

OFFICE OF PUBLIC
TRANSIT

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

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SCDOT OFFICE OF PUBLIC TRANSIT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A key transportation strategy for the South Carolina Department of Transportation is to develop multimodal options for residents and visitors in all areas of the state, including public transportation. SCDOT's Office of Public Transit plans, programs, and administers both the provisions of rural and urban transit systems, and the services for seniors and individuals with disabilities. SCDOT does this in partnership with the federal government and the local communities across the state in meeting the state's goals and improving mobility alternatives to SC residents.

Pursuant to SC Code of Law, Section 57-3-40, the Office of Public Transit is required to develop and submit the Annual Public Transit Report to the General Assembly. This information contains an analysis of (1) annual accomplishments, (2) a funding plan, and (3) a five-year transit plan.

SECTION 1: ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Public Transit is an important component to South Carolina's transportation network. Most counties in SC have public transit service in at least a portion of their county, which translates into over 12 million passenger trips annually statewide. Establishing, financing, and sustaining effective publicly operated transit service in both urban and rural areas continues to be a major challenge, as well as many of our biggest accomplishments. Below are a few highlights from 2014:

- SCDOT **completed the Statewide Transit Plan** that includes a review of existing services, trends, needs and coordination opportunities with human services transportation, along with ten Regional Public Transit and Human Health Service Coordination Plans. This effort was part of the larger 2040 Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan developed in partnership with the SC Department of Commerce and SC State Ports Authority.
- SCDOT has led an effort, through the SC Interagency Transportation Coordination Council, to **complete the interagency Human Services Transportation Infrastructure Review** which identifies and develops the most effective and cost-efficient transportation coordination model for SC. The ultimate goal of this effort is to reduce overall public and human services transportation costs in a manner that maintains or enhances the delivery of transit services across agencies, while reducing the fiscal impact to the state as a whole.
- With respect to oversight and compliance, the Office of the State Auditor conducted an **annual audit** of the Office of Public Transit (OPT) in August 2014, during which no findings were issued. This continues the multi-year trend of federal, state and internal audits and reviews in which SCDOT's OPT has had **no audit findings at any level**.
- During State Fiscal Year 2014, **over 12 million passenger trips** were provided for the third year in a row. The five-year trend analysis shows a 3.25% increase in transit ridership since

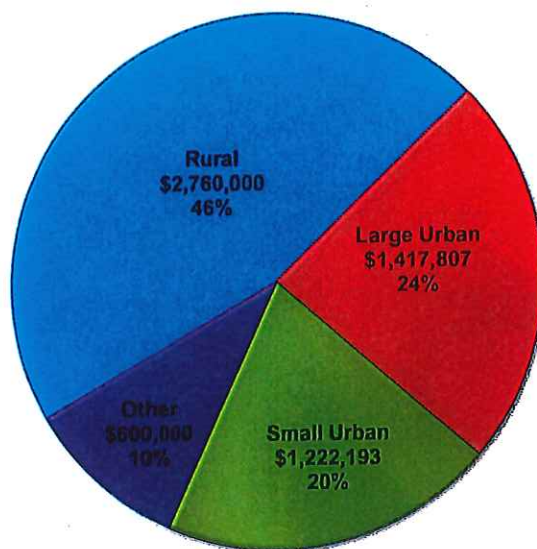
2010. The five-year trend analysis also shows a 4% decrease in average operating cost per passenger trip since 2010, indicative of enhanced efficiency.

- Over the past year SCDOT has continued innovative initiatives and modified existing programs that were aimed at lessening the impact of fiscal difficulties many transit providers were facing. SCDOT continued efforts with a number of public transit agencies to **develop Financial Recovery and Sustainability Plans**. In doing so, our state's public transit providers have become more fiscally sustainable, addressed budget shortfalls while new fiscal management processes were implemented, and maximized the drawdown of available federal transit funding.
- SCDOT **deployed a Technical Assistance and Oversight Program** with all public transit agencies in the state to ensure that the scope and associated costs of transit services are commensurate with available and projected revenues. This has resulted in an ongoing "right-sizing" of transit services statewide to better ensure long-term fiscal sustainability, which benefits ridership through increased efficiencies.
- SCDOT **developed a Transit Asset Management System** to monitor asset conditions and optimize replacement of public transit vehicles. Additionally, we initiated a Statewide Vehicle Utilization Review and Capital Needs Assessment to determine transit agencies' actual asset needs based on optimized service levels. We identified limited federal funding using an innovative match program that does not require actual local or state cash, and are maximizing the use of this program with a capital asset replacement plan that over seven years is projected to replace over 90% of the current SCDOT-titled public transit vehicles at no cost to the state.
- SCDOT continues to **increase efficiency and customer service** while reducing administrative burdens for the Office of Public Transit, as well as local and regional transit agencies **through automation** of some of our processes by introducing web-based systems including:
 - Transit Asset Management System to track our assets;
 - Grants Management System that will allow local transit partners to submit funding applications and manage their projects online;
 - VTE-Form – (Virtual Transit Enterprise) an electronic invoicing system that has replaced the former paper-based invoicing system for our local transit partners;
 - Performance Management System that will allow for ongoing review of individual transit agency performance and enhanced reporting of statewide transit performance through our public website.

SECTION II: FUNDING PLAN

The SCDOT Commission annually reviews and approves the Transit Funding Plan containing both state and federal funds. The **state** chart directly below displays the \$6 million state funding both in dollar amounts and in percentages approved for the four major programs.

**State Mass Transit Funds
SFY2014-2015
\$6,000,000**

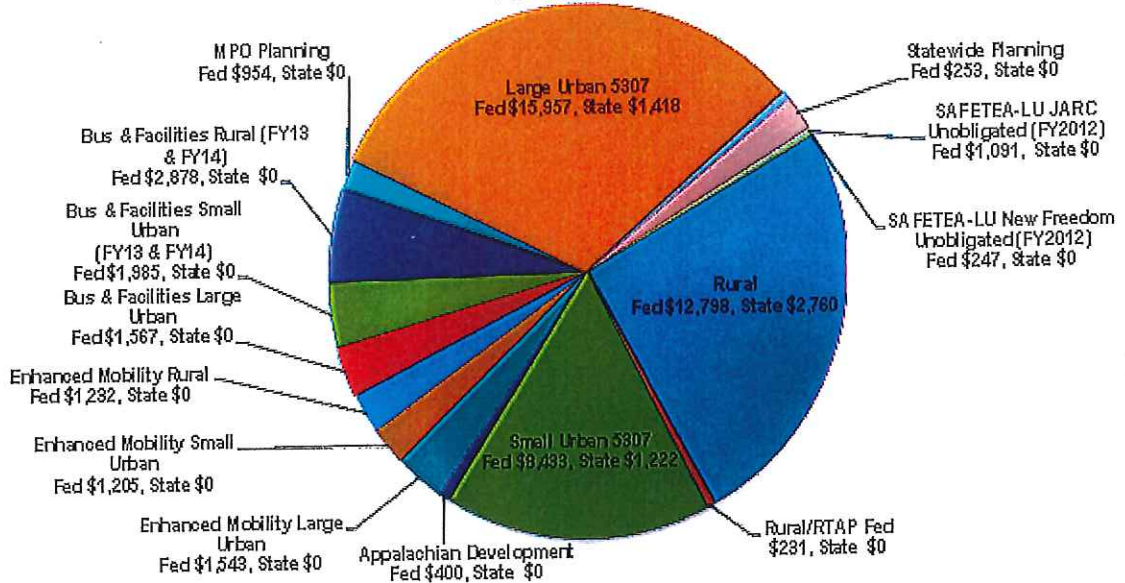


CATEGORY	FUNDING	PERCENTAGE
Rural	\$2,760,000	46%
Large Urban	\$1,417,807	24%
Small Urban	\$1,222,193	20%
Other	\$ 600,000	10%

The chart below displays all of the program areas receiving federal funding. The figures are shown in thousands. Additional information can be found in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, also known as the STIP. It is referenced in Section III of this report and can also be located at http://www.scdot.org/inside/pdfs/STIP/stip_statewide.pdf

FFY2014 Public Transit Funding Plan \$50.774 Million Federal/\$6.0 Million State

(Figures below are in thousands)



CATEGORY	FEDERAL DOLLARS	STATE DOLLARS
Large Urban 5307	\$15,957,000	\$ 1,418,000
Statewide Planning	\$ 253,000	\$ 0
SAFETEA-LU JARC	\$ 1,091,000	\$ 0
SAFETEA-LU New Freedom	\$ 247,000	\$ 0
Rural	\$12,798,000	\$ 2,760,000
Rural/RTAP	\$ 231,000	\$ 0
Small Urban 5307	\$ 8,433,000	\$1,222,000
Appalachian Development	\$ 400,000	\$ 0
Enhanced Mobility Large	\$ 1,543,000	\$ 0
Enhanced Mobility Small	\$ 1,205,000	\$ 0
Enhanced Mobility Rural	\$ 1,232,000	\$ 0
Bus & Facilities Large Urban	\$ 1,567,000	\$ 0
Bus & Facilities Small Urban	\$ 1,985,000	\$ 0
Bus & Facilities Rural	\$ 2,878,000	\$ 0
MPO Planning	\$ 954,000	\$ 0

SECTION III: FIVE-YEAR PLAN

SCDOT recognizes that the SC transportation system is essential to the economic health of our State. SCDOT uses two plans to address transit across the state - the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the 2040 Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan (SMTP). These plans are explained below:

The STIP is the states' six-year transportation improvement program for all projects or program areas receiving federal funding. The document is updated every three years and is revised on a continual basis to reflect the latest program and project information. The SCDOT Commission, as well as the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) approve the STIP. The STIP is a fiscally-constrained plan based on financial budgets phased over the life of a project. This document is located at: http://www.scdot.org/inside/pdfs/STIP/stip_statewide.pdf.

The 2040 SMTP is the states' twenty-five year Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan. The SMTP, including the Statewide Transit Plan, is updated every five years with intermitted annual reviews. It focuses on maximizing South Carolina's limited funding resources, maintaining the state's position in the global marketplace, and efficiently moving both people and goods. This plan was developed in conjunction with SCDOT management, staff, and transportation partners and stakeholders. The process included several major components that encompass public transportation, including:

- **10 Regional Transit and Coordination Plan Updates** – transit plans developed for each of the 10 Council of Government regions.
- **Statewide Public Transportation Plan Update** – overall public transportation plan for the state of South Carolina, summarizing existing services, needs and future funding programs.
- **Multimodal Transportation Plan** – overall plan inclusive of all modes of transportation.

The 2040 MTP was finalized in November 2014 and is located at: http://www.scdot.org/multimodal/pdf/sc_mtp_strategic_corridors_plan_final.pdf.