

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**

October 23, 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
- Quorum determination
- Approval of meeting minutes (August 28, 2026)

Presentations

- SCDOT Road Safety Assessment (RSA) project updates – Kaylon Meetze and Kate Shealy (SCDOT)

Regional Project Updates

- Emergency Vehicle Preemption (EVP) – Mike Nixon (Goose Creek)
- CAD-to-CAD integration – Sam Gaither (Berkeley County)
- Pre-hospital whole blood transfusion program (“Blood in the Field”) – Chris Way (Charleston County)

MAC Executive Committee Reports

- MAC Executive Committee – Ron Mitchum (BCDCOG)
 - PROTECT grant application
- Law Enforcement – Steve Young (Dorchester County)
- Fire – Mike Nixon (Goose Creek)
- EMS – Chris Way (Charleston County)
- Communications (911/Radio) – Sam Gaither (Berkeley County)
- Coroner – Paul Brothers (Dorchester County)
- Emergency Management – Justin Pierce (Charleston County)

MAC Subcommittee Reports

- Planning
- Training
 - SCEMD Training Registration System (TRS) calendar – Justin Pierce (Charleston County)

External Committee Updates

- LCRT Fire/Life Safety & Security Committee
- Lowcountry small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) – agency applications due 10/30/2026 by 5:00 PM
- Knox Box electronic key system – Charleston County

New Business

2027 Meeting Schedule – Ron Mitchum (BCDCOG)

- Executive Committee (2nd Thursday, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM)
 - Thursday, January 14, 2027
 - Thursday, April 8, 2027
 - Thursday, July 8, 2027
 - Thursday, October 14, 2027
- MAC Group (4th Thursday, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM)
 - Thursday, January 28, 2027
 - Thursday, April 22, 2027
 - Thursday, July 22, 2027
 - Thursday, October 28, 2027

Meeting Adjournment

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

**Meeting Notes
August 28, 2026**

The Multi-Agency Coordination Group (MAC) met on Friday, August 28, 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

Chris Way; Sam Gaither; Rick Dangerfield; Christopher Zak; Will Hernandez; Pat Carter; Ben Waring; Brian Hornor; Tom Hill; Allyson Burrell; James Jackson; David Palawasta; Joseph Stocking; T.E. Pinkerton; Angela Raney; Timothy Jones; Ian Campbell; Steve Gottula; Gary Russell; Jared Harris; Mike Nixon; Justin Pierce; Nancy Peacock; Rick Fluegge; Allyson Burrell; Joseph Munn; Dan Isgelz; Renee Ramsey; Andrea Kozloski; Kyle James; Jennifer Dantzer

Call to Order

Vice Chair, Chris Way, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. followed by the welcome, an opening prayer by Chaplain Angela Raney, the pledge, introductions, quorum determination, and reminder to sign the sign in sheet.

Consideration of Minutes: April 24, 2026

Mr. Sam Gaither made a motion to approve the April 24, 2026, Multi-Agency Coordination Group (MAC) meeting notes as presented. Mr. Mike Nixon Second the motion. The Motion was unanimously approved.

(MAC) Multi-Agency Group Restructure

- **MAC Group Restructure** – Vice Chair Way, Chief for Charleston County EMS, introduced himself to the MAC Group as one of the Executive Committee Members and communicated that the Chair Ron Mitchum, Executive Director, for BCDCOG, could not attend this meeting because of pre-scheduled meetings. Vice Chair Way also communicated that the Executive Committee met two weeks prior and discussed reorganization to make sure that the MAC Group is serving its purpose. Kyle James, Planner II, for BCDCOG, shared that the MAC Groups desire has been more formalization and an updated Strategic Plan that will be in place for the next five to ten years. Andrea Kozloski, Deputy Director of Operations and Support, for BCDCOG, introduced herself and thanked Vice Chair Way for his leadership in Chair Mitchum's absences. Vice Chair Way shared examples of different regions with good MAC Group model systems that could be applied to the TriCounty area as it continues to grow.

Old Business

- **Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grant Funding (Justin Pierce, CCEMD)** – Justin Pierce, CCEMD, informed the MAC Group that they are assessing the data that FEMA and DHS put into their risk profile for the TriCounty area. Mr. Pierce acknowledges that BCDCOG has been helpful in validating their data sources and providing additional data sources to increase their score to make them more competitive for future iterations. They have completed their first initial assessments for the open-source information. Currently they are working on scheduling classified briefings with DHS INA for the high site information that they need to validate, including our critical infrastructure list in the Tricounty area. Mr. Pierce and Mrs. Lauren will be participating in those briefings and will schedule a follow-up to discuss findings that would potentially increase their score for next year.
- **Knox Electronic Key System Proposal (Charleston County)** – No updates currently.
- **Emergency Vehicle Preemption** – Mr. James shared with the MAC Group that there are some existing emergency vehicle preemption devices in Goose Creek and Mt. Pleasant. They are looking to expend and trying to get ahead

of some grant opportunities in 2027. They have received some interest from North Charleston Fire, but if there is any other organizations that want to be part of an expansion of that system, let Mr. James know and he will start working on a joint grant application to get funding for it and to have some consistency in the type of technology that they are using across jurisdictional factories. Also, the ability to scale will depend on everybody selecting the same equipment. Chief Mike Nixon stated that Goose Creek Fire has a 10-year contract and SCDOT does not allow law enforcement to use the devices. Chief Nixon asked if BCDCOG can help work with the legislative delegations to allow law enforcement to use emergency vehicle preemption. Mrs. Kozloski stated that she has made a note about this. Vice Chair Way informed the group that at the Executive Committee Meeting, they did have the discussion about group purchasing. He made an example that if one department has 170 vehicles, another has 100 and another has 400 when making group purchases, the cost per item will start to go down. Mr. James shared that preemption is also used for transit signal prioritization. Vice Chair Way stated that he thinks it's important that Law Enforcement, Fire, and EMS all are sitting at the table in the LCRT meetings making sure whether it's from planning a stop, making sure that it is fire and ambulance truck friendly, to having security measures in place, and in front of all discussions instead of waiting until the plan is done.

- **Survey (BCDCOG)** – Mr. James called the groups attention to the back of the agenda packet for a quick review of the survey results from a couple of meetings ago. He shared the summary from a survey that John Cooper, Safety Manager for BCDCOG, created that stated 83% of the survey respondents indicated need for shared communication database and there is a desire for credentialed access to mutual aid agreements. 50% of the respondents identified a need for grant opportunity support and coordination across jurisdictions on larger grants. Mr. James shared that the survey results will help to inform the scope for the Strategic Plan update.

Committee Reports

- **Lowcounty sUAS (Justin Pierce, CCEMD)** – Mr. Pierce shared with the group that the Lowcounty sUAS Group has had several meetings and they are working on their operational structure and the target is to start acquiring some of the detection and DOMS equipment and the UAS systems before the bridge run and Flowertown Festival so that those can be deployed as a test run during the events.
- **LCRT Fire/Life Safety & Security Committee (Rick Fluegge, Charleston Fire)** – Mr. Rick Fluegge with Charleston Fire shared with the group that the LCRT Fire/Life Safety & Security Committee met yesterday and discussed a non-disclosure agreement that must be signed by all committee members in regard to policies, procedures, threat assessments, and more. The committee discussed the ability for CARTA to share real-time communication and video with emergency responders. There is also a desire to make sure that the stations have physical addresses so that if there is an event, they know where to go in a timely manner.
- **Policy & Procedures** – No updates currently.
- **Communications (Sam Gaither)** – Mr. Sam Gaither with Berkeley County 911, updated the group that all PSAPs in the TriCounty area are now up on the ESI net except Dorchester County, they are on the state ESI net. They have just finished testing Round Robin which means if Berkeley County has an emergency and must get off the PSAP, they can make an announcement over a common radio channel and select the evacuation button, and all calls will get routed to another county. Once shared with another county the data is input back into Alistar, and it comes back to them electronically. Recent big wins where we brought on Goose Creek and Summerville getting them tested, and now they are currently working there and very good on CAD-to-CAD. Mr. Gaither mentioned that the only item that was left over was CAD-to-CAD RFP, which will be issued very soon. The general idea is to start with EMS because they currently have county automatic mutual aid agreements for the closest unit. They also have CAD-to-CAD with Goose Creek and two units but will also work on getting the closest unit there with all the right rules so that not every ambulance in the entire TriCounty area is in Charleston. Next up will be fire and Mr. Gaither asks that the Fire guys start talking about what they want to look at as time gets closer in the next 12 to 18 months. Lastly in the Summer of 2027 the Berkeley and Dorchester radio systems will go to P25 phase two which is TDMA. Charleston will stay FDMA because they have adequate capacity.

- **Training** – Justin Pierce shared that there is a TriCounty Integrated Preparedness Plan and based on the workshop feedback collected the training planned has been incorporated with the updated IPP that is going through current revisions and finalization. Mr. James shared a South Carolina (TIM) Network meeting on September 23rd at Goose Creek Rural Fire Department on Red Bank Rd. and a training for traffic incident management on October 20th located at the SCDOT Dorchester Maintenance Office Jim Bilton Blvd.
- **Planning** – No updates currently.

New Business

- **Confirm MAC Group Mission Statement & Committee Structure** – Vice Chair Way presented on the screen while reading to the members the current MAC Group mission statement while asking all members if the mission statement was broad enough for the group. The group agreed that the mission statement was broad enough to work within defined limits of the group. Vice Chair Way then asks the group for their thoughts about the committee structure. The group suggested that there should be a chair from each discipline to be chair at the MAC Executive Committee and to report back at the MAC Group Meetings.
- **Recent Public Safety “Wins”** – Vice Chair Way shared with the group about putting whole blood transfusion capabilities on EMS supervisors’ vehicles. Another win Vice Chair Way shared with the group was a public safety issue that turned into a Highway Patrol chase, but because everyone now is on a common radio system it allowed all county law enforcement to get involved including fire and EMS which was seamless communication.
- **Population Forecasts** – Mr. James shared a summary of the latest population forecast for the region broken down by individual counties. In 2025 the population was 887,000 and by 2045 it is forecasted to be over 1.1 million. Mr. James stated that the population growth is not evenly distributed across the region, although each county is anticipated to grow, they anticipate the most growth in Berkeley County. BCDCOG’s Travel Demand Model forecasts growth at the Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ) level that can provide more granular outputs. Those are incorporated into a separate model called Community VIZ and with that modeling process, they can project where the anticipated need is for public safety. This is a resource that’s available for long-term planning for individual agencies, and something to incorporate into the strategic plan.
- **CY 2027 Meeting Schedule** – Vice Chair Way informed the group that another topic that was discussed at the MAC Executive meeting was, in 2027 not scheduling the MAC Group meetings on a Friday. The suggested option was quarterly on Thursdays, and the Executive Committee would meet two weeks prior. Vice Chair Way encourages the subcommittees to continue to meet for a meaningful meeting within the quarter.
- **Around The Room** - No updates currently.

Next meeting

The next MAC Group meeting will be on Friday, October 23, 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, Vice Chair Way thanked everyone for attending today’s meeting and reminded attendees to make sure that they had signed the sign-in sheet and adjourned the meeting at 11:11 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