



Current Events

COG Board Meeting at the COG Office, October 26th, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

October 2017 Work Force Event Calendar, click [here](#).

Useful Regional Information

2017 Annual Awards Banquet Winners



Authentic Youth Civic Engagement: A Guide for Municipal Leaders
by National League of Cities Institute For Youth, Education, & Families

Across the country, municipal leaders are discovering one of their greatest assets: the youth of their city. Increasingly, youth are working with elected officials and other city leaders to tackle the important issues of local government. More and more young people are also discovering that their voices matter to their communities, and that they can make their communities better places to live. This [guide](#) will help local elected officials and other city leaders invite young people to participate in the democratic process. Success comes from blending the unique assets of a city with the collective knowledge and best practice from across the country. Local officials can use this framework to find workable solutions for their own community.

BroadbandUSA published *What Speed Do You Need?* To help community members learn the minimum download speed requirements for their local institutions.

Communities with existing broadband connectivity can use this infographic to quickly determine if their institutions have the speeds that they need, and communities seeking to enhance broadband access can understand baseline speed requirements. Click [here](#) to access this new resource.

2017 School Bus Rebate Program Now Accepting Applications!

Need help paying for that new school bus or upgrade? The EPA is offering an opportunity to receive up to \$20,000 per vehicle to replace your older school buses, and up to \$6,000 per vehicle for retrofits. The 2017 School Bus Rebate Program is now open and applications will be accepted until November 14, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

[Read more](#)

Employment Trends

According to the US Department of Labor Statistics, as compiled by [NC Rural Center](#), 41 of North Carolina's rural counties (80 in total) have seen declines in employment from May 2016 - May 2017. Of North Carolina's 6

urban and 14 suburban counties, only one, Cumberland saw losses in employment. For Kerr-Tar's five counties, it was a net gain of over 1,400 jobs. [Click here](#) to view the profile for your county.

Kerr-Tar Regional Labor Market Review for August 2017

Click [here](#) for the most recent trends for the Region in the Labor Market as presented by the NC Department of Commerce.

Planning & Economic Development



The Planning and Economic Development Department is pleased to announce our new Regional Planner, Alrik Lunsford. Mr. Lunsford is a graduate of North Carolina A&T State University and North Carolina Central University. His most recent work experience was completing an internship with the North Carolina Department of Transportation. As a Regional Planner, Alrik will be working on the Clean Fuel Advanced Technology (CFAT) grant, Department of Environmental Quality's Water Quality Management Planning Grant, and various RPO transportation-related projects. Please help us in welcoming Alrik to Region K!

Public Hearing Notice

The North Carolina Environmental Management Commission's 15A NCAC 02T Waste Not Discharged to Surface Waters rules and 15A NCAC 02U Reclaimed Water rules have undergone the SL 2013-413 rule review. The majority of these rules are proposed to be readopted and the remaining rules are proposed to be adopted or repealed. Public hearings will be conducted to receive public comments on the proposed actions to the rules and associated regulatory impact analyses. The Public Hearings dates are listed below: (all hearings will begin at 6:00 pm, with doors opening at 5:30pm)

- October 17, 2017 – Northview Middle School Auditorium, 302 28th Ave. NE Hickory, NC
- October 24, 2017 – Archdale Bldg. (Ground Floor Hearing Rm.), 512 N. Salisbury St. Raleigh, NC

The Kerr-Tar TAC/TCC met on Thursday, September 21, 2017. At this additional meeting, the TAC/TCC considered and approved as action items the Kerr-Tar RPO Prioritization P5.0 Transportation Project submittals and the P5.0 Division Needs Alternate Criteria for Division 5. Kerr-Tar RPO successfully met the NCDOT approval and submission deadline of September 29, 2017. Kerr-Tar RPO was allowed up to 21 project submittals in each of our transportation categories-highways, rail, transit, aviation and bicycle\pedestrian. The COG would like to extend a sincere thank you to Ann Stroobant, RPO Coordinator for her hard work in submitting these countywide projects to the NCDOT.

The Next Kerr-Tar TAC/TCC meeting will be held on **Thursday, November 30, 2017** at the KTCOG office, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Upcoming action items for this meeting will include approving a resolution in support of the Town of Warrenton's Bike and Pedestrian Plan Grant application submitted to the NCDOT Bike and Pedestrian Division and approving a Resolution to Endorse the Granville County Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update.

North Carolina Lakes District Regional Bike Plan Maps and 2017 North Carolina Highway Maps Available

New Lakes District Regional Bike Plan and NCDOT 2017 North Carolina Highway maps are available. The COG has distributed these maps throughout region. Maps are available county-wide at: County Managers' Offices, Planning Departments, Parks and Recreation Departments, Chambers of Commerce, and Economic Development Commissions. Please visit your local offices to obtain a copy.

2018 NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative

Proposals are divided and judged in geographical groups to help establish equitable distribution of funding across the state. The selected awardees commonly incorporate a diverse mix of municipalities from large cities to small towns.

This program is sponsored by the department's Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation and the Transportation Planning Branch. Since 2004, approximately \$5.0 million has been awarded through this program to 183 municipalities across the state.

Award recipients will be notified by March 2018. The program provides funding for municipalities across the state to develop comprehensive bicycle or pedestrian plans.

Smaller communities with populations of less than 5,000 can also apply to develop combined bicycle and pedestrian plans. Further, communities of any size may apply for the development of a corridor/area plan. Also eligible are counties with population of less than 50,000 who may apply for a bicycle or pedestrian plan.

The deadline for applications, to be submitted electronically, is November 9th 2017. Click [here](#) for more information.

Plans funded are not for one specific project, but represent a comprehensive strategy for expanding bicycle and pedestrian opportunities within a given municipality. The plans address facilities, programs, policies and design guidelines that encourage safe walking and bicycling.

For more information on the 2018 NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative, contact Nick Scheuer at (919) 707-2608 or nis@ncdot.gov.

October Community Workshops for NC Public Transportation Division Strategic Plan

Public Input Welcomed as Strategic Plan is Developed

RALEIGH – This October, stakeholders and the public are invited to provide input at community workshops across the state as part of the North Carolina Public Transportation Statewide Strategic Plan. The workshops are free and open to the public. No registration is necessary to attend.

The N.C. Department of Transportation is developing the Public Transportation Statewide Strategic Plan to improve bus, rail, and paratransit services across the state by better matching transit services to the needs of North Carolinians. To provide feedback online, please visit <https://nctransitplan.ncdotrequest.com>.

For more information, dates, and locations on the Public Transportation Statewide Strategic Plan, please visit <https://www.ncdot.gov/nctransit/strategicplan/>.

INFRA GRANTS

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) is now soliciting applications for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) discretionary grant program. Authorized under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act's Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects program, INFRA grants will fund critical freight and highway projects across the country. The INFRA program will make approximately \$1.5 billion available to projects that are in line with the Administration's principles to help rebuild America's crumbling infrastructure.

Prospective INFRA applicants are encouraged to look through the full [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#). Applications are due by 8:00 PM EST on **November 2, 2017**. The Grants.gov "Apply" function is now open.

***More information about INFRA grants, including frequently asked questions and other guidance, can be found at <https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/infragrants>.

The NC Rural Center has received a five-year grant from The Duke Endowment to work with United Methodist churches in rural North Carolina to build more economically dynamic and socially inclusive communities.

The **Faith in Rural Communities** initiative will initially partner with 64 Methodist churches throughout the state to assess their congregational assets and opportunities for community engagement. A smaller subset of congregations will then receive in-depth coaching to develop local outreach projects that support community growth and nurture laity and pastoral leadership in rural communities. The Rural Center will work with the selected congregations to develop high-impact mission projects that benefit the

economic health and social wellbeing of the local community, but also enhance congregational life within the churches and increase overall church vitality.

NCDOT Sending \$147.6 Million to Help Municipalities Improve Their Transportation Networks

More than 500 cities and towns across North Carolina have started receiving their allocation of more than \$147.6 million in State Street Aid, also known as Powell Bill funds from the N.C. Department of Transportation. The initial allocation, half of the overall total, was sent out to 508 municipalities last week. The rest will be paid by Dec. 30. Towns and cities must apply for the funds, and there are the same number of recipients as in 2016. Please click on the following link to read the full NCDOT press release:

<https://apps.ncdot.gov/newsreleases/details.aspx?r=14420>

Granville County DRAFT Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update-

Granville County, NCDOT and Kerr-Tar RPO held the first of two public meetings reviewing the DRAFT Comprehensive Transportation Plan on Thursday, October 5, 2017 from 4:00-7:00 pm at the Granville County Senior Center, 107 Lanier Street, Oxford, NC. The CTP is an unfunded vision plan that identifies roadway, transit, bi-cycle and pedestrian improvements that will be needed in Granville County over the next 30-50 years.

The second public meeting reviewing the DRAFT Comprehensive Transportation Plan was held on Tuesday, October 10, 2017 from 4:00-7:00 pm at the South Branch Library, 1150 South Campus Drive, Butner, NC.



Granville County
Comprehensive Transportation Plan

PUBLIC MEETING

Session I - Oxford	Session II - Butner
Date: October 5th, 2017 Time: 4:00-7:00 PM Location: The Granville County Senior Center, Oxford	Date: October 10th, 2017 Time: 4:00 - 7:00 PM Location: The South Branch Library, Butner



Art Competition

The NC Clean Energy Technology Center at North Carolina State University is sponsoring a student art contest on the topic of "ways that we can take action to reduce air pollution from cars and trucks." Students from kindergarten through college attending schools in Granville, Person, and Franklin Counties are encouraged to submit artwork for the contest. Winners will have an opportunity for their artwork to be featured on billboards across the state, helping spread the word about ways that we all can help keep the air clean. All billboards will direct people to Fuel What Matters: www.fuelwhatmatters.org. Submissions are due November 5, 2017 and may be uploaded via the following link: <http://contests.wral.com/Keep-Our-Air-Clean-Photo-Contest/gallery/?category=1233667>

Kerr-Tar area counties and municipalities are encouraged to apply for planning assistance through the EPA's Healthy Places for Healthy People. The agency has scheduled a webinar for interested applicants on **October 13** at 1:00 pm Eastern.

The intent of the program is designed to create walkable, healthy, economically vibrant downtowns and neighborhoods that can improve health, protect the environment, and support economic growth within select communities. More information may be obtained via <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/healthy-places-healthy-people-2017-2018-application/eligibility>. The application deadline is 11:59 p.m. ET on **October 25, 2017**.

Water Quality Management

The Planning Department is working on a Water Quality Management Planning Grant (NC DEQ 205j) with Upper Coastal Plains Council of Governments. The goal of this grant is to encourage greater citizen engagement and local member government collaboration in Warren County along the Roanoke River basin through hosting seminars and workshops highlighting methods that can be used to preserve water resources. An initial meeting was held in August, with a second meeting to occur in the next few months.

The COG is nearing the completion of its Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) plan. A requirement from the Economic Development Administration every 5 years, the purpose of the CEDS is to create a process that will create jobs, foster more stable and diversified economies improve living conditions and provide a mechanism for coordinating the efforts of people, organizations, local governments, and private industry concerned with economic development. A CEDS Plan is also necessary to qualify for EDA assistance.

Aging

Bed Bugs Workshop

The Kerr-Tar AAA will host a workshop on **November 3, 2017** at the COG office from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on the topic, "Bed Bugs and Similar Pests: The Control Factor". A fee will be associated with this program to cover

materials and meals. If you have any questions regarding either of these workshops, please contact [Kim Hawkins](#), Regional Ombudsman at (252) 436-2050.

Communities Served:

- Franklin County
- Granville County
- Person County
- Vance County
- Warren County
- Town of Bunn
- Town of Butner
- City of Creedmoor
- Town of Franklinton
- City of Henderson
- Town of Kittrell
- Town of Louisburg
- Town of Macon
- Town of Middleburg
- Town of Norlina
- City of Oxford
- City of Roxboro
- Town of Stem
- Town of Stovall
- Town of Warrenton
- Town of Youngsville

Contacts:

Executive Director
Diane Cox
dcox@kerrtarcoq.org

Planning & Development
Michael Kelly
mkelly@kerrtarcoq.org

Workforce Development
Vincent Gilreath
vgilreath@kerrtarcoq.org

Aging
Jillian Hardin
jhardin@kerrtarcoq.org

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MISSION STATEMENT

Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments aims to promote regionalism that provides opportunities for local governments to enhance and improve the quality of life for our citizens through effective delivery of services and programs.

Our mailing address is:

P.O. Box 709
Henderson, NC 27536

Contact Info:

info@kerrtarcoq.org

252-436-2040

252-436-2055 fax

Website:

www.kerrtarcoq.org

This email was sent to kconner@kerrtarcoq.org

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