

# LEE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

## OVERVIEW:

The County Transportation Committee (CTC) program distributes funding collected through the sale of gasoline to all South Carolina's counties, and each County has a Transportation Committee that manages the funds. The Lee CTC was created by the Lee County Legislative Delegation in compliance with the SC Code of Laws Section 12-28-2740. To identify maintenance and improvement needs and to appropriate the distribution of the funds, the Lee CTC recognizes the need to establish criteria to evaluate projects under its jurisdiction and to guide the effort to distribute CTC monies in a responsible manner. The CTC's goal is to accomplish this with reasonable and fair objectives in mind while remaining consistent with the State's CTC rules and regulations. This transportation plan has been prepared to serve as a guide for the management of the Lee CTC funding. In fulfilling its duties, Lee CTC will seek to identify, prioritize, and allocate funds for roadway and transportation projects which will effectively serve the needs of Lee County.

The Lee CTC is composed of three members appointed by the Lee County Legislative Delegation. The Legislative Delegation may increase this number or replace members at their discretion in accordance with SC Code of Laws Section 12-28-2740 (Paragraph B). The Lee CTC shall function separately of the Legislative Delegation; however, the Delegation is not prohibited from making project recommendations to the CTC. There are no set term limits for the committee membership. A Chairman and a Vice-Chairman shall be elected from among its membership, and the Chairman has the authority to call Committee meetings as many times as the Committee deems necessary throughout the year. In the event that the Chairman is not able to carry out his duties, the Vice-Chairman will act as Chairman. All meetings of the Lee CTC shall be conducted in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order; all meetings shall be open to the public and held in facilities that will allow members of the public easy access. A majority vote of all members of the Lee CTC shall be required on matters of financial expenditures for projects approved by the Committee.

The intention of the Lee CTC to cooperate and work closely with the appropriate Lee County administrative staff, the County Council, City Councils, and SCDOT to improve as many roads and other transportation facilities as possible with the funds allocated.

Maintaining the roadway network in Lee County is vital for attracting and retaining business development, attracting visitors, and serving the needs of its residents. As of the 2016

census, the county's population was 17,635 occupying a land area of approximately 410 square miles, making it the fifth-least populous county in South Carolina. The county seat is Bishopville. From a nationally recognized topiary sculptor to the plantation home of Senator "Cotton" Ed Smith, Lee County welcomes all visitors. History steeped in the cotton fields found throughout the county has paved the way for a progressive, growing community. It is a proud community seeking to better its citizens with jobs, education and opportunities. The Lee CTC along with Lee County government work diligently to provide the services needed by its citizens. Lee County is conveniently located off Interstate 20 with easy access to Florence, Sumter and Columbia. Unique sites such as Pearl Fryar's Topiary Garden, the Button Museum and Cotton Museum help define this eclectic area.

#### **ADMINISTRATION:**

The Lee CTC will operate on a fiscal year from July 1 to June 30 the following year and will do so in a fiscally sound and stable manner and shall not operate in a deficit.

The Lee CTC has elected to administer its C Fund Program. The program will be administered in compliance with the requirements of the SC Code of Laws Section 12-28-2740 including specific requirements related to allocation of funds, procurement, and reporting. Through an agreement with Lee County government, the County will provide program financial accounting and reporting, and will receive and disburse funds for city/county/state road projects. Lee County shall establish a CTC funds financial account separate and apart from any other funds associated with any governmental function. Funds received and dispersed shall be subject to reviews at any time by the Committee, the County, and the SCDOT.

#### **PROGRAM PRIORITIES:**

SCDOT maintains a pavement evaluation and management system to assess road conditions in Lee County subject to its responsibility that also establishes a project prioritization process. The criteria of this process that rank road improvement projects include the pavement quality index, the international roughness index, the average daily traffic counts, the percent patching, the average daily truck traffic counts, the state freight network location, the strategic corridor network location, the roadway functional classification and the state safety program roadway location. Once eligible road project candidates are identified, additional points are awarded by field engineers based on the roadway's relative condition, corridor continuity, connectivity, and contractibility. The State's system includes the Interstate Systems, the National Highway Systems, and

Primary as well as Secondary roads. The Lee CTC has been informed on this evaluation system and the coordination between SCDOT officials at the State, District, and local levels as to the implementation of that evaluation system. The Lee CTC finds the objectives of the system adequate and acceptable. Lee County follows a set of standards and prioritizes road improvements based on condition, traffic volume, and need. Lee County provides staff to place and maintain the rock purchased from the CTC funding allocation on roads that have been prioritized. The County prioritizes the rocking of roads based on improving community access, business or economic development and constructing access to recreational sites, etc. The Committee has reviewed the County's method of priority setting and finds the methods and approaches to be meritorious. In the context of these established planning and assessment processes, the Lee CTC must analyze its supervision of CTC funds. The Committee must do so with regard to the character of traditional CTC projects, the expanded range of uses for such funds, and the existing federal, state and local planning processes.

**PRIORITIZING PROJECTS:**

The CTC will continue to utilize funding on a countywide transportation network that will consist of the SCDOT's secondary road system and the County and Municipal government's road systems. The needs and demands on the CTC funds far exceed the available funding. Therefore, the Committee will continue to purposefully choose to exclude roadways for funding that are considered Interstate, US and Primary routes unless specific requests or extenuating circumstances arise.

The CTC will attempt to adopt target funding levels as follows:

<b>PROJECT TYPE</b>	<b>TARGET FUNDING LEVEL</b>
<b>State Resurfacing Projects</b>	<b>75% of Annual Allocation</b>
<b>County/City Projects</b>	<b>25% of Annual Allocation</b>

In addition, a minimum targeted uncommitted balance of 10% of the Committee's annual allocation shall be achieved and reserved for emergencies, unforeseen or unexpected meritorious project requests, possible project cost overruns, or project contingencies. This uncommitted balance, may with CTC approval, also be used to supplement the funding for Economic Development projects.

Due to limited funding and continual deterioration of the existing local government and State secondary road systems, the Lee CTC will consider the repair and rehabilitation of

these systems as its primary priority. Projects considered for funding under this classification typically will include, but will not be limited to, the resurfacing of state roads and the rocking of county roads. Unforeseen circumstances may arise that could warrant a modification to this priority such as a new roadway construction project for business or economic development, etc.

The Lee CTC will accept project requests throughout the year from Committee members, citizens, local governments, SCDOT, or other interested parties. All requests will initially be directed to the Chairman who will receive, review, and retain the requests prior to distribution to the other members. Project requests will be evaluated for eligibility and prioritization. Projects will be selected based on the targeted funding level for the category and overall prioritization without regard to project location.

SCDOT shall submit a list of roads to be improved from their resurfacing prioritization list to the CTC along with a cost estimate for each road for funding consideration each year. The cost for the work on this list should approximately equal the above funding target level. In addition, SCDOT shall also provide each year a five year "look ahead" prioritized list of resurfacing candidates with estimated costs of improvements and appropriate rating score. The CTC will utilize this list for their future prioritization and planning purposes.

The CTC will review these lists along with other potential project candidates submitted to the Committee throughout the year. The CTC will evaluate each project request and discuss publicly the individual merits of the projects and the other intangible factors that would be subject to individual member's discretion and scrutiny. Through this procedure, the CTC will generate and fund a singular list of prioritized projects that coincides with the Transportation Plan budgetary and funding allotments as previously presented which will hopefully improve transportation quality in Lee County.

The CTC selected state resurfacing projects are to be submitted to the SCDOT to be included as a part of the state's overall resurfacing contract in Lee County. By linking the CTC funds to the state's contract, the CTC will be able to take advantage of lower competitive bid prices on single larger scale multi-jurisdictional contracts. The CTC will work closely with SCDOT to ensure the duplication of work on the same route is avoided. All approved projects shall be qualified to meet SCDOT Standard Specifications for Highway Construction and SCDHEC Storm Water and Sediment Reduction regulations.

## **LOCAL AGENCY PROJECT ADMINISTRATION:**

**Projects administered by local agencies must follow state C Program requirements including adherence to the South Carolina State Procurement Code. Failure to meet those requirements may result in loss or delay of reimbursements.**

## **DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS:**

**CTC funded projects designated as SCDOT projects will be performed by SCDOT. All work will be designed and constructed in accordance with the SCDOT Standard Specifications for Highway Construction and any other applicable standards adopted by the SCDOT. CTC funded projects designated as Local projects will be designed and constructed in accordance with Lee County's roadway and drainage design and construction standards.**

## **EQUAL CONSIDERATION:**

**A goal of the CTC is to meet the transportation needs of the entire county, including municipalities. Consideration will be given to the distribution of projects among the Council Districts and including the municipalities within the County. However, the CTC will not utilize an allocation or quota system among the Districts because of the necessity to consider such factors as population, traffic counts, environmental impact, right-of-way acquisition, number of households served, and similar considerations.**

## **REVISIONS TO PLAN:**

**The Lee CTC reserves the right to review and revise the County Transportation Plan. A review may be initiated by a member of the Committee in order to address desired revisions or in response to Legislative changes made in the CTC Program. Changes, additions, or deletions will be forwarded to SCDOT for appropriate action.**

## **GOAL:**

**The CTC's goal is to provide the citizens of Lee County with the safest and best roads as possible with the Committee's allocated funding.**

By: Tom Dayton  
(Chairman)

Date: 9-12-18