



# Board of Delegates Agenda

Wednesday, August 8, 2018  
Mount Holly Municipal Complex  
400 East Central Avenue  
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Chairman Bill Feather will convene a meeting of the **Centralina COG Board of Delegates on Wednesday, August 8, 2018** with a working dinner.

Time	Item	Presenter
<b>6:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Networking and Dinner</b> Please <b>RSVP</b> to Kelly Weston at <a href="mailto:kweston@centralina.org">kweston@centralina.org</a> or (704) 348-2728 by 5 p.m. on <b>Wednesday, August 1, 2018</b> so that catering can be arranged.	Kelly Weston
	<b>Board Engagement Activity</b> <i>Each community faces challenges that impede the community's potential or vision for long-term vitality. A community's ability to reach its potential or vision for long-term vitality is directly linked to its resiliency and well-being in these three areas:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Quality of life</i></li> <li>○ <i>Jobs and the economy</i></li> <li>○ <i>Effectiveness of government</i></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Name and briefly describe a challenge that your community is experiencing in one of these three areas.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>What would be one or two productive next steps to help solve the challenge(s) you listed?</i></li> </ul>	CCOG Staff
<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Call to Order</b>	Bill Feather
	<b>Invocation</b>	Bill Feather
	<b>Amendments to the Agenda</b> (if any)	Bill Feather
<b>Consent Items:</b> <i>Consent agenda items may be considered in one motion and without discussion except for those items removed by a Board member.</i>		
<b>6:35 p.m.</b> <b>Item 1</b> <i>Pages 4 - 8</i>	<b>Approval of the May 9, 2018 Board of Delegates Meeting Minutes</b> The minutes of the May 9, 2018 meeting were distributed to all members of the Board of Delegates and should be approved, if correct.  <b>Action/Recommendation:</b> <i>I move to approve the May 9, 2018 Board of Delegates meeting minutes.</i>	Bill Feather
<b>Regular Business Items:</b>		
<b>6:40 p.m.</b> <b>Item 2</b> 10 minutes <i>Page 9</i>	<b>Board Engagement Activity Report Out</b> Delegates will be asked to share their responses to the questions from the Board Engagement activity.	Bill Feather
<b>6:50 p.m.</b> <b>Item 3</b> 45 minutes <i>Page 11</i>	<b>CCOG 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Panel Discussion: Member Community Spotlights</b> Centralina Workforce Development Board Executive Director David Hollars will lead a panel discussion with representatives from local governments sharing their experiences in working with CCOG on projects that have addressed needs in their communities.  <b>Action/Recommendation:</b> <i>For informational purposes.</i>	David Hollars
<b>7:35 p.m.</b> <b>Item 4</b> 30 minutes <i>Page 13</i>	<b>Regional Transit Panel Discussion</b> Planning Director Michelle Nance will lead a panel discussion highlighting the current status of the CATS System Expansion plan, including the recent opening of the LYNX Blue Line to UNC Charlotte and plans for new light rail corridors from Matthews to Belmont. The panel will provide an overview of the Kings Mountain – Gastonia – Charlotte Commuter Rail Feasibility Study, outcomes from the Regional Transit Summit (May 2018), and how these initiatives coordinate with the Regional Transit Plan, which is expected to begin in 2019.	Michelle Nance



# Board of Delegates Agenda

*Wednesday, August 8, 2018  
Mount Holly Municipal Complex  
400 East Central Avenue  
Mount Holly, NC 28120*

Time	Item	Presenter
	<p>Panelists will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Muth, Deputy Director, Charlotte Area Transit System</li> <li>• Scott Neisler, Mayor, City of Kings Mountain</li> <li>• Mark Cramer, Executive Director, Greater Gaston Development Corporation</li> </ul> <p><b>Action/Recommendation:</b> <i>The Board of Delegates is asked to identify local partners that should be involved in the Regional Transit Plan scoping discussion, which will take place September – November 2018.</i></p>	
<p><b>8:05 p.m.</b> <b>Item 5</b> 10 minutes <i>Pages 15 - 17</i></p>	<p><b>August Advocacy Update</b> Federal relations consultant, Leslie Mozingo, will present an overview of CCOG’s August Advocacy meetings. These meetings will be opportunities for Delegates to meet locally with members of the region’s Congressional delegation during their summer recess to discuss CCOG priorities.</p> <p><b>Action/Recommendation:</b> <i>Delegates are asked to sign up to participate in local August Advocacy meetings as their schedules permit.</i></p>	Leslie Mozingo
<p><b>8:15 p.m.</b> 5 minutes</p>	<b>Comments from the Board of Delegates</b>	Board Members
<p><b>8:20 p.m.</b> 5 minutes</p>	<b>Comments from the Chair</b>	Bill Feather
<p><b>8:25 p.m.</b> 5 minutes</p>	<b>Comments from the Interim Executive Director</b>	Jim Prosser
<p><b>8:30 p.m.</b></p>	<b>Adjournment</b>	Bill Feather
<p><i>Centralina Council of Governments complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. Centralina Council of Governments will make reasonable accommodations in all programs/services to enable participation by an individual with a disability who meets essential eligibility requirements. Centralina Council of Governments’ programs will be available in the most integrated setting for each individual. If any accommodations are necessary for participation, please contact the Clerk to the Board, 9815 David Taylor Drive, Charlotte, NC 28262, phone (704) 348-2728. Please allow 72 hours advance notice for preparation. Visit our website: <a href="http://www.centralina.org">www.centralina.org</a>.</i></p>		



Centralina Council of Governments

**Item 1**



**Board of Delegates Meeting Minutes  
May 9, 2018**

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Represented By</b>	<b>Jurisdictions Not Represented</b>
Albemarle	Chris Whitley	Ansonville
Anson County	Jarvis Woodburn	Belmont
Badin	Deloris Chambers	Cabarrus County
Bessemer City	Kay McCathen	Cherryville
Charlotte	Larken Egleston	Cleveland
Cramerton	Will Cauthen	Cornelius
Davidson	Autumn Rierson Michael	Dallas
East Spencer	Deloris High	Faith
Gaston County	Ronnie Worley	Hemby Bridge
Gastonia	Dave Kirlin	Huntersville
Granite Quarry	Bill Feather	Iredell County
Lincoln County	Martin Oakes	Kings Mountain
Lowell	Sandy Railey	Landis
Matthews	Jeff Miller	Lincolnton
McAdenville	Jay McCosh	Locust
Mecklenburg County	Trevor Fuller	Marshville
Mint Hill	Mike Cochrane	Marvin
Midland	John Crump	Mineral Springs
Misenheimer	Jeffrey Watson	Monroe
Mooresville	Bobby Compton	Morven
Stanly County	Bill Lawhon	Mount Holly
Troutman	Paul Bryant	Norwood
Wingate	Brent Moser	Oakboro
		Pineville
		Ranlo
		Richfield
		Salisbury
		Spencer
		Spencer Mountain
		Stallings
		Stanley
		Statesville
		Union County
		Wadesboro
		Waxhaw
		Weddington
		Wesley Chapel

**Call to Order**

Chairman Bill Feather, Town of Granite Quarry, called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

Chairman Feather noted that a quorum was present.

**Consent Agenda**

- 1. FY2017-2018 Budget Amendment**
- 2. Appointments to the Centralina Economic Development Commission**
- 3. Approval of the February 7, 2018 Board of Delegates Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Martin Oakes, Lincoln County, made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Jeff Miller, Town of Matthews, seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**Amendments to the Agenda**

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Commissioner Oakes made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**4. CCOG 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Panel Discussion**

David Hollars, Centralina Workforce Development Board Executive Director, noted that he has worked at CCOG for 35 years. He introduced the panelists, CCOG Attorney Bill McNair, former CCOG staff member Rebecca Yarbrough, and Executive Director Ron Smith.

Mr. McNair described the founding of the organization, noting that it began when the state legislature enacted a statute authorizing the formation of regional councils as part of an effort to advance regionalism. He further noted that early steps involved preparing a charter and bylaws and developing the financing aspect based on member population. He expressed concern that many people do not understand the concept of regionalism. He also noted that transportation continues to be one of the most important issues to the region. He expressed his gratitude to the Delegates for their service as elected officials.

Ms. Yarbrough recalled the origins of CCOG's emergency medical services program, noting that she worked with the program for 20 years before it was passed on to trauma centers. She also described the development of other CCOG programs and services, noting that CCOG staff has always been on the lookout for programs that will benefit member governments and the region. She further noted that the state has brought programs to CCOG, such as aging services. She added that local governments would seek CCOG's assistance with certain issues, which led to the organization providing services such as assessment centers and hazard mitigation. She also noted that CCOG Delegates and other local elected officials have actively lobbied federal agencies for CCOG to house some programs, such as Sustainable Environment for Quality of Life. She said that at CCOG, she learned the importance of collaboration, how to recruit volunteers, and how to bring groups together to solve problems. She wished the organization another great 50 years.

Mr. Smith noted that his first few months at CCOG have involved learning how to think regionally. He further noted that from the time he interned at CCOG until now, he has observed a transition from an organization dealing with growth issues in smaller communities to the evolution of regional projects such as the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and CONNECT Our Future. He added that CCOG is now in the implementation stages of those projects. He has talked with managers, Delegates, and community groups to learn what services CCOG can provide. He noted that transit and transportation will be the dominant issues in the region in the foreseeable future. He added that economic development and

aging services will be important issues as well. He said that he would like to see CCOG serve as a convener on the opioid abuse issue, bringing the right people together to discuss ways to address this issue.

Mr. Hollars directed the Delegates' attention to the rolling slide show featuring photos from Anson, Iredell, and Mecklenburg communities and the names of Delegates representing those communities. He noted that Mr. Smith has presented proclamations to the County Commissioners in Anson and Iredell Counties and will present a proclamation to the Mecklenburg County Commissioners next week.

In response to a question from Mr. Hollars about the origin of the Centralina name, Mr. McNair explained that the name was part of an effort to focus on the central Carolina region and think beyond just a city or county.

Ms. Yarbrough added that the organization's original name was Central Piedmont Regional Council of Local Governments.

Vice Chair Bobby Compton, Town of Mooresville, noted that he worked with Ms. Yarbrough on emergency medical services while he was with the Mooresville Fire Department. He added that his association with CCOG goes back several years and that is why he continues to do what he does.

In response to a question from Vice Chair Compton, Mr. Smith explained that transitioning from a County Manager to the Executive Director position has involved being very proactive in meeting and talking with people to identify problems.

In response to a question from Council Member Larken Egleston, City of Charlotte, about the most memorable individual the panelists' encountered during their time with CCOG, Mr. McNair reflected on former Delegate Jim Warren. Ms. Yarbrough recalled former Delegate Harry Sifford.

Each of the panelists gave their closing remarks. Mr. McNair noted that the public is indebted to the Delegates, adding that they are performing a great service to the region. Ms. Yarbrough encouraged the Delegates to continue dreaming, which will help move the region forward. Mr. Smith said that his mission is for CCOG to remain relevant and be effective for its members.

##### **5. Mission Moment: Stanly County Senior Services Project**

Katie Kutcher, Aging Programs Coordinator, introduced Jessica Hill, Assistant Planning Director, and Andy Lucas, Stanly County Manager. She noted that May is Older Americans Month and this year's theme is "Engage at Every Age."

Mr. Lucas presented an overview of the study to investigate senior services in Stanly County. He explained that the County engaged CCOG to conduct the study and evaluate the need for satellite services. CCOG staff conducted demographic research, created maps, developed an online survey, organized public engagement events, conducted a peer community assessment, prepared a report, and presented the findings to the Board of County Commissioners. He noted that the findings revealed that mobility was a concern for seniors and prevented them from traveling to the senior center. CCOG recommended expanding senior services to other areas of the County, identified strategies for outreach and communication, and noted activities of highest demand to help the County determine what services to offer. The County Commissioners will discuss data and strategies during their upcoming budget meetings. Mr. Lucas noted that CCOG staff was very professional, collaborative, and engaged in the study. He added that the organization is helping the County control the cost of government by making informed decisions and improve quality of life.

In response to a question from Commissioner Miller, Mr. Lucas explained that Stanly County has experienced the rural-urban divide, but noted that there are more commonalities than differences between the two areas and working together will help solve problems.

**6. August Advocacy Update**

Leslie Mozingo, Strategics Consulting, encouraged the Delegates to sign up for August Advocacy meetings with members of the region's U.S. Congressional Delegation. She explained that she arranges the meetings, prepares talking points, accompanies the Delegates to the meetings, and prepares a post-meeting summary.

**7. CCOG Regional Conference Report**

Commissioner Oakes reported on the April 12<sup>th</sup> CCOG Regional Conference. He noted that there were 180 attendees at the event, including elected officials, local government staff, Congressional staffers, and staff from the Governor's Office. The event received \$33,000 in sponsorships, which is slightly lower than the amount received last year. He noted that financially, the event broke even during its first year, lost money during its second year, and made \$11,000 last year. He added that sponsor display tables are set up in the hallways of the venue, which gives sponsors an opportunity to talk with attendees during breaks between sessions. He noted that the morning keynote speaker discussed revitalizing communities. The luncheon keynotes addressed being polite while on opposite ends of the political spectrum. He further noted that there was positive feedback on the breakout sessions.

**Comments from the Board of Delegates**

There were no comments from the Board of Delegates.

**Comments from the Chair**

Chairman Feather reported that the Regional Transit Summit will be held on Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at UNC Charlotte. He also reported that CCOG is partnering with Charlotte Douglas International Airport on the Charlotte Aviation Academy, which is designed to help participants better understand the airport and its contributions to the community. The program will include six classes held in the fall of 2018. The cost is \$350 for public sector participants and applications are due June 1.

Mr. Hollars announced that on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Centralina Workforce Development Board will host a Workforce Signing Day for students graduating from A.L. Brown High School in Kannapolis who will sign a letter of intent to join the workforce. They will also enroll in the N.C. Manufacturing Institute and will receive two national certifications upon completion of certified production training.

Linda Miller, Aging Director, announced that the Centralina Area Agency on Aging will host a Listening Session on June 27<sup>th</sup> to help identify the needs of older adults. The information gathered will inform the development of the state's 2019-2023 Aging Services Plan.

Chairman Feather also reported that the Executive Board is seeking at-large members to serve a one-year term. He noted that the intent of the at-large membership is to increase regional diversity on the Executive Board.

**Comments from the Executive Director**

Mr. Smith reported that there will be additional members added to the Centralina Economic Development Commission.

He also reported that he and Council Member Michael Johnson, City of Statesville, will travel to Raleigh on May 30<sup>th</sup> for the North Carolina Association of Regional Councils of Government meetings. He noted that these meetings involve advocating for regional issues, and asked the Delegates to let him know of any issues they would like him to address with state legislators.

Mr. Smith added that CCOG will again offer pay and classification and assessment center services to local communities and will distribute informational materials soon.

He also reported that Ms. Mozingo recently assisted Iredell County in securing a state grant that will help with funding 98% of a half-million dollar cleanup project at a public library.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Egleston seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.



Centralina Council of Governments

**No attachments for Item 2.**

**Discussion to be held during meeting.**



Centralina Council of Governments

### **Item 3**



## Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

<b>Board Meeting Date:</b>	August 8, 2018	<b>Agenda Item Type:</b>	<b>Consent:</b>		<b>Regular:</b>	X
<b>Submitting Person:</b>	Kelly Weston	<b>Presentation Time (est.):</b>	45 minutes			
<b>Presenter at meeting:</b>	David Hollars	<b>Phone Number/Ext:</b>	704-348-2728			
		<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:kweston@centralina.org">kweston@centralina.org</a>			
<b>Alternate Contact Person:</b>	Martha Sue Hall	<b>Phone Number/Ext:</b>				
		<b>Email:</b>				
<b>Submitting Department:</b>	<b>General Government</b>	<b>Department Head Approval:</b>	Jim Prosser			
<b>Board Expectation:</b> <i>(required action or responsibility expected from Board members)</i>						
The Board of Delegates will interact with a panel of representatives from CCOG member governments who will discuss the organization's assistance with projects in their communities.						
<b>Description of Agenda Item:</b>						
Centralina Workforce Development Board Executive Director David Hollars will moderate a panel discussion with representatives from local governments sharing their experiences in working with CCOG on projects that have addressed needs in their communities.						
<b>Background &amp; Basis of Recommendations:</b>						
2018 marks the 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of federal legislation establishing Regional Councils of Government. Each of the quarterly meetings of the Board of Delegates will provide an opportunity to highlight three counties and the municipalities within those counties. These meetings will also feature a special guest speaker or presentation on the organization's history and its role in the region.						
<b>Action / Recommendation:</b>						
For informational purposes.						
<b>Time Sensitivity</b> <i>(none or explain):</i>	None.					
<b>Budget Impact</b> <i>(if applicable):</i>	None.					
<b>List of Attachments</b> <i>(if any):</i>	None.					



Centralina Council of Governments

## **Item 4**



Centralina Council of Governments

## Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

<b>Board Meeting Date:</b>	August 8, 2018	<b>Agenda Item Type:</b>	<b>Consent:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Regular:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Submitting Person:</b>	Michelle Nance	<b>Presentation Time (est.):</b>	30 minutes
<b>Presenter at meeting:</b>	John Muth Mayor Scott Neisler Mark Cramer	<b>Phone Number/Ext:</b>	704-348-2709
		<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:mnance@centralina.org">mnance@centralina.org</a>
<b>Alternate Contact Person:</b>		<b>Phone Number/Ext:</b>	704-348-2731
		<b>Email:</b>	
<b>Submitting Department:</b>	<b>Planning</b>	<b>Department Head Approval:</b>	<b>MEN</b>
<b>Description of Agenda Item:</b> <i>(same wording as on agenda summary)</i>			
Transit Initiatives Update – CATS System Expansion, Commuter Rail, and Regional Transit Plan			
<b>Background &amp; Basis of Recommendations:</b>			
<p>The CONNECT Our Future regional plan identified transportation choice as a top priority, with regional transit as a key approach. According to the region’s economic strategy, Prosperity for Greater Charlotte, regional transit infrastructure is critical to economic and job growth and continued competitiveness.</p> <p>A panel discussion will highlight the current status of the CATS System Expansion plan, including the recent opening of the LYNX Blue Line to UNC Charlotte and plans for new light rail corridors from Matthews to Belmont. The panel will provide an overview of the Kings Mountain – Gastonia – Charlotte Commuter Rail Feasibility Study, outcomes from the Regional Transit Summit (May 2018), and how these initiatives coordinate with the Regional Transit Plan, which is expected to begin in 2019.</p> <p><u>Panelists</u>          John Muth, Deputy Director, Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS)          Mayor Scott Neisler, City of Kings Mountain          Mark Cramer, Executive Director, Greater Gaston Development Corporation</p>			
<b>Action / Recommendation:</b>			
The Board of Delegates is asked to identify local partners that should be involved in the Regional Transit Plan scoping discussion, which will take place September – November 2018.			
<b>Time Sensitivity (none or explain):</b>	Time sensitive information.		
<b>Budget Impact (if applicable):</b>	None at this time.		
<b>List of Attachments (if any):</b>	None.		



Centralina Council of Governments

**Item 5**



## Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

<b>Board Meeting Date:</b>	August 8, 2018	<b>Agenda Item Type:</b>	<b>Consent:</b>	<b>Regular:</b>	x
<b>Submitting Person:</b>	Kelly Weston	<b>Presentation Time (est.):</b>	10 minutes		
<b>Presenter at meeting:</b>	Leslie Mozingo	<b>Phone Number/Ext:</b>	(202) 255-5760		
		<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:leslie@strategics.consulting">leslie@strategics.consulting</a>		
<b>Alternate Contact Person:</b>	Jim Prosser	<b>Phone Number/Ext:</b>	704-348-2703		
		<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:jprosser@centralina.org">jprosser@centralina.org</a>		
<b>Submitting Department:</b>	<b>General Government</b>	<b>Department Head Approval:</b>	Jim Prosser		
<b>Board Expectation:</b> <i>(required action or responsibility expected from Board members)</i>					
The Board will receive as information an update on CCOG's Federal Relations efforts, have an opportunity individually to indicate interest in participating in CCOG August Advocacy efforts, and provide feedback to staff.					
<b>Description of Agenda Item:</b>					
Federal Relations Update: Staff will present an update on CCOG's recent Federal Relations efforts, including currently-planned CCOG August Advocacy.					
<b>Background &amp; Basis of Recommendations:</b>					
<p><u>CCOG August Advocacy.</u> Meetings with our Members of Congress while they are back home in NC during the August Recess are a particularly effective way to raise awareness of CCOG's role in the region and of the impact of federal programs. Strategics Consulting works with Executive Board members and our Members of Congress to schedule these meetings. All Delegates are invited to sign up.</p> <p><u>Annual Assessment of CCOG's Federal Relations.</u> The Executive Board has accepted Strategics Consulting's first annual review of CCOG's federal relations, summarizing positive changes and trends. The assessment is shared with the Board of Delegates as information.</p>					
<b>Action / Recommendation:</b>					
The Board is asked to:					
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Individually sign-up on the sheet provided if interested in participating in any August Advocacy meetings;</li> <li>2) Offer questions and provide feedback to staff on any aspect of CCOG's Federal Relations efforts.</li> </ol>					
<b>Time Sensitivity</b> <i>(none or explain):</i>	Opportunities to meet locally with our members of Congress are limited to a few "district work periods" each year, of which the August Recess is typically the longest.				
<b>Budget Impact</b> <i>(if applicable):</i>	None.				
<b>List of Attachments</b> <i>(if any):</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Strategics Annual Assessment of CCOG Federal Relations</i></li> </ul>				

## **CCOG Federal Relations ANNUAL REPORT 2017 - 2018**

It has been another good year of advocacy as we continue to move Centralina Council of Governments (CCOG) up the scale in importance to, and awareness with, Members of Congress and the federal agencies. CCOG has developed and is maintaining a better-known reputation as a trusted source of information and a key player in regional affairs of interest to the federal government.

The following are some of the key highlights from the last year:

- ✓ Organized very productive meetings with Congressman Ted Budd, Senator Thom Tillis' regional representative and Congressman Richard Hudson. Coordinated with CCOG designated team leaders to cover the meetings; prepared customized talking points for attendees; held conference calls to prepare attendees; prepared briefing packets; communicated issues and attendees bios with congressional staff, as well as reply to questions and inquiries, in advance of the meetings; attended meetings; provided follow-up after the meetings; and prepared memos detailing the meetings for the Board. Congressman Hudson highlighted the CCOG meeting and the organization's benefits in his weekly report to constituents.
- ✓ Continued to follow the FY18 Appropriations Report Language to give more attention to regional councils and regional collaboration throughout the process to ensure it was adopted by Committees.
- ✓ Recommended and worked to confirm James Ray, Special Counsel on Infrastructure to the U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao. (As a result of this interaction, Mr. Ray has agreed to a separate meeting with CCOG management and staff to further explore ways he can help the region meet its transportation needs.)
- ✓ Successfully resubmitted Appropriations Report Language request for FY19, gaining quick and favorable responses from U.S. Representatives Robert Pittenger, Richard Hudson and Alma Adams to the House Appropriations Subcommittees on Transportation-HUD, Agriculture-Rural Development, and Energy-Water.
- ✓ Helped to ignite new interest by the Region 4 Brownfields Director to work directly with CCOG on improving the organization's application for regional assessments,
- ✓ Participated in grants workshops for CCOG members, free of charge, at capacity and consistently receiving "excellent" ratings in end-of-the-workshop questionnaires regarding content and effectiveness of the workshops. (As requested, discussions are underway for an intermediate and/or advance day long workshop as a next level installment of this popular series.)
- ✓ Prepared talking points and briefing packets for members attending DC conferences and meetings on Capitol Hill with Members of Congress, which resulted in a new record of 22 packets on CCOG initiatives delivered to congressional offices.
- ✓ Assisted County member with addressing an urgent public facility contamination issue that brought together local, state and federal decision makers. It is estimated that this pending solution could save the County \$500,000 or more.

Although this list is not all inclusive, it is indicative of the growing relationships with federal agencies and Members of Congress. The progress in the last year is also evident by the participation of congressional offices in CCOG organized meetings, such as the Regional Transit Engagement Series and the Annual Conference. Additionally, in between these highlights were efforts to assist with growing membership in CCOG; monthly updates on grants available to local governments; quarterly updates on impending grants forecasted; participation in federal agency webinars; arranging calls between CCOG and federal agency

officials; evaluation of feedback on previously unsuccessful applications and making recommendations for improvement; participation in debriefing calls; advice on grant programs and applications; and frequent strategic advice, expertise, political contacts, and technical assistance to CCOG management and staff.

With the Trump Administration now well into its second year, new policies and the potential for new programs, as well as new threats to cuts in funding in the programs on which CCOG and its members rely, are ongoing. For example, the Administration released its Infrastructure Plan, but until Congress acts on comparable legislation, the Administration has begun to instill many of those principles into the discretionary grants process. Strategics Consulting is following all of this very closely and reporting regularly to the Executive Director and staff.

Despite all of the good news to report, I strongly believe there is always room for improvement and not only welcome, but encourage, any suggestions you have that will help me serve you and your constituents better.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent Centralina Council of Governments in your federal relationships and for the time you have spent on these efforts. I remain personally committed to make any year that you entrust in me better than the last.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Leslie C. Mazingo". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Leslie C. Mazingo  
Owner and CEO  
(202) 255-5760  
leslie@strategics.consulting