined between 2025 and 2045.

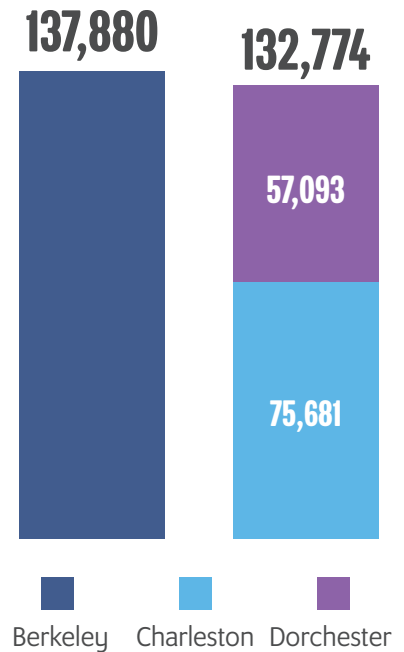


Fig. 3: Forecasted growth of jobs by county, 2025–2045

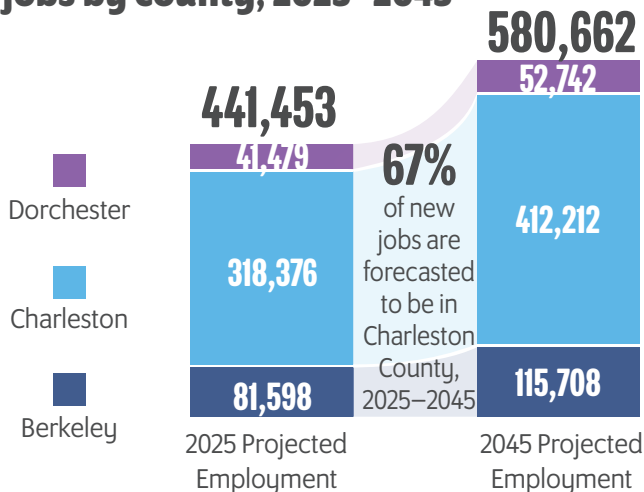
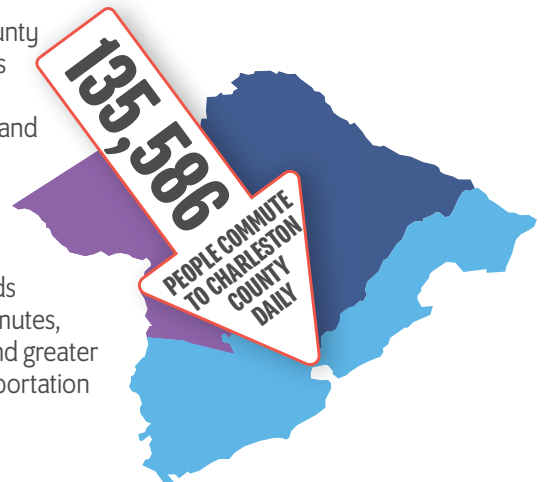


Fig. 4: Commuter flows by county, 2022

Charleston County has the region's highest job concentration and housing costs, driving many households to live farther away. This leads to longer commutes, more traffic, and greater strain on transportation infrastructure.



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 ACS, 1-Year Estimates, U.S. Census:OnTheMap and BCDCOG Travel Demand Model

MAC Collaboration Survey

Project Engagement

VIEWS

166

PARTICIPANTS

34

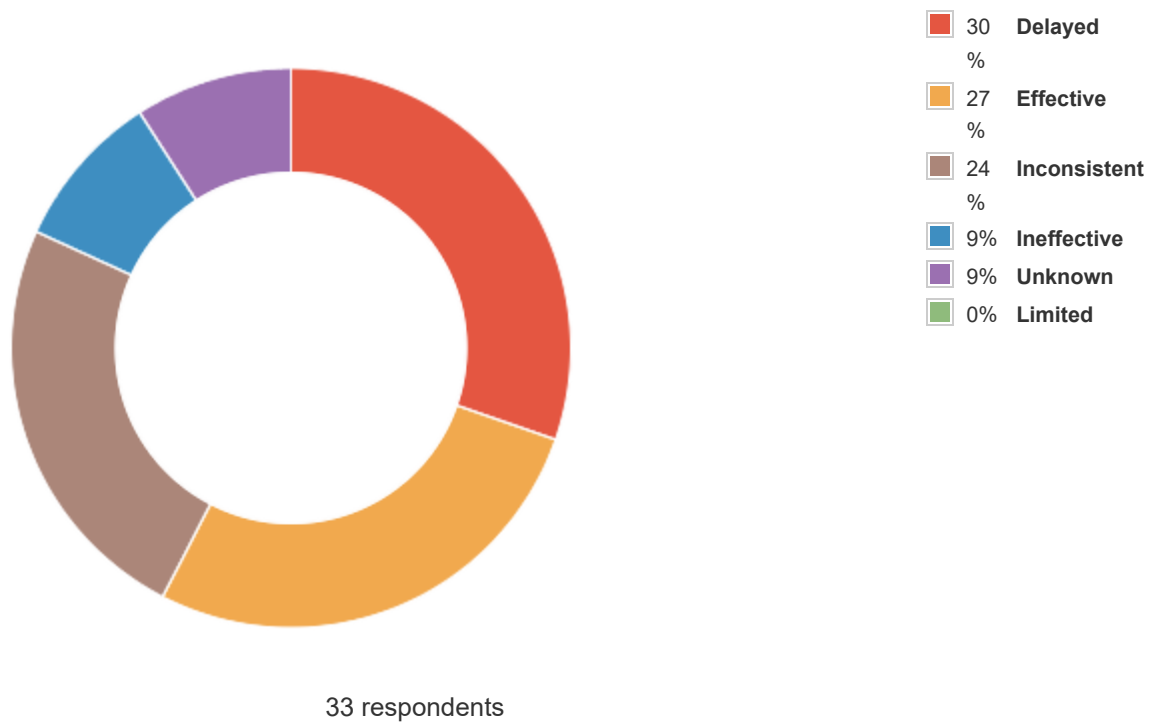
RESPONSES

621

COMMENTS

31

* 1. How effective is communication between different dispatch centers during cross-jurisdictional (mutual/auto-aid) emergency responses?



* 2. How reliable is communication between dispatch centers and responding mutual/auto-aid stations or apparatus?

Reliable	15 ✓
Delayed	7 ✓
Intermittent	5 ✓
Limited	5 ✓
Adequate	3 ✓
3% Unreliable	1 ✓

32 Respondents

* 3. What additional communication issues does your agency face when coordinating with neighboring agencies? (Select all that apply)

Inconsistent communication protocols	13 ✓
Lack of shared channels	10 ✓
Timeline or procurement delays	7 ✓
Broader radio inoperability	6 ✓
Other	5 ✓

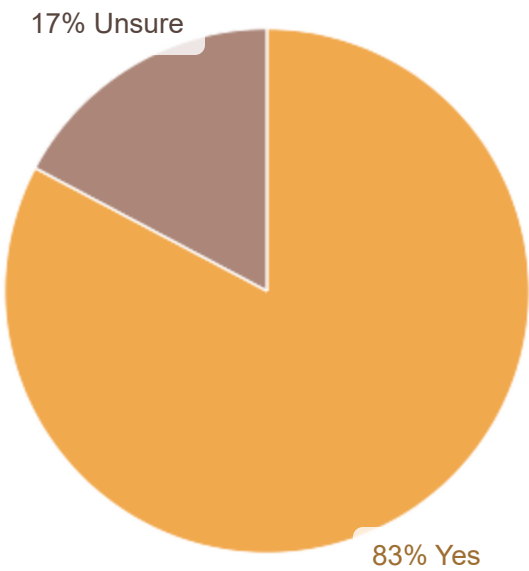
31 Respondents

* 4. How does your agency currently keep track of Mutual-Aid Agreements and/or shared equipment?

Saved on shared folder		12 ✓
Saved on internal drives		10 ✓
Kept in binders		8 ✓
Stored by individual staff		7 ✓
Other		3 ✓

31 Respondents

* 5. Would your agency benefit from a credentialed, filterable database of Mutual-Aid Agreements and shareable equipment?



29 respondents

* 6. What concerns or limitations should be considered if developing such a database? (Select all that apply)

Security controls	23 ✓
Permissions	21 ✓
Level of document visibility	20 ✓
Version control	16 ✓
Other	4 ✓

29 Respondents

* 7. What specific equipment should be included in a shared regional inventory for tracking and mutual aid purposes? (Select all that apply)

Specialty tools	24 ✓
Drones	22 ✓
Hazmat equipment	20 ✓
Marine units	20 ✓
Rescue apparatus	18 ✓
Ladder trucks	17 ✓
Other	8 ✓

29 Respondents

* 8. What programs or operational challenges within your agency would most benefit from a regional solution or collaboration? (Select all that apply)

High-cost specialized programs		17 ✓
Shared technology platforms		16 ✓
Joint purchases		16 ✓
Railroad crossing blockage detection		9 ✓
Accessibility		8 ✓
EMS Blood-in-the-Field program		6 ✓
Other		3 ✓

27 Respondents

* 9. If you were to pursue one of these priorities with other agencies, what barriers would your team face? (Select all that apply)

Funding		18 ✓
Staffing		17 ✓
Administrative constraints		13 ✓
Internal support		7 ✓
0%	Other	0 ✓

27 Respondents

* 10. Does your agency currently have dedicated staff or capacity for writing competitive grants?

Yes, have shared or part-time staff	8 ✓
No, have capacity limitations	8 ✓
Yes, have a full-time grant writer	5 ✓
Yes, handled by non-specialist staff	5 ✓

26 Respondents

* 11. When pursuing grants that require multi-agency participation, what challenges does your agency face? (Select all that apply)

Funding match requirement	15 ✓
Coordinating multiple jurisdictions	15 ✓
Limited time/staff to prepare the application	13 ✓
Limited technical expertise in grant writing	11 ✓
Identifying a lead applicant	9 ✓
Unsure where to start	9 ✓
0% Other	0 ✓

26 Respondents

12. Anything else we should consider supporting regarding regional collaboration?

Time constraints for folks due to multiple meetings. Consolidation would help

4/24/2026

Nothing

4/23/2026

Unknown

4/22/2026

this survey is geared towards the Fire Service and not soo much towards LE services

4/22/2026

Na

4/22/2026

No

4/21/2026

Not that I can think of.

4/17/2026

Make sure you have an all hazards focus - not just fire and police

4/17/2026

Linking Charleston and Berkeley County CAD systems.

4/17/2026

4/17/2026

Note that Charleston County Emergency Management is working on a project to establish a database of all shared public safety resources throughout the county. Happy to partner with COG on this project.

4/17/2026

Na

4/17/2026

BCDCG should be the lead on theses collaborations

4/16/2026

MOU's, SOG's, or other documentation strengthening buy-in/support to follow the intent of coordination, collaboration, and compatibility.

4/16/2026
