

# DILLON COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

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## **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 Dillon CTC was created by the Dillon 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 Dillon 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 Dillon CTC funding. In fulfilling its duties, Dillon CTC will seek to identify, prioritize, and allocate funds for roadway and transportation projects which will effectively serve the needs of Dillon County.

The Dillon CTC is composed of nine members appointed by the Dillon 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 Dillon 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. If the Chairman is not able to carry out his duties, the Vice-Chairman will act as Chairman. All meetings of the Dillon 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 Dillon CTC shall be required on matters of financial expenditures for projects approved by the Committee.

The intention of the Dillon CTC is to cooperate and work closely with the appropriate Dillon 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 Dillon County is vital for attracting and retaining business development, attracting visitors, and serving the needs of its residents. As of the 2010 census, the county's population was 32,062 occupying a land area of approximately 407 square miles. The county seat is Dillon. In Dillon County a variety of activities from outdoor recreation to civic involvement exist. Dillon County offers 9 parks and playgrounds, 20 ball fields and 20 tennis courts located throughout the county. Twin Lakes Country Club in Dillon features an 18-hole golf course, swimming pool and clubhouse. Fishing is at its best in the Little Pee Dee River. The Little Pee Dee State Park offers fishing, camping and picnicking. Dillon County is also home to South of the Border, a resort and major tourist attraction located on I-95 at the NC state line. Cultural and community activities are available throughout the year. The Dillon House Museum, artist series, Spring Fest, Celebrate Main Street and Christmas on the Blvd offer residents many opportunities for festivals, theatre, music and art and its citizens enjoy a high quality of life in a rural setting. Dillon County is a vibrant community where historic preservation intersects progress conveniently located off Interstate 95.

The public roads and highways are the infrastructure for livability and growth in Dillon County, and building and maintaining the transportation network is a tremendous responsibility. Dillon CTC along with civic leaders work hard with limited resources for the advancement of local transportation projects and to provide the services needed by its citizens.

## **ADMINISTRATION:**

The Dillon 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 Dillon 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 Dillon County government, the County will provide program financial accounting and reporting, and will receive and disburse funds for city/county/state road projects. Dillon 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 Dillon 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 Dillon 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 Dillon CTC finds the objectives of the system adequate and acceptable. Dillon County follows a set of standards and prioritizes road improvements based on condition, traffic volume, and need. Dillon County provides staff and equipment to maintain the county dirt roads as well as improve county roads utilizing methods such as rocking. The CTC provides the rocking and paving funding in order to improve rideability on the county's dirt roads as well as to mitigate dust and maintenance issues. The County prioritizes the maintenance of their 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 Dillon 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.

The CTC's main objective is to improve as many roads in the state and local system as financially possible. The Committee maintains a listing of all road paving requests from Committee members, citizens, and other interested parties. In an effort to prioritize the order in which to fund the improvements with reasonably objective standards in a manner compatible with the goal of achieving an equitable distribution throughout the County of available funds, the Committee members review and analyze each of these requests. Criteria to evaluate the requests include items such as annual maintenance costs, mail routes, number of homes and businesses located on the road being reviewed, traffic counts, connectivity, school bus and public transportation routes, emergency vehicle ingress and egress, etc. The finalized list is to be used by the CTC only as a guide for the prioritization

of projects. The Committee still must take into consideration other criteria such as their available funding to accomplish projects of varying scope, length and magnitude.

### **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>
State Resurfacing Projects	40% of Annual Allocation
County/City Projects	60% of Annual Allocation

In addition, a minimum targeted uncommitted balance of \$250,000 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 Dillon 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 and local roads and the rocking of local roads. Unforeseen circumstances may arise that could warrant a modification to this priority such as a new roadway construction project for safety, business or economic development, etc.

The Dillon 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 Dillon 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 Dillon 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.

The SC Code of Laws Section 12-28-2740 (Paragraph C) states at least 25% of a CTC's apportionment of funds based on a biennial averaging of expenditures, must be expended on the state highway system for construction, improvements, and maintenance. The Roads Bill Legislation (Act 40) passed in 2017 included the authorization of additional recurring funding for the CTC program. Prior to this legislation, the proceeds from 2.66 cents a gallon of the user fee on gasoline were appropriated for the CTCs throughout the state. Act 40 amends SC Code of Laws Section 12-28-2740 increasing the CTC's portion .3325 cents a gallon for four years beginning July 1, 2018, and each July 1st thereafter through July 1, 2021, until such time as the total amount equals 3.99 cents a gallon. The provisions of Act 40 require the increase in proceeds to the CTCs to be used exclusively for repairs, maintenance, and improvements to the state highway system. Therefore, the 25% expenditure requirement on the state system will remain valid until State Fiscal Year 2020/2021 when it will increase to 27%. At full implementation in State Fiscal Year 2021/2022 and beyond, the CTC's expenditure requirement will be 33% for state roads.

## **LOCAL AGENCY PROJECT ADMINISTRATION:**

Projects administered by local agencies must follow state CTC 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 Dillon 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 Dillon 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 Dillon County with the safest and best roads as possible with the Committee's allocated funding.

Adopted by the Dillon County Transportation Committee on May 9, 2019

By: Earl L. Blewett, Jr.  
(Chairman)

Date: May 9, 2019

