



WACCAMAW

REGIONAL

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Serving Horry, Georgetown and Williamsburg Counties



HISTORY of SC COGs

In 1967, in order to be eligible for US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration funding, South Carolina created 10 regional planning districts which cover all 46 counties. (SC Code 6-7-110 - 6-7-210)

Over the past 55+ years, Councils of Governments (COGs) have grown and now provide additional programming and services on a regional level.

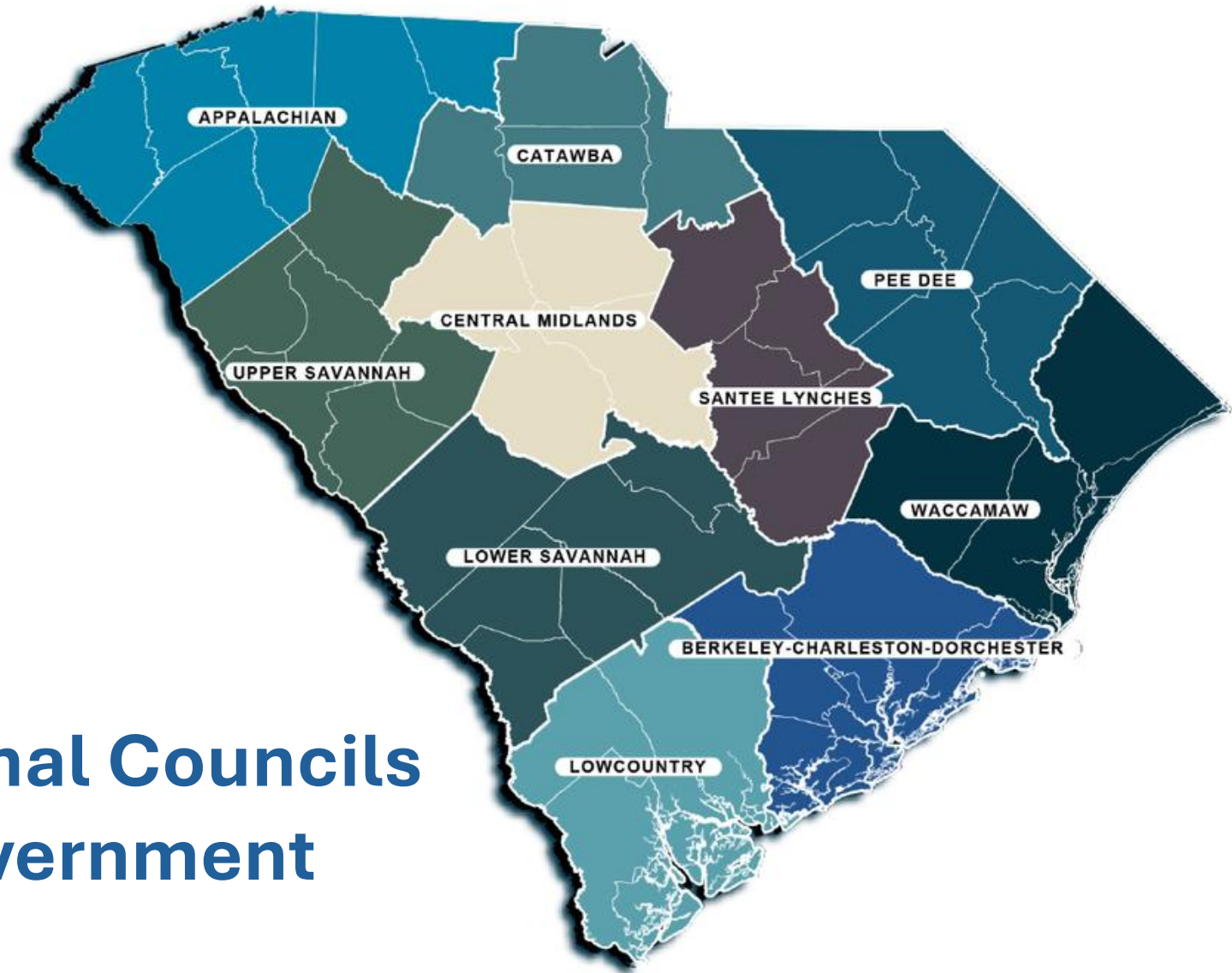
Governor McNair described regional councils as providing a:

“uniform geographical framework within which the planning, programming and delivery of services by state, federal and local government might be undertaken with maximum efficiency and effectiveness.**”**



SOUTH CAROLINA
councils
of **governments**

COG REGIONS



**10 Regional Councils
of Government**

Section 6-7-120 requires each COG region to develop an intergovernmental agreement between participating counties that outlines board representation and governance.

At a minimum per state law (6-7-130):

At least 50% of board members must be elected officials from representing local governing bodies.

Each County Legislative Delegation may appoint a resident legislator to the COG Board.

Non-elected official Board Members:

Business leaders
Former governmental officials
Respected community leaders



COG PROFESSIONAL STAFF

The COGs employ professional staff knowledgeable in state, federal and local policies and regulations, as well as subject matter expertise in their fields.

- Master of Public Administration Professionals
- Certified AICP Planners
- Specially trained Aging and Workforce Staff
- GIS Specialists
- Experienced Grant Writers
- Business Lenders
- Transportation Planners

- Accountants and CPA's
- Veterans of state and local government agencies
- Career Counselors
- Business Service Experts
- Environmental Planners
- Professional Engineers
- Economic Development Professionals



CORE COG PROGRAMS



- Local planning and technical assistance, comprehensive planning, planning studies, census and data analysis
- EDA Grant Writing and Administration and serve as designated Economic Development Districts (EDD) to maintain eligibility for EDA funding
- Workforce Development Programs(WIOA)/Coordination of SC Works Center Services
- Rural Transportation Planning
- Area Agency on Aging (6 out of 10)
- *Financial Expertise*

OTHER COG PROGRAMS

3 CATEGORIES OF PROGRAMMING

- Technical support and resources to the local counties, cities, and towns in the region.
- Program and service delivery of state and federal programs required to be administered on a regional level. COGS also assisted with special state initiatives as needed.
- Region specific programming in response to local needs.

Additional COG Programs:

Water Quality Planning

Brownfields Lending

Economic Development Lending

HOME CONSORTIUM/Housing

GIS Services

Metropolitan Transportation
Planning

Tourism Management

Transit Activities

South Carolina's COGs receive funding from a local, state and federal sources:

Local Funding:

- Each COG has a unique dues structure that outlines annual local support requirements for the Council (most COGs use a per capita rate). These local dollars are used for local programming and as match to leverage federal funding.

State Funding:

- **Annual State budget appropriation for the 10 COGs = \$1,556,253.**
- Allocated among the 10 COGs by formula (50% evenly divided, 50% population,) with each COG receiving between \$110,533 to \$279,014. WRCOG receives \$145,533 annually.

Federal and Other Funding:

- The majority of the COG's funding comes from federal sources. Some is received directly for specific regional programs such as the Economic Development Administration program. Other federal funds flow through the state to the COGs for regional programs including: Workforce Development (WIOA to SCDEW), Aging (OAO to DOA), 208 Water Quality (EPA to DES), and CDBG (HUD to DOC).



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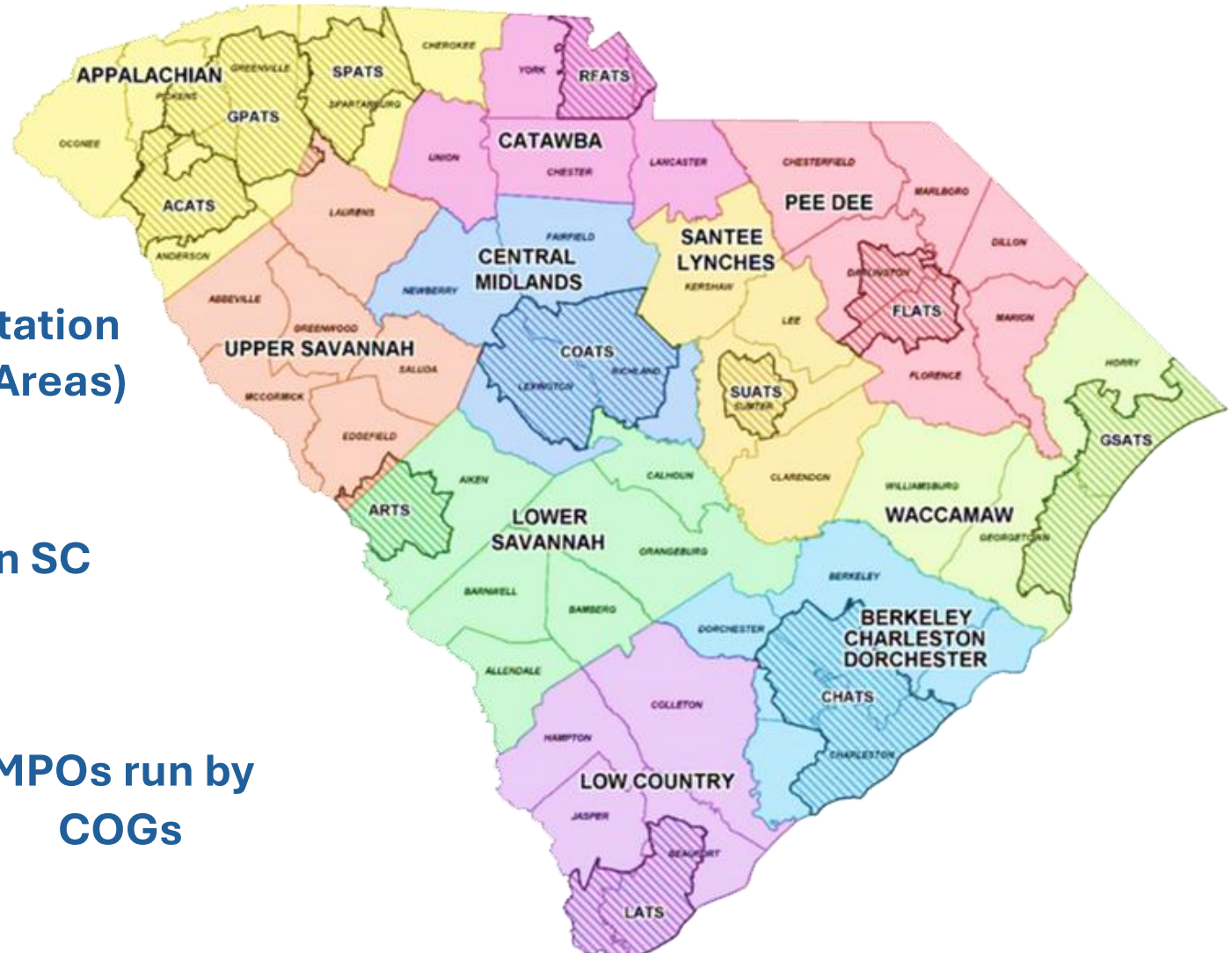
Rural Transportation
Regions (COG Areas)

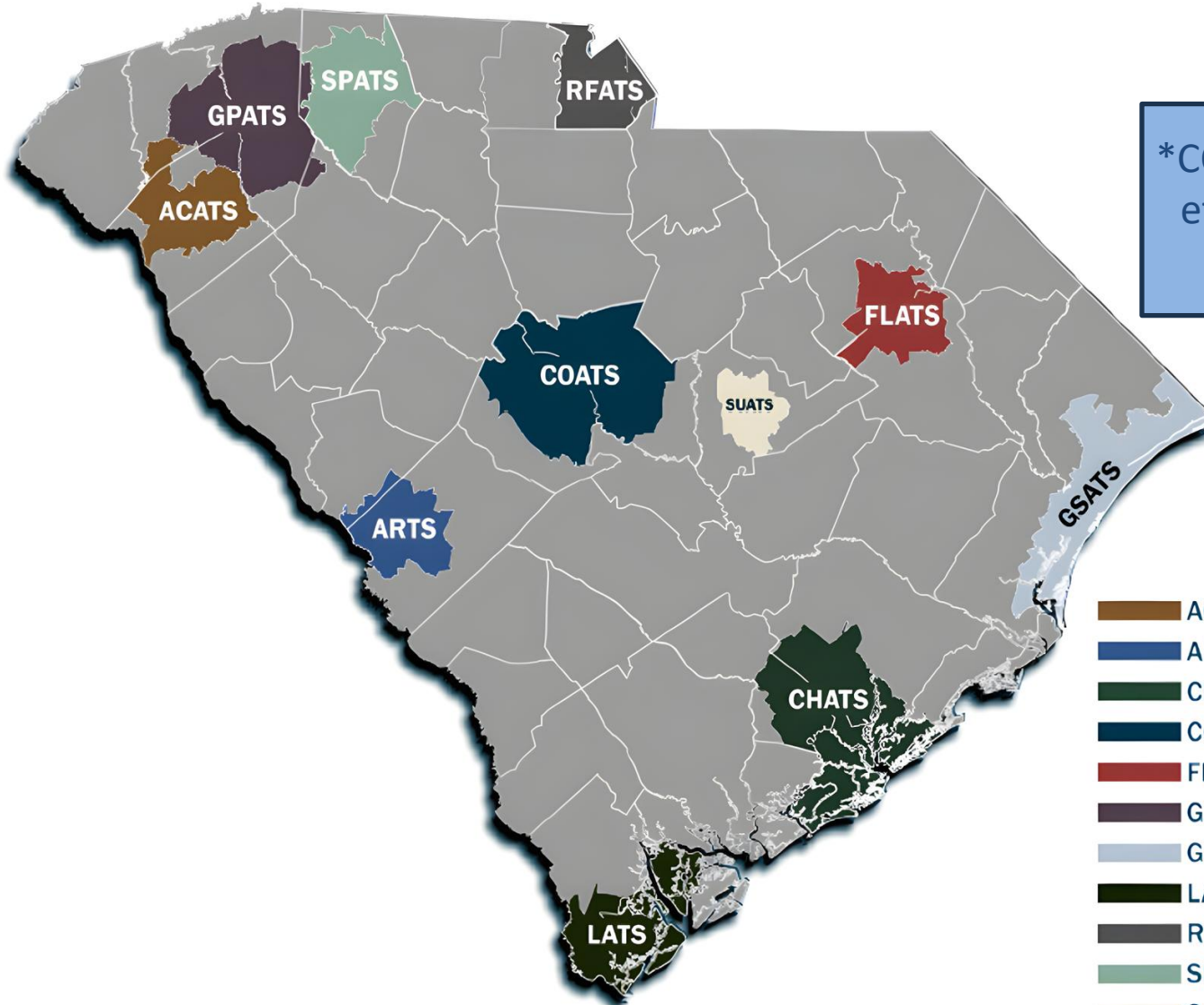
11

MPOs in SC

4

MPOs run by
COGs





*COGs provide support of MPO efforts in their region, even if they do not staff the MPO

- ACATS:** Anderson-Clemson Area Transportation Study
- ARTS:** Augusta Area Transportation Study
- CHATS:** Charleston Area Transportation Study X
- COATS:** Columbia Area Transportation Study X
- FLATS:** Florence Area Transportation Study
- GPATS:** Greenville-Pickens Area Transportation Study
- GSATS:** Grand Strand Area Transportation Study X
- LATS:** Lowcountry Area Transportation Study X
- RFATS:** Rock Hill-Fort Mill Area Transportation Study
- SPATS:** Spartanburg Area Transportation Study
- SUATS:** Sumter Area Transportation Study

FUNDING PERCENTAGES

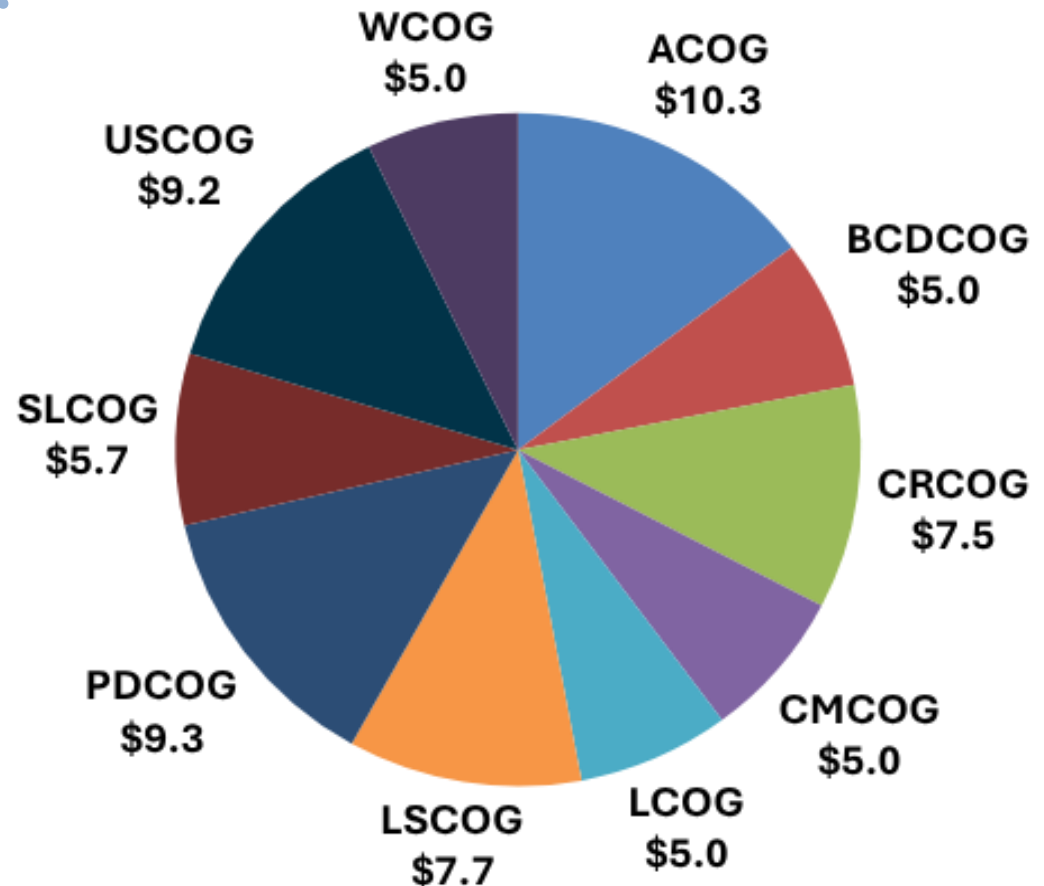
	FY 25-26 Funding	Percentage of Total SCDOT Budget		
Total SCDOT Budget	\$2.755b	100%		
"C-Fund" Program	\$136m	4.9%		
COG Rural Program	\$70m	2.5%		
MPO Program	\$168m	6.1%		
COG + MPO Programs	\$238m	8.6%		

ALLOCATION OF RURAL FUNDS

Planning Funds: Each COG receives \$125,000/year from SCDOT for transportation planning (which includes \$15,000 for transit planning). COG's contract with SCDOT outlines planning activities and requirements.

Rural Transportation Construction Funds:

\$69,656,618



Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

- Study, prioritize and program (per act 114) Regional Mobility projects
- Corridor Studies and Bike and Pedestrian Planning

Transit Planning

- Assist with OPT with Rural 5310 applications
- Transit Coordination/Programs

Coordination of Local Input and Public Participation

- Local public engagement
- Coordination of committee meetings to gather local input

Liaison between Community and SCDOT

- “Boots on the ground”- engage with leaders on local issues
- Assist SCDOT with Transportation Alternative Projects

PLANNING PROCESS

Urban Transportation Program

Urban portions of Horry, Georgetown, and Brunswick counties

MTP

Metropolitan Transportation Plan

Study Team
(SC)

Transportation Advisory
Committee (NC)*

Technical Coordinating
Committee (NC)*

Required Planning Study

Advisory Bodies

Governing Bodies

Funded Projects

Rural Transportation Program

Rural portions of Horry, Georgetown, and Williamsburg counties

LRTP

Long Range Transportation Plan

Rural Technical
Committee (RTC)

WRCOG Board

WRCOG RTIP

GSATS Policy Committee

GSATS TIP

STIP and Statewide Plan
& SCDOT, Bridge, Interstate Projects

- Provide an organized system and vehicle to represent local needs.
- Work to achieve consensus in local decision making.
- Provide transportation information to region and put potential projects into perspective.
- Provide local knowledge relevant to upcoming projects and conflict with development.
- Educate local leaders about SCDOT: what programs are available, how they can get help with local issues, explain realistic expectations for transportation projects, etc.
- Resolve issues at the local level.

Roundabout Perimeter Road and Old River Road

Florence County

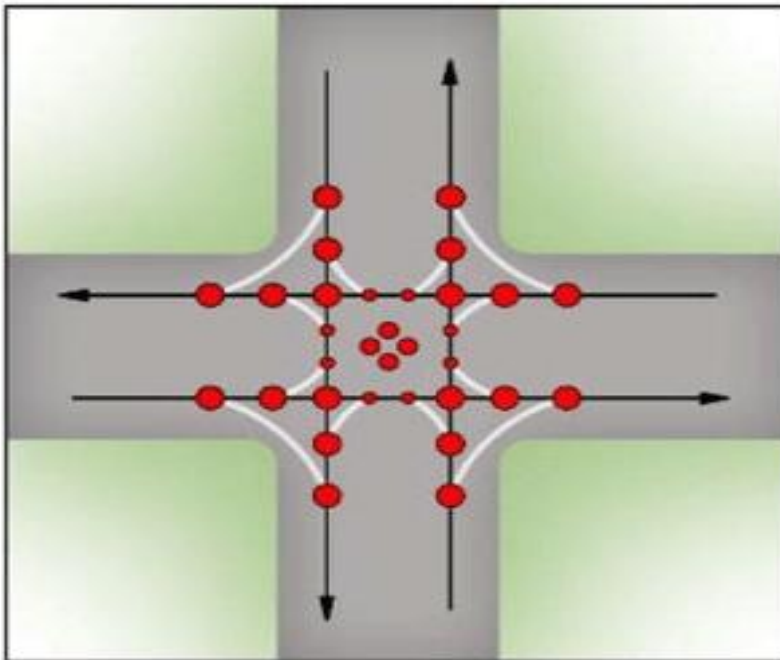
BEFORE



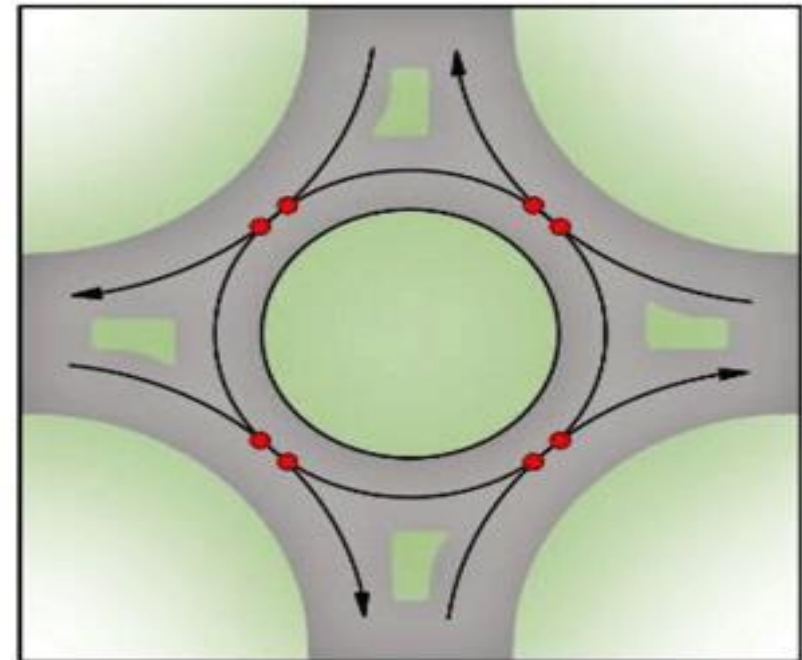
AFTER



With roundabouts, head-on and high-speed right angle collisions are virtually eliminated.



Traditional Intersection



Roundabout

● Potential Vehicle Conflict Point

A number of COGs provide transit programs through: Mobility Management, Purchase of Service, or some through provision of Transit Services.

Typically Medical Rides for Seniors in conjunction with the COG's Area Agencies on Aging

***See Handout on WRCOG's Senior Rides Program**



- Improved Coordination with SCDOT Safety Office
- Additional Project Funding for COGs and MPOs
- Increased coordination with SCDOT when resurfacing in areas where MPO/COG projects are planned
- Clarified rules for Rural SIB funding for projects that are in the Urban Study Area
- Increased staffing in the SCDOT Engineering office/ability to pursue alternative procurement methods
- Timely design and construction of projects programmed in the TIP
- Designated funding for projects of regional significance along key growth corridors, both economic and residential, not just current problems. No funding exists for projects that fall outside the realm of the Regional Mobility Program
- Reduced Match Requirements for planning studies
- Elimination of silos in SCDOT to improve internal communication- Support Coordinating Committee
- Consider incorporation of Bike and Pedestrian facilities when appropriate
- Ability to implement corridor and/or regional safety improvements