The 2017-2022 Santee-Lynches Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy was adopted by the Santee-Lynches Council of Governments Board of Directors on September 25, 2017
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What is a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy?

Implemented over a 5-year cycle, the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) provides an opportunity to assess progress and make appropriate adjustments in order to improve projected returns on previous public investments. In an economic environment with progressively limited public resources for investment, regional willingness to engage in a planning process can empower the community to adapt to dynamic economic conditions through sound planning techniques and new strategies. The CEDS is performance based, and helps the region defend against negative economic impacts such as sector job losses due to global competitive pressures and to identify opportunities. For this CEDS, the planning period extends through 2022.

The CEDS is also used by regional Economic Development Districts (EDD) to leverage both technical and financial economic development assistance from the federal government. Santee-Lynches’ designation by the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration (EDA) as an Economic Development District (EDD) qualifies the region’s units of local government, institutions of higher education, and other partners for public works grants to implement water, sewer, transportation, and educational facilities projects that support economic development efforts. Developing a successful CEDS incorporates collaboration and coordination of both public and private sector interests. The result is a fact-based guide for local officials and the community at large to consider when planning investment of public resources in projects or programs to improve local or regional economies.

The Santee-Lynches CEDS is comprised of four parts:

**Context and Trends:** economic, social, and natural conditions and trends in the region

**SWOT Analysis:** a regional “Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats” analysis

**Action Plan:** priority strategies for the region identified through planning, plans, and stakeholder feedback

**Evaluation Framework:** performance indicators association with the Action Plan that will be consistently monitored
The Santee-Lynches Region will be home to a diverse and thriving economy that provides high-quality jobs and a positive environment for business creation. Advanced manufacturing contributes to economic well-being in all areas of production, while agriculture and forestry remain crucial drivers. Tourism and recreation flourish through utilization of key natural and historic attractions and the success of small businesses. Finally, the region’s military economic impact is strong and growing, as additional missions draw people to the region.
At just over 2,400 square miles, Santee-Lynches is slightly larger than the state of Delaware. The region’s four counties (Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, and Sumter) have long been known for agricultural productivity, with some lands under cultivation since the early 1700s. The region’s prime agricultural land was a major factor in initial development and through the late 20th century, the area remained primarily agricultural. While agriculture remains an important segment of the economy, manufacturing and retail have become dominant employment sectors. Much of the anticipated growth in the region is tied to the establishment of manufacturing facilities in each county and to the advancing urbanization from the Columbia metropolitan area.

The principal urbanized centers in the region are the Cities of Sumter, Camden, Bishopville and Manning. The City of Sumter, the region’s largest city, serves as a focal point for economic and social activities. Camden serves as a secondary regional center, while Bishopville and Manning serve as trade centers within their respective primarily agriculture-dominated counties.

In previous CEDs cycles, Santee-Lynches emphasized the need to improve workforce skill levels and encourage education providers to continuously improve preparation of those seeking post-secondary training as a critical step to securing employment. These remain top priorities for the region.

The data contained in this strategy highlights the demographic and economic statistics of the region. The largest industry sectors by employment in the region are currently healthcare and social assistance, manufacturing, and retail. To support these industries, and develop a broader foundation in other industry sectors such as construction, logistics, aerospace and automotive manufacturing, and professional services, it is essential that local governments in the region continue to collaborate on essential services to build upon and reinforce the built and natural environments, as well as the human potential of the region’s residents.
### Area Overview

**Population**
- **2016 Census Estimate**: 223,079
- **2035 Projection**: 259,610
- **Median Age**: 39.0
- **Under 18**: 34,488
- **Age 65+**: 39,075

**Housing**
- **Median House Value**: $104,511
- **Occupied Housing Units**: 84,311
- **% Owner-Occupied**: 73.2%
- **% of Units with No Vehicle Available**: 7.7%
- **# of 2016 Residential Construction Permits**: 647

**Economic Context**
- **Median Household Income**: $39,928
- **Median Household Disposable Income**: $36,105
- **Cost of Living Index**: 86.1
- **Total Businesses**: 6,938
- **2014 Total Primary Jobs**: 58,679
- **Labor Force Participation Rate**: 55.7%
- **% at or below poverty level**: 19.5%

**Education**
- **% with some college or more**: 48.9%
- **% high school graduate or higher**: 80.2%
- **% of adults age 25 and over with an Associate’s Degree or higher**: 40.4%

**Industry Sectors**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry (NAICS Code)</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>Change in Jobs</th>
<th>Average Wages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare &amp; Social Assistance (62)</td>
<td>10,593</td>
<td>11,535</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>$38,179</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manufacturing (31)</td>
<td>9,771</td>
<td>10,520</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>$46,789</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retail Trade (44)</td>
<td>8,749</td>
<td>9,522</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>$25,590</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accommodation &amp; Food Services (72)</td>
<td>4,919</td>
<td>6,363</td>
<td>29.4%</td>
<td>$13,984</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educational Services (61)</td>
<td>5,970</td>
<td>6,199</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>$33,997</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admin., Waste Mgmt., &amp; Remediation Services (56)</td>
<td>3,380</td>
<td>5,358</td>
<td>58.5%</td>
<td>$31,286</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Administration (92)</td>
<td>5,355</td>
<td>4,819</td>
<td>-10.0%</td>
<td>$39,075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction (23)</td>
<td>4,093</td>
<td>3,954</td>
<td>-3.4%</td>
<td>$39,676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Services (except Public Administration) (81)</td>
<td>3,894</td>
<td>3,871</td>
<td>-0.6%</td>
<td>$20,854</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation &amp; Warehousing (48)</td>
<td>2,071</td>
<td>2,022</td>
<td>-2.4%</td>
<td>$43,181</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sources**
2. SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office
4. County Governments
5. Jobs EQ
6. livingwage.mit.edu
7. onthemap.ces.census.gov
9. Jobs EQ
To thrive economically, the Santee-Lynches region must become a place where talented people and their businesses want to be. Like much of South Carolina, there has been steady growth and urbanization as manufacturing, retail, and service industries have become the dominant employment sectors. Growth is expected to continue, particularly in the Sumter metropolitan area and western Kershaw County. To do this requires a system of infrastructure that provides the critical services necessary for the well-being of residents, the success of businesses, and the safety of communities.

Water and wastewater providers have been working to update and expand their systems throughout the region. The Cities of Camden and Manning have made multi-million dollar investments in new wastewater treatment facilities. In 2014, Camden began operating an award-winning treatment plant that uses several innovative treatment processes that meet stricter environmental standards. Manning is in the process of upgrading and expanding its treatment facility to meet future service needs for the City and Clarendon County. Through the provision of the regional Water Quality Management Plan, Santee-Lynches helps manage wastewater treatment ensuring that water quality remains optimal in the region. Additionally, water providers throughout the region are upgrading and expanding water infrastructure to ensure that systems are operating efficiently and serving area residents.

In addition to water and wastewater infrastructure upgrades, there is ongoing planning and collaboration with the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) to improve the transportation network in the region. Long range transportation plans are developed by Santee-Lynches, the Sumter Urban Area Transportation Study (SUATS), and the Columbia Area Transportation Study (COATS) to serve different parts of the region and address the needs of rural and urban areas.

As the region continues to grow, jurisdictions must work together to develop a well-balanced system of infrastructure, economic, and community development that serves residents, supports communities, and attracts new businesses to ensure both economic vitality and environmental resiliency.

The region’s economy is currently in a state of evolution. What was once a primarily agrarian economy is now expanding to include manufacturing, logistics, and distribution. Traditional textile mills have yielded to advanced technologies that develop plastics, ceramics, and advanced textiles which leads to evolving manufacturing facilities that demand a high-wage, highly skilled workforce.

As the economy in the region grows, so does the demand for individuals with strong skill sets in communications, engineering, and advanced manufacturing processes. The manufacturing industry has changed and is not the industry of generations past. Many systems are highly mechanized, necessitating a workforce with advanced degrees in engineering, coding technologies, and computer sciences. Other systems may not require individuals with an advanced degree, but do need uniquely-skilled workers with specific training, certificates, and apprenticeship.

Colleges and school districts have been working with the Santee-Lynches Workforce Development Board (SLWDB) and the private sector to develop targeted training and certificate programs to meet the specific needs of industries in the region. Strong partnerships have formed over past years and led to the creation of career pathways such as registered apprenticeships, the Work Experience (WE) program and WORKFirst. These pathways are one way in which partners are working with all ages to further develop a strong future workforce through curriculum in advanced technologies, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), and soft skills. It is critical to continued economic prosperity and resiliency that the region continues to develop a diverse set of industry sectors that provide living wage jobs. Development of a diverse, prepared, robust workforce for all sectors of our regional economy will further solidify the ability to attract and support business of any size and sector.
Diverse Natural Landscapes

Santee-Lynches’ diverse landscapes include a rich natural landscape of wetlands, forests, farmland, rivers, a complex cultural landscape that includes Native American settlements and historic colonial sites, and a built landscape of small cities and towns. Natural assets include Lakes Wateree and Marion, portions of four major rivers (Wateree, Black, Santee, and Lynches), and numerous state parks, state forests, heritage preserves, and wildlife refuges.

The four counties have a combined 380,070 acres of agricultural land cover, nearly 24% of the region. Over 45% of the region is covered by high quality intact habitat cores. There are nearly 219,000 acres of protected lands in the region, including state parks, wildlife management areas, wildlife preserves, and private lands under conservation easement.

Through strategic use and stewardship of natural resources (e.g. air, soil, water, trees), our communities can ensure that residents live and prosper in a healthy environment. The natural environment is increasingly viewed as ‘green infrastructure,’ a “natural life support system – an interconnected network of waterways, wetlands, woodlands, wildlife habitats, and other natural areas; greenways, parks, and other conservation lands; working farms, ranches and forests; and wilderness and other open spaces that support native species, maintain natural ecological processes, sustain air and water resources and contribute to the health and quality of life for communities and people.” In 2017, Santee-Lynches developed a regional Green Infrastructure Inventory that spatially documents the region’s many natural assets. This Inventory can be a valuable tool informing agriculture development, tourism, recreation opportunities, and environmental quality.

For more information, refer to the Santee-Lynches Water Quality Management Plan and the Santee-Lynches Green Infrastructure Inventory.
The Santee Lynches Region is home to six school districts with a 2016 enrollment of nearly 35,000 students. Sixty-three schools are spread across these districts, staffed by more than 5,300 faculty and staff helping students develop the world-class skills to become career and college ready. With a focus on student achievement, our schools inspire students to think critically and solve real world problems by ensuring challenging curricula and high expectations.

Academic programs address rigorous standards in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Instruction is built on research-based best practices that focus on problem-solving, critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration. The districts infuse 21st century learning by emphasizing science, math, engineering, and technology (STEM), the use of digital libraries, and the implementation of cutting edge technology. Additionally, students are engaged in blended learning and have access to world languages, fine arts, advanced placement, college level dual enrollment, the International Baccalaureate program, and gifted and talented programs. There are a variety of supplementary learning opportunities in the region including 21st Century Community Learning Centers, After School Programs, and Summer LEAP Programs.

There are also three major higher education institutions in the region. Central Carolina Technical College (CCTC), a public, two-year institution that is part of the SC Technical College System, offers over 50 programs of study. CCTC is dedicated to fostering a positive teaching and learning environment for students in Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee and Sumter counties. CCTC offers associate degrees, diplomas and certificates, uses both traditional and online courses, and has cooperative agreements for an easy transfer to other four-year institutions.

The University of South Carolina – Sumter awards Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees and provides for the completion of selected Bachelor’s degrees through cooperative agreements and delivery structures with other USC System institutions. USC Sumter also provides general education and upper division coursework applicable to baccalaureate degree programs through the Palmetto College.

Morris College is a historically black, coeducational, liberal arts college, operated by the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina. The College offers the following degrees: Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Science with majors in Biology, Business Administration, Health Science, Mathematics, Organizational Management, Recreation Administration and teacher preparation for certification in Biology and Mathematics in addition to Bachelor of Science in Education with majors in Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education.

Expanding Educational Opportunities
**Strong Military Presence**

The military presence in the Santee-Lynches region is one of the largest in South Carolina and has an annual economic impact in excess of $2.5 billion while also supporting over 17,000 jobs. This military presence includes Shaw Air Force Base, the U.S. Army’s Central Command, contractors, military retirees, portions of the South Carolina National Guard, and the U.S. Army Reserve. While not physically in the Santee-Lynches region, the U.S. Army’s Fort Jackson also has a significant impact, particularly in Kershaw County, which is located immediately to the northeast of the installation.

Shaw Air Force Base was built in 1941 in Sumter and is one of the oldest regional Unified Combatant Commands in the U.S. Air Force. Approximately 7,000 active duty and reserve personnel are assigned to the base, with the majority of personnel living off-base. More than 1,000 civilians also work on base. Shaw’s host unit is the 20th Fighter Wing, the largest F-16 combat wing in the Air Force. Shaw Air Force Base is also home to the Headquarters of Ninth Air Force, U.S. Air Forces Central (AFCENT). Additionally, the headquarters for U.S. Army Central (ARCENT) transferred to Shaw in 2011. Furthermore, Shaw hosts elements of the 372nd Training Squadron; 337th Recruiting Squadron; Air Force Audit Agency; Air Force Office of Special Investigations; and Air Combat Command’s F-16 Aerial Demonstration Team.

Shaw AFB’s location and natural assets make it an attractive site for new missions. For example, an MQ-9 Reaper unmanned aerial vehicle group, estimated at 400 personnel, recently announced they would be locating at Shaw. Additional mission elements such as the Air Force’s Battlefield Airman program are also considering Shaw AFB as a new site. Such new missions would have a significant economic impact on the region with the addition of hundreds of personnel and students. This potential economic impact will rival, and perhaps even exceed, the significant job creation events in the region’s recent history.

### Economic Impact on Shaw Air Force Base on SC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Labor Income</th>
<th>Economic Output</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct Effect</td>
<td>8,067</td>
<td>$828.8 Million</td>
<td>$1.5 Billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiplier Effect</td>
<td>5,921</td>
<td>$197.8 Million</td>
<td>$611.4 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Effect</td>
<td>13,988</td>
<td>$1.0 Billion</td>
<td>$2.1 Billion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2017 Military Impact Study for South Carolina

For more information, refer to the 2017 Military Impact Study for South Carolina.
**Building Resiliency**

An economy is resilient when it has honed its abilities to prevent, withstand, and quickly recover from major disruptions to its economic base of activities. Often, the shocks/disruptions to the economic base of a region are manifested in three ways:

Downturns or other significant events in the national or international economy that impact demand for locally produced goods and consumer spending

Downturns in particular industries that constitute a critical component of the region’s economic activity, especially its traded economies that bring investment into the region

Other external shocks (a natural or man-made disaster, closure of a military base, exit of a major employer, the impacts of climate change, etc.) that bring economic peril and associated uncertainty in their wake.

In the Santee-Lynches region, natural disasters have taken center-stage in impacting the local economy from 2014-2016. In February 2014, Clarendon and Sumter counties experienced a severe winter storm that was declared a major federal disaster. In October 2015, all four counties in the region endured severe flooding which was declared a major federal disaster. In October 2016, the region again faced a major disaster, as Hurricane Matthew created additional damage to infrastructure and property.

While local jurisdictions have the lead role in disaster preparation and response, the CEDS acts as a conduit for engagement. Business leaders can offer suggestions on how they can support local jurisdictional efforts and also provide input, from a business perspective, on elements of the plan. Santee-Lynches works with local jurisdictions to support resiliency efforts, identify roles appropriate for the business community, and ensure that businesses are informed of their roles and responsibilities.

For more information, refer to the Santee-Lynches Hazard Mitigation Plan.
Public Engagement

The input from regional stakeholders and community members was a critical component of the CEDS planning process as it ensured that the plan identified relevant, meaningful, and attainable regional goals. Throughout the planning process, staff facilitated stakeholder meetings and focus groups, and conducted individual interviews with community leaders. Additionally, a community attitudes and needs assessment survey was developed to determine the general public’s perceptions and perspectives on economic development in the region. The 18-question survey was widely available on the Internet, social media, and in SC Works Centers from December 2016 to July 2017. Responses were collected from residents and stakeholders from all four counties.

What best describes your feelings towards economic development in your City/County?

- Positive, encouraged and going in the right direction: 55%
- Discouraged, going in the wrong direction, bleak outlook: 20%
- Neutral: 17%
- Other: 9%

What are your three (3) biggest concerns about your community’s economy?

- Roads, bridges, public transit: 64%
- Availability of qualified employees: 59%
- Water, air, land quality: 32%
- Small business coaching/technical assistance: 25%
- Funding to start a new business: 20%
- Access to healthcare: 24%
- Housing Cost: 13%
- Labor Cost: 12%
- Water and Sewer Capacity: 10%
- Broadband availability: 11%
- Industrial space availability: 8%

How likely are you to recommend living in your city/county to someone else?

- Highly likely: 19%
- Very likely: 27%
- Somewhat likely: 32%
- Not likely: 16%
- Doubtful: 6%

What do you view as the top three (3) priorities for economic development?

- Attracting new companies or workers to region: 32%
- Increasing job training to improve worker skills: 27%
- K-12 Education: 24%
- Improving infrastructure: 21%
- Ensuring a high quality standard of life: 19%
- Growing existing local companies: 18%
- Reducing unemployment: 16%
- Diversifying the economy: 15%
- Improving post-secondary education completion rates: 14%
- Enhancing and promoting tourism: 13%
- Helping entrepreneurs start new companies: 12%
- Other: 11%
At the 2016 Santee-Lynches Summit, board members and community partners participated in a SWOT exercise focused on economic development. This analysis was the foundation for the CEDs committee as it helped committee members identify the areas of focus for the CEDS. The following SWOT analysis was developed by the CEDS Strategy Committee, a mix of public and private representatives from the region’s four counties.

### Strengths
- Location
- Key freight corridors (I-20, I-95)
- Lake Marion and Lake Wateree
- Shaw AFB
- Scholarship and tuition opportunities for higher education
- Generally good climate
- Water supply and delivery capacity
- Natural assets (protected lands, waterways, parks)
- Local commitment to self-investment
- Strong and profitable agricultural sector
- Generally positive relationships between cities and counties
- Strong manufacturing sector
- Outdoor recreation offerings

### Weaknesses
- Commuters leaving region daily
- Low levels of regular civic engagement
- Limited knowledge about brownfields
- Competitive pay for public servants
- Computer and technology access in rural areas
- Limited tax base
- Healthcare access
- Access to recreation opportunities
- Limited transit offerings
- Region split by various political boundary lines (transportation districts, economic development alliances, tourism districts, etc.)
- Fear of change
- Aging population
- Concerns regarding STEM capabilities for students

### Opportunities
- Expand Technical High School Opportunities
- Improve utilization of interstate
- Improve key road corridors
- Site development of identified industrial sites
- Expansion opportunities for local industries
- Downtown Districts and “Main Street” Corridors
- Highlight key cultural assets
- Promotion of tourism
- Extend broadband access to rural areas of the region
- Improve local airports
- Cross-pollinate infrastructure improvements for multi-county economic development
- Provide re-integration opportunities for released inmates

### Threats
- Drug and alcohol abuse (impact on available workforce)
- Blight and dilapidation; neighborhood distress
- Financial challenges in maintaining level of service in school systems
- Limited availability of capital funding for infrastructure projects
- Suburban sprawl (Kershaw County)
- Natural disasters
- Lack of consolidated political strength at state level
- Competition from neighboring areas (Florence, Columbia, Charleston, Greenville, Charlotte)
- Aging infrastructure
- Out-migration of younger generation (brain drain)
- Potential for Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)
- Resistance to change and new ideas
The Santee-Lynches CEDS Action Plan is the synthesis of goals and objectives that were identified during a review of local plans and visioning efforts, topic-specific regional plans, past CEDS, and the SWOT Analysis results. Under each of the goals is a series of interrelated objectives and action-oriented strategies that address the priorities identified throughout the planning process. These goals, objectives, and strategies are intended to address regional priorities and needs thereby building a stronger, more economically resilient region.

**Goal 1**
Grow our Skilled Workforce and Expand Educational Attainment

**Goal 2**
Develop Critical Infrastructure to Enhance Economic Development

**Goal 3**
Foster Innovation and Sector Diversity in the Region’s Economy

**Goal 4**
Enhance Livability and Quality of Life
Grow our Skilled Workforce and Expand Educational Attainment

Economic globalization and technological innovations are redefining the knowledge and skill expectations for today’s workplace. With significant skills gaps for manufacturing employees (Figure 1) and plentiful job opportunities, both present and future (Figures 2 and 3), it is imperative that we respond by emphasizing the advanced education or skills training needed to compete in today’s labor market.

**Figure 1: Deficient Skills for Manufacturing Employees**
- 70% technology & computer skills
- 69% problem solving skills
- 67% basic technical training
- 60% math skills

Source: “The skills gap in U.S. manufacturing 2015 and beyond” from Deloitte and the Manufacturing Institute

**Figure 2: Job Openings by Occupation, Santee-Lynches, 2017**

**Figure 3: Potential Occupation Gaps - Santee-Lynches, 2017-2027**

**INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS**

The Work Experience (WE) Program provides students with practical and relevant career related learning experiences. From July 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017,

- 22 students participated in the program receiving more than $43,000 in support on their way to new careers
- 22 on-the-job-training (OJT) contracts were awarded to local businesses representing nearly $73,000 in paid wages through Santee-Lynches SC Works.

Coming in the fall of 2017 is a Career Initiative called WORKFirst. WORKFirst allows students to attend school at no cost and earn a certificate while being paid to work within their career field. The HVAC/R Technology and Machine Tool Technology programs at Central Carolina Technical College are piloting this initiative.

**NATIONAL ATTITUDES ABOUT SKILLED TRades**

1:2 of 18-24 year olds have little to no interest in a manufacturing career

61% of 18-24 year olds would rather pursue a “professional” career

1/3 of parents would encourage their kids to work in a trade

Source: “America’s Most Wanted: Skilled Workers” from Fabricators & Manufacturers Association, International
Objective 1.A – Enable employers to find qualified prospective employees by:
- Conducting both current and future labor and skills needs assessments for interested industries
- Conducting “hire-me” events for industries seeking large numbers of new employees
- Developing employment expos to connect candidates to employers in specific fields
- Marketing employment opportunities to family members of personnel currently assigned to region military installations
- Attracting talented individuals to the region by expanding marketing and recruitment activities to neighboring regions and statewide colleges

Objective 1.B – Enable job-seekers to maximize their employability by:
- Developing employment expos to connect candidates to employers in specific fields
- Expanding internship and apprenticeship opportunities using initiatives such as the Workforce Experience (WE) Internship Program and the WORKFirst initiative
- Expanding On-The-Job (OJT) training through the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) and supplemental sources encouraging employers to hire candidates and train them for positions.

Objective 1.C – Enhance preparation of students for today’s and tomorrow’s workplace by:
- Establishing Manufacturing and Technology Expos targeted at middle and high school students in each county
- Reinforcing working partnerships between educational providers and businesses to emphasize the skills necessary for the workplace
- Providing soft skills training, career exploration field studies, and job shadow opportunities for students at middle and high school levels
- Reviewing curriculum alignment between K-12 and post-secondary offerings
- Supporting Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) clubs, camps, and extracurricular activities designed to increase the excitement of young people in STEM fields
- Marketing skilled trade education and professions as attractive career opportunities

Objective 1.D – Provide opportunities for the region’s high-school graduates to pursue higher education by:
- Continuing the Central Carolina Scholars Program for graduates of Santee-Lynches area high schools
- Identifying resources to improve and/or expand facilities at the region’s public institutions of higher education
- Fostering partnerships with private sector institutions to enable employees to pursue additional education while employed

Central Carolina Technical College introduced the Central Carolina Scholars scholarship initiative. Central Carolina Scholars affords students an opportunity to complete their first two years of college tuition-free. It is a valuable economic development tool for existing and new industries and will afford expanded higher education opportunities to students in the Santee-Lynches Region.

The Program is available to high school students in the graduating classes of 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.
Develop Critical Infrastructure to Enhance Economic Development

**INTRODUCTION**

Roads, rail, water and wastewater infrastructure, buildable land, and high-speed broadband are fundamental to commerce. Availability of these assets dictates where business will form and flourish. Because much of our infrastructure is publicly owned and maintained, a constant focus on evaluating needs and seizing opportunities is required.

Providers are continuing to improve access to and quality of infrastructure throughout the region. There are nearly 660 acres of certified industrial land available for development throughout the region as shown in Map 1. Improvements and expansions of these sites is ongoing.

There is also a significant amount of work being done throughout the region on wastewater and water utilities. Currently, 4.3% of the region is within 1000 feet of wastewater utility services and 21.9% of the region is within 1000 feet of water utility services as shown in Map 2. There has been significant investment throughout the region to upgrade and expand wastewater and water infrastructure. For more information about infrastructure improvements, refer to the Priority Projects.

Additionally, governments in the region have recognized the need to address diverse community needs through alternative funding mechanisms. Using voter-approved one-cent capital projects sales taxes, counties have invested in projects including construction of community centers, schools, road improvements, and public facilities.

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**Pennies For Progress**

Communities that are willing to invest in themselves are more attractive as places for others to invest in. With this in mind, Santee-Lynches member governments continue to make significant capital investments, supported by voter-driven sales tax increases to improve quality of life and encourage further economic development.

**Sumter**

Sumter County voters approved a one-cent sales tax for infrastructure investments including youth sports facilities, road improvements, community centers, property acquisition, and industrial infrastructure in 2008 and 2016.

- $70 Million (2008)
- $75 Million (2016)

**Kershaw**

Kershaw County voters approved a bond referendum supported by a one-cent sales tax in 2016. Funds are supporting construction of a new technical high school and construction or renovation of schools across the county.

- $130 Million

**Lee**

Lee County voters approved a one-cent sales tax to purchase new public safety vehicles and upgrade public facilities and infrastructure.

- $3.6 Million
**Objective 2.A – Maintain a transportation network that supports business and industry by:**
- Implementing Long Range Transportation Plans for the Santee-Lynches region, Sumter Urban Area Transportation Study, and Columbia Urban Area Transportation Study (Western Kershaw County)
- Connecting County-initiated transportation priorities and regional network improvement and maintenance priorities
- Conducting key transportation corridor studies and “first mile” assessments of access to designated industrial sites and parks in the region

**Objective 2.B – Expand and improve wastewater collection and treatment systems to support the region’s needs by:**
- Encouraging regionalization of wastewater treatment facilities
- Identifying zones for wastewater service expansion that are consistent with land use plans
- Conducting an evaluation of current treatment systems and developing long-range growth forecasts

**Objective 2.C – Expand inventory of business development sites and buildings to attract new business by:**
- Ensuring that all industrial parks in region are site-certified, and track schedule for regular recertification
- Investing in site development programs to ensure availability of land and buildings for new industry recruitment strategy, “Make it Marketable”
- Identifying candidate sites for brownfield redevelopment

**Objective 2.D – Evaluate regional needs for broadband internet availability and capacity by:**
- Determining availability and speed of broadband services region-wide
- Identifying specific IT capacity requirements by industry at region industrial parks

**Objective 2.E – Enhance infrastructure resiliency to natural hazards by:**
- Collaborating with local governments and emergency management personnel on regional hazard mitigation planning
- Addressing infrastructure risks identified in the Santee-Lynches Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Evaluating interconnectivity of water and wastewater service systems to ensure continuity of service in the event natural hazards

**Objective 2.F – Increase communication on infrastructure project development by:**
- Establishing a stakeholder information and meeting mechanism as standard practice
- Offering a formal letter of support for infrastructure enhancement projects, particularly those seeking to leverage state and federal funding

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**Central Carolina Technical College Health Sciences Center**
The Central Carolina Technical College Health Sciences Center is a substantial addition to the region’s health care education assets. The project adapted a 40-year-old abandoned building into a vibrant, modern learning facility that serves four counties and three major hospitals. Once serving as a Western Auto and then a grocery store, the space now includes classrooms and seminar rooms, as well as simulation labs and mock operating rooms with state-of-the-art robotics and patient-simulation equipment.

This project was developed with the support of a $1.5 million EDA investment.

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**Central Carolina Technical College Advanced Manufacturing Technology Training Center**
The Central Carolina Technical College Advanced Manufacturing Technology Training Center is a major resource for the region’s manufacturing and technology training needs. Once an abandoned Wal-Mart, the Center is now a catalyst for industry and economic growth. Following an adaptive reuse transformation, the facility houses mechatronics labs, robotics, computer sciences training programs, and an entire suite for commercial partners to train prospective employees in advanced manufacturing processes.

This project was developed with the support of a $2.5 million EDA investment.
A diverse economic base is increasingly critical to having a strong and sustainable local economy. Communities can no longer depend on a single cornerstone industry; rather, they need to diversify their economy and support innovation to combat the effects of shifts in the fortunes of particular economic sectors. To do this requires proactive thinking – aligning appropriate resources, services, and support to enable new business formation and recruiting industry and commerce that expand opportunity for our citizens, all of which build our regional economy’s resilience.

The top three largest employment sectors in the Santee-Lynches region are Healthcare and Social Assistance, Manufacturing, and Retail Trade. Of the ten largest employment sectors in the region, these three account for 49% of the employment. An economic downturn in one of those particular sectors would impact thousands of individuals and families.

Moreover, as a region we are more dependent local clusters, not traded clusters. A local cluster is composed of local industries that can be found in most geographic areas and primarily sell their goods and services locally. A traded cluster is composed of traded industries, which are concentrated in a subset of geographic areas and sell to other regions and nations. As shown in Figure 4, our region relies more on local clusters, meaning that there is less external money filtering into our local economy. Our region’s top five traded clusters are shown in Figure 5.

In early 2016, Au’some Candies suddenly shuttered its manufacturing operations in Sumter County, leaving over 60 employees jobless at a firm that had come to the region only a few years earlier. Springing into action, a response team of county, city, state, and regional agencies provided support to the company’s former employees and started planning for the future.

In a positive turn, Mount Franklin Foods, a maker of confections and nut products, arrived on the scene to look at equipment scheduled for auction as part of the plant closure. But, after working with the response team, the company instead announced in late 2016 that it would establish its fifth manufacturing facility, and 1st in S.C., in Sumter. The company will create 225 jobs and invest over $12 million in private capital.
Based on the Innovation Index 2.0, the Santee-Lynches Economic Development District (EDD) has a low relative capacity for innovation, ranking 315 out of 384 EDDs. However, there are efforts in the region to promote innovation and entrepreneurship.

During the active period of the Santee-Lynches Ecosystem for Enterprise Development in 2015 and 2016,

- 72 individuals participated in regular small business networking sessions,
- 21 participated in a Startup Weekend,
- 22 attended an Entrepreneurship Expo resource fair,
- 32 graduated from a 12-week entrepreneur training program called NxLevel, and
- Santee-Lynches COG established an entrepreneur resource website for the region called “the Greenhouse”

### AGRICULTURE

The Santee-Lynches region is one of the most agriculturally prosperous regions in the state with the individual counties ranking 3rd, 4th, 7th, and 12th in the state for value of agricultural products sold. With over $500 million in market value of products sold and over 1,800 farms totaling 575,000 acres of farmland, the agricultural sector is a steady and growing part of the regional economy.

### REGIONAL INNOVATION

Based on the Innovation Index 2.0, the Santee-Lynches Economic Development District (EDD) has a low relative capacity for innovation, ranking 315 out of 384 EDDs. However, there are efforts in the region to promote innovation and entrepreneurship.

### OBJECTIVES

#### OBJECTIVE 3.A – TARGET BUSINESS RECRUITMENT EFFORTS TO FILL GAPS IN SUPPLY CHAIN FOR EXISTING BUSINESS CLUSTERS BY:
- Conducting industry cluster analysis for each cluster present in the region
- Identifying growth industries and evaluating competitiveness factors for the region

#### OBJECTIVE 3.B – ACCESS VENTURE CAPITAL NETWORKS TO SUPPORT EARLY STAGE BUSINESS FORMATION BY:
- Increasing marketing of loan programs available through partnership with Catawba Regional Development Corporation for area business startups and expansions
- Developing small-scale regional angel investor platforms
- Establishing a network of business mentors accessible to new start-ups via partnerships with area Chambers of Commerce
- Leveraging the University of South Carolina’s Office of Economic Engagement to support entrepreneur needs

#### OBJECTIVE 3.C – PROVIDE BUSINESS SERVICES THAT MAKE Santee-Lynches A DESTINATION FOR NEW BUSINESSES BY:
- Sustaining an entrepreneurial ecosystem that encourages growth of new industries and new businesses
- Streamlining business licensing and certification requirements at local level
- Establishing incentive programs to assist new business startups find affordable office, manufacturing, or retail space

#### OBJECTIVE 3.D – SUPPORT THE LONG TERM ECONOMIC DURABILITY OF THE REGION BY:
- Attracting and developing businesses that are part of the creative economy
- Building on current agricultural and agribusiness sector advantages utilizing the Stronger Economies Together Platform
- Supporting growth industry sector needs that will diversify the region’s economy (logistics, aerospace, public administration, and automotive)

### County Farms Acreage Average Acreage of Farms Market Value of Products Sold State Rank (Market Value of Products Sold)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Farms</th>
<th>Acreage in Farms</th>
<th>Average Acreage of Farms</th>
<th>Market Value of Products Sold</th>
<th>State Rank (Market Value of Products Sold)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clarendon</td>
<td>422</td>
<td>173,865</td>
<td>412</td>
<td>$139 Million</td>
<td>4 of 46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kershaw</td>
<td>483</td>
<td>82,877</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>$147 Million</td>
<td>3 of 46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>142,449</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>$118 Million</td>
<td>12 of 46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sumter</td>
<td>515</td>
<td>176,002</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>$130 Million</td>
<td>7 of 46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,806</td>
<td>575,193</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>$535 Million</td>
<td>7 of 46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2012 USDA Census of Agriculture
Livability and quality of life are integral to a community’s success. In addition to growing a local economy and supporting businesses that attract new residents, communities are increasingly considering quality of life as part of the formula for developing strong and sustainable places to live. While there is no “silver bullet” to making a place livable and the inputs to quality of life are myriad, public entities and private sector partners can come together to lay the foundation for livable and attractive places to live, work, and play through intentional planning and application of resources and political capital.

One of those quality of life inputs are “third places.” Increasingly, “third places” - any place in our lives outside of work or home where we spend time - are recognized as being essential to cultivating vibrant communities. “Third places” cover a variety of amenities including parks and trails, fitness facilities, community anchors like libraries, restaurants, coffee shops, or entertainment venues. Communities throughout the region have worked to enhance third places through revitalization of downtowns, construction of sports facilities, promotion of festivals, and more. In addition to improving the attractiveness of Santee-Lynches communities, investing in these types of efforts helps ensure that residents are spending their money in the region rather than leaving the region to find the amenities and activities that match their interests. Figure 6 provides an overview of spending by Santee-Lynches residents, spending which could be better captured in our region through strategic investment.

Communities are also investing in recreation amenities to benefit residents and capture some of the sports tourism market. These facilities have benefited the region significantly by not only providing residents with state-of-the-art sports facilities and but also drawing visitors to the region. It is estimated that these sports facilities have a multi-million dollar impact annually on the local economy.

The cities of the Santee-Lynches region are all involved in significant efforts to promote the historic and economic redevelopment of their traditional business districts as centers of community and economic activity. The following are some of the initiatives the cities have taken to improve the downtown experience:

- retail recruitment strategies
- rehabilitated commercial spaces
- wayfinding programs
- pedestrian access improvements
- city-sponsored events
- marketing and promotions

Benefits of Downtown Revitalization

- Strengthened tax base
- Increased sales with revenues returning to the community
- Positive community identity and image
- Visually appealing and economically viable buildings
- New businesses and jobs
- Increased investment in the downtown

Figure 6: Selected Spending Patterns in the Santee-Lynches Region, 2017
**Objectives**

**Objective 4.A – Promote quality-of-life enhancing events to current residents as well as potential employers and employees by:**
- Increasing public awareness of the quality of area health care facilities
- Developing a web presence for tourism and recreation activities in the region
- Strategically coordinating festivals and events via a regional calendar
- Coordinating marketing efforts and placement of materials to maximize visitor time in the area
- Creating an inventory of all recreational destinations and activities across the region
- Developing and distributing marketing materials highlighting multi-county activities in the Santee-Lynches Region

**Objective 4.B – Engage in downtown revitalization efforts to further community-scale economic development priorities by:**
- Supporting retail sector initiatives in downtown districts
- Supporting infrastructure and design improvements in downtown districts
- Developing and sharing market trends and dynamics for retail and commercial sector, including leakage of consumer spending outside the region

**Objective 4.C – Improve livability for the region’s communities by:**
- Evaluating residents’ proximity to parks and green spaces
- Developing opportunities for expansion of library services
- Working to develop alternative transportation systems (bike, pedestrian, transit)
- Encouraging private/public partnerships to incentivize healthy behaviors and practices, particularly for industrial wellness
- Expanding availability and diversity of affordable and attractive housing options in all areas

**Economic Drivers: Athletic Facilities and Sports Tourism**

- **Palmetto Tennis Center**
  - Attracts 30,000 visitors annually, contributing more than $15 million to the local economy
  - Ranked among the top 11 facilities of its type in the country

- **Patriot Park Athletic Complex**
  - Features soccer, baseball, softball facilities and a walking path around the park
  - Hosts numerous youth sports tournaments throughout the year

- **South Carolina Equine Park**
  - Hosts a full range of activities and breeds such as quarter horses, paint horses, dressage, and breed shows
  - Has an average of 30 weekends booked annually resulting in a $4 million annual economic impact

- **Carolina Motorsports Park**
  - 280-acre facility featuring a road racing course and Kart track
  - Hosts year round racing events and is used for car manufacturer testing, filming, and law enforcement training

- **Springdale Racecourse**
  - Draws thousands of visitors annually with the Carolina Cup Steeplechase and the National Steeplechase Museum, the only museum in the US dedicated solely to steeplechase
### Goal 1: Workforce and Education Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Progress Indicator</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>Year 2022 Goal</th>
<th>Baseline Data Source</th>
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<tr>
<td>Local Workforce Investment Area Industry Employment Projections</td>
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<td>SC Department of Employment and Workforce</td>
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<td>Per Capita Income</td>
<td>$20,490</td>
<td>$25,003</td>
<td>ESRI Business Analyst (2017)</td>
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<td>Number of on-the-job training contracts</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>SC Works, CCTC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of registered apprenticeship opportunities provided</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>Apprenticeship Carolina, CCTC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of employers using registered apprenticeship programs</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>Apprenticeship Carolina, CCTC</td>
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<td>Poverty Level</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
<td>18.0%</td>
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<td>Number of degrees awarded by region colleges annually</td>
<td>915</td>
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<td>USC-Sumter, CCTC, Morris College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of people employed in high-tech jobs</td>
<td>4,957</td>
<td>5,100</td>
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<td>Percentage of population with associates degree or higher</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
<td>34.0%</td>
<td>ESRI Business Analyst (2017)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labor Force Participation Rate</td>
<td>55.7%</td>
<td>57.0%</td>
<td>JobsEQ by Chmura Analytics (2017)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Percent of public high school graduating seniors eligible for LIFE/Palmetto Fellows Scholarships**
- Clarendon 1: 39.1%
- Clarendon 2: 26.2%
- Lee: 35.7%
- Kershaw: 22.5%
- Sumter: 31.0%
- Clarendon 1: 42.6%
- Clarendon 2: 39.2%
- Clarendon 3: 29.2%
- Lee: 47.9%
- Kershaw: 25.4%
- Sumter: 32.0%

**Percent of public high school students from prior year graduating class enrolled in 2 or 4-year college pursuing diploma or certificate**
- Clarendon 1: 75.0%
- Clarendon 2: 59.7%
- Clarendon 3: 38.6%
- Lee: 51.6%
- Kershaw: 60.2%
- Sumter: 66.1%
- Clarendon 1: 80.0%
- Clarendon 2: 64.7%
- Clarendon 3: 43.6%
- Lee: 56.6%
- Kershaw: 65.2%
- Sumter: 71.1%

**Median Household Income**
- $41,139
- $47,185

ESRI Business Analyst (2017)
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<td>Total Employment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of on-the-job training contracts</td>
<td>53</td>
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<td>Number of registered apprenticeship opportunities</td>
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<td>Number of degrees awarded by region colleges annually</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percentage of population with associates degree or higher</td>
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<td>28.5%</td>
<td>28.4%</td>
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<td>Percent of public high school graduating seniors eligible for LIFE/Palmetto Fellows Scholarships</td>
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<td>Clar. 1: 31.0%</td>
<td>No update - 2018 last record</td>
<td>No update - 2018 last record</td>
<td>Clar. 1: 42.6%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Clar. 2: 26.2%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Clar. 3: 28.9%</td>
<td>Clar. 3: 30.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Clar. 1: 75.0%</td>
<td>Clar. 1: 71.7%</td>
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<td>Clar. 2: 59.7%</td>
<td>Clar. 2: 57.1%</td>
<td>- SC Report Card</td>
<td>- SC Report Card</td>
<td>Clar. 2: 64.7%</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Kershaw: 65.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sumter: 66.1%</td>
<td>Sumter: 65.2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sumter: 71.1%</td>
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## Goal 2: Infrastructure to Enhance Economic Development

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Progress Indicator</th>
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<th>Year 2022 Goal</th>
<th>Baseline Data Source</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of linear feet of water distribution infrastructure</td>
<td>11,925,883.2</td>
<td>12,000,000.0</td>
<td>Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments (2017)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of linear feet of wastewater collection infrastructure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of fair and poor pavement quality road miles</td>
<td>2,497.25</td>
<td>1797.25</td>
<td>SCDOT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of structurally deficient or load-restricted bridges</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>SCDOT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acres of land available for industrial development</td>
<td>8,160.89</td>
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<td>LocateSC (2017)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percent of region land within 1,000 feet of water utility services</td>
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<td>Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments (2017)</td>
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<td>Percent of region land within 1,000 feet of wastewater utility services</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
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<td>Level of ICT Access for certified industrial parks</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>LocateSC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percent of households with greater than 6 Mbps download/1.5 Mbps upload broadband</td>
<td>93.0%</td>
<td>95.0%</td>
<td><a href="http://www.broadbandmap.gov">www.broadbandmap.gov</a> (2017)</td>
</tr>
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</table>
## Goal 2: Infrastructure to Enhance Economic Development

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<tr>
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<td>12,032,654.8</td>
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<td>Number of NPDES permits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of fair and poor pavement quality road miles</td>
<td>2,497.25</td>
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<td>1797.25</td>
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<td>116</td>
<td>64 poor bridges</td>
<td>36 poor bridges</td>
<td>31 poor bridges</td>
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<td>Acres of land advertised for industrial development</td>
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<td>7,364</td>
<td>7,449.26</td>
<td>6,676.18</td>
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<td>6528.71</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of water distribution systems not connected to other system</td>
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### Goal 3: Economic Diversification

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<tr>
<td>Region GDP</td>
<td>$5,539 billion</td>
<td>$6,810 billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small business activity - number of new start-up firms</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>SC Department of Employment and Workforce</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business density - number of establishments per 1,000 employees</td>
<td>46.9</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>SC Department of Employment and Workforce</td>
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<td>Business services - Share of population employed in professional and technical services occupations</td>
<td>0.89%</td>
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<td>SC Department of Employment and Workforce</td>
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<td>High Impact Density - share of regional employment in traded clusters</td>
<td>33.5%</td>
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<td>US Cluster Mapping Project</td>
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<td>Employment Diversity - Concentration of employment in top five occupations</td>
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<td>Employment per square mile</td>
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<td>Occupation wages</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mean - $37,900</td>
<td>Mean - $40,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry - $25,900</td>
<td>Entry - $27,500</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experienced - $44,000</td>
<td>Experienced - $50,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region GDP</td>
<td>$5.539 billion</td>
<td>$6.362 billion</td>
<td>$6.561 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of new start-up firms</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>No update</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of regional employment in traded clusters</td>
<td>33.5%</td>
<td>39.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concentration of employment in top five occupations</td>
<td>49.5%</td>
<td>48.9%</td>
<td>47.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concentration of employment in bottom five occupations</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>.045%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupation wages</td>
<td>Mean - $37,900 Entry - $25,900 Experienced - $44,000</td>
<td>Mean - $38,600 Entry - $22,400 Experienced - $46,700</td>
<td>Mean - $40,800 Entry - $19,300 Experienced - $51,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Goal 4: Quality of Life and Livability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Progress Indicator</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>Year 2022 Goal</th>
<th>Data Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Growth rate of employment in the arts, entertainment, and recreation</td>
<td>-0.6%</td>
<td>0.06%</td>
<td>JobsEQ by Chmura Analytics (2012-2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth rate of employment in health care support occupations</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>2.09%</td>
<td>JobsEQ by Chmura Analytics (2012-2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitality - percentage of population 20-44 years old</td>
<td>69,026</td>
<td>70,760</td>
<td>U.S. Census (2016)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median age of region residents</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>U.S. American Community Survey (2011-2015)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region Cost of Living Index</td>
<td>91.9</td>
<td>90.0</td>
<td>JobsEQ by Chmura Analytics (2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region’s Location Quotient for Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation Sector (NAICS 71)</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>0.57</td>
<td>JobsEQ by Chmura Analytics (2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region’s Location Quotient for Accommodation and Food Service Sector (NAICS 72)</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>1.07</td>
<td>JobsEQ by Chmura Analytics (2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Growth Rate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>JobsEQ by Chmura Analytics (2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarendon: -2.9%</td>
<td>Clarendon: 0.3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kershaw: 4.1%</td>
<td>Kershaw: 4.5%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee: -8.3%</td>
<td>Lee: 0.8%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sumter: -0.1%</td>
<td>Sumter: 0.1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The data for the Population Growth Rate includes specific values for Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, and Sumter.
## Goal 4: Quality of Life and Livability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Growth rate of employment in the arts, entertainment, and recreation</td>
<td>-0.6%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>-0.3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>0.06%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Growth rate of employment in health care occupations</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of population 18-44 years old</td>
<td>69,026</td>
<td>74,547 (18-44)</td>
<td>74,172 (33.3%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>70,760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median age</td>
<td>39.0</td>
<td>39.0</td>
<td>39.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>38</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost of living index</td>
<td>91.9</td>
<td>92.6</td>
<td>87.7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>90.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location quotient for Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation Sector (NAICS 71)</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>0.53</td>
<td>0.55</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location quotient for Accommodation and Food Service Sector (NAICS 72)</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.04</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.07</td>
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</table>
## Short Term Priority Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Funding Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Technical High School (Kershaw County)</td>
<td>New facility for the Kershaw County Applied Technology Education Center (ATEC) to be located on the Central Carolina Technical College/Kershaw County Economic Development Campus located at Exit 98 of I-20</td>
<td>Kershaw</td>
<td>$30,718,911</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Kershaw County Schools Referendum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Carolina Technical College Kershaw County Campus Expansion</td>
<td>New building for the current Central Carolina Technical College Campus located at Exit 98 of I-20</td>
<td>Kershaw</td>
<td>$10,000,000</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Kershaw County, State of South Carolina, CCTC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edgefield Wastewater Pump Station and Force Main</td>
<td>Upgrades and rehabilitation of Bishopville wastewater system serving I-20 Industrial Park</td>
<td>Lee</td>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>City of Bishopville, EDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sumter Public Safety Complex</td>
<td>Public Safety Complex Construction and associated facilities</td>
<td>Sumter</td>
<td>$15,700,000</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Sumter Penny for Progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayesville Water Plant Well</td>
<td>New well for Mayesville water treatment plant operations</td>
<td>Sumter</td>
<td>$215,000</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>City of Sumter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shot Pouch Greenway</td>
<td>Paved walking/bicycling path from Dillon Park to Swan Lake-Iris Gardens in the City of Sumter</td>
<td>Sumter</td>
<td>$4,000,000</td>
<td>Livability</td>
<td>Sumter Penny for Progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayesville Wastewater Pump Station and Force Main to City of Sumter</td>
<td>Project to shift flow of wastewater from the Town of Mayesville's WWTF to the City of Sumter's WWTF</td>
<td>Sumter</td>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>CDBG, City of Sumter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wastewater System Improvements</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kershaw</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Rural Infrastructure Authority, Kershaw County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water System Improvements</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kershaw</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Rural Infrastructure Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Supply Infrastructure</td>
<td>Water line improvements along SC Highway 261 through Manning's downtown corridor</td>
<td>Clarendon</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Rural Infrastructure Authority, City of Manning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palmetto Park Lighting</td>
<td>New lighting system to improve safety for youth athletes and increase sports tourism event potential</td>
<td>Sumter</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>Livability</td>
<td>Sumter Penny for Progress</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Short Term Priority Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Funding Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pinewood/McCray’s Mill Intersection Improvements</td>
<td>Improvements to the intersection of Pinewood and McCray’s Mill Roads located in the Sumter Urban Area Transportation Study</td>
<td>Sumter</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>SCDOT, SUATS Guideshare Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renovation of CCTC Industrial Engineering Building</td>
<td>Renovation of M-400 Industrial Engineering Building to allow expansion of current programs and provide enhanced training opportunities</td>
<td>Sumter</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Sumter Penny for Progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start / Early Head Start</td>
<td>Early child development programs (ages 0-4)</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>$9,229,090</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>US HHS, Wateree Community Actions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bishopville Wastewater Trunk Line Rehabilitation, Phase 1</td>
<td>Rehabilitation of segment 1 of Bishopville Wastewater system trunk line that connects Bishopville WWTF to collection system</td>
<td>Lee</td>
<td>$820,000</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>CDBG, City of Bishopville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camden Water System Improvements</td>
<td>Improvements to existing water lines in the City of Camden</td>
<td>Kershaw</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>State Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWSRF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyboo Wastewater Combination with Manning</td>
<td>Construction of pump station and force main to divert wastewater flows from Wyboo WWTF to City of Manning WWTF</td>
<td>Clarendon</td>
<td>$756,248</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>State Clean Water Revolving Fund (CWSRF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethune Well Generators</td>
<td>Installation of generators at the Town of Bethune’s four wells</td>
<td>Kershaw</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>State Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWSRF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Summerton Water System Improvements and Interconnection</td>
<td>Installation of water system improvements to connect Summerton's water system to the Town of Manning's water system and provide water service to additional residents</td>
<td>Clarendon</td>
<td>$600,000</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>State Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWSRF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayesville Bland Stable Housing and Commercial Development</td>
<td>Construction of four new housing units and rehabilitation of an existing historic building for use as commercial space</td>
<td>Sumter</td>
<td>$1,375,000</td>
<td>Livability</td>
<td>HUD HOPE VI Main Street Grant, Sumter Penny for Progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Charles District Water Tower</td>
<td>Construction of a new elevated water storage tank for the St. Charles census tract in Lee County</td>
<td>Lee</td>
<td>$1,152,200</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>CDBG, Kershaw County and Lee County Regional Water Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Name</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>County</td>
<td>Estimated Cost</td>
<td>Goal</td>
<td>Funding Source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downtown Sumter Infrastructure and Streetscaping</td>
<td>Improvements to downtown Sumter intersections and infrastructure, including pedestrian crosswalks, utility improvements, lighting, and landscaping</td>
<td>Sumter</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
<td>Livability</td>
<td>Sumter Penny for Progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dillon Park Improvements</td>
<td>Renovations to Sumter's Dillon Park to include a new football complex, parking, and walking track improvements</td>
<td>Sumter</td>
<td>$2,750,000</td>
<td>Livability</td>
<td>Sumter Penny for Progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patriot Hall Improvements</td>
<td>Renovations and addition of a new gymnasium to improve the recreation department facility at Patriot Hall</td>
<td>Sumter</td>
<td>$6,000,000</td>
<td>Livability</td>
<td>Sumter Penny for Progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sumter Industrial Park Improvements</td>
<td>Infrastructure upgrades, including roads, water, and wastewater facilities to attract new industries</td>
<td>Sumter</td>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Sumter Penny for Progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Carolina Connect (C3) Project</td>
<td>Distance learning infrastructure using video endpoints and network equipment at campus locations for CCTC</td>
<td>Region</td>
<td>$365,000</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>USDA Rural Utility Service, CCTC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sumter Airport and Runway Lighting and Signage Rehabilitation</td>
<td>Construction of airfield lighting, windcone, and taxiway signage rehabilitation for Sumter Airport (SMS)</td>
<td>Sumter</td>
<td>$1,269,423</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>FAA, Sumter County, State of South Carolina</td>
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</table>
## Medium Term Priority Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Funding Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bishopville Wastewater Trunk Line Rehabilitation, Phase II</td>
<td>Rehabilitation of segment 2 of Bishopville Wastewater system trunk line that connects Bishopville WWTF to collection system</td>
<td>Lee</td>
<td>$810,000</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>City of Bishopville, TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camden Truck Route</td>
<td>Improvements to three segments of the designated truck route in the City of Camden</td>
<td>Kershaw</td>
<td>$25,000,000</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>SCDOT, Santee-Lynches Guideshare Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manning Avenue/North Main Street Corridor Improvements</td>
<td>Transportation connectivity improvements and streetscaping for Manning Avenue/North Main Street Corridor from US-15 to US-378 in Sumter</td>
<td>Sumter</td>
<td>$16,400,000</td>
<td>Livability</td>
<td>Federal Appropriation, Sumter Penny for Progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lafayette Drive/US-378 Interchange Improvements</td>
<td>Intersection improvements at North Main Street, Lafayette Blvd (US-15), South Pike Road, and the US-378 Bypass</td>
<td>Sumter</td>
<td>$6,000,000</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Sumter Penny for Progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manning Avenue</td>
<td>Replacement of Bridge connecting South Sumter with Downtown Sumter on Manning Avenue</td>
<td>Sumter</td>
<td>8,200,000</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>SCDOT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I-95 Megasite Rail Spur</td>
<td>Dedicated rail spur to connect the I-95 industrial megasite to the existing rail network</td>
<td>Sumter, Clarendon, Lee</td>
<td>$20,000,000</td>
<td>Innovation</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical High School (Sumter County)</td>
<td>New technical high school for Sumter School District</td>
<td>Sumter</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinewood Water System Expansion</td>
<td>Expansion of Town of Pinewood water supply to Rimini and Panola areas</td>
<td>Sumter</td>
<td>$9,600,000</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>USDA Grant/Loan, Town of Pinewood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steeplechase Industrial Park Improvements</td>
<td>Road extension within industrial park, signage, a 75,000 sq ft spec building, and clearing and grading of 11-acre tract</td>
<td>Kershaw</td>
<td>$17,000,000</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Kershaw County Bond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governor's Hill Industrial Park Improvements</td>
<td>Signage, development of pad-ready site, 75,000 sq ft spec building, and interior road improvements</td>
<td>Kershaw</td>
<td>$17,000,000</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Kershaw County Bond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heritage Pointe Industrial Park Improvements</td>
<td>Clearing and grading of parcels and 50,000 sq ft spec building</td>
<td>Kershaw</td>
<td>$17,000,000</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Kershaw County Bond</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Project Name

- **Bishopville Wastewater Industrial Interceptor**
  - Proposed wastewater collection and transfer infrastructure to move wastewater directly from industrial parks on I-20 to the Bishopville WWTF
  - County: Lee
  - Estimated Cost: $4,500,000
  - Goal: Infrastructure
  - Funding Source: TBD

- **Bishopville Wastewater Trunk Line Rehabilitation, Phase III**
  - Rehabilitation of segment 3 of Bishopville Wastewater system trunk line that connects Bishopville WWTF to collection system
  - County: Lee
  - Estimated Cost: $1,935,000
  - Goal: Infrastructure
  - Funding Source: City of Bishopville, TBD

- **Proposed Bishopville Truck Route**
  - Proposed truck route for US-15 through City of Bishopville, currently in Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) study process
  - County: Lee
  - Estimated Cost: $19,000,000
  - Goal: Infrastructure
  - Funding Source: SCDOT, Santee-Lynches Guideshare Program, Federal Appropriation

### Priority Projects Investment Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority Projects Term</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
<th># of Infrastructure Projects</th>
<th># of Livability Projects</th>
<th># of Education Projects</th>
<th># of Innovation Projects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short-Term</td>
<td>$96,381,449</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medium-Term</td>
<td>$103,010,000</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long-Term</td>
<td>$25,435,000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$224,826,449</strong></td>
<td><strong>24</strong></td>
<td><strong>7</strong></td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>