

**Anderson County**  
**Public Participation Plan**



[www.andersoncountysc.org](http://www.andersoncountysc.org)

**101 South Main Street  
Anderson, SC 29624**

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## **Introduction**

What is public participation? Public participation is a process in which citizens engage in meaningful discussions to identify issues and reach a consensus; a process which helps to create better decisions. Participation is meaningful when the public has the opportunity to influence decisions and feels a sense of ownership. Public participation helps planners and local officials better do their job.

This Public Participation Plan provides direction for participating in the development of transportation-related plans and projects in Anderson County. This plan will provide opportunities for all citizens to participate and provide input into the programs and projects being funded by federal and state dollars.

## **Goals and Objectives for the Plan:**

### Goal:

Anderson County's goal is to provide for public participation in transportation project decision-making. Achieving this goal requires soliciting public participation on projects, using effective and equitable means for disseminating information and receiving feedback, and obtaining representative involvement of stakeholders and users of the County's transportation system.

### Objectives:

1. Determine the barriers on how to engage the minority and low income populations.
2. Determine the LEP population and provide appropriate information pertaining to meetings dates, time and input.
3. Provide various forms of input for groups that may be affected by a profound impact.
4. Hold public meetings in locations accessible to mobility impaired individuals and those with disabilities.
5. Provide continuous opportunities for citizens to participate

## **Federal Agency Requirements for Public Participation**

The policy of the federal and state government supports proactive public participation at all stages of the planning process. As a recipient of state funds, Anderson County is required to develop a public participation plan. The public involvement process includes:

- Early and continuous opportunities for involvement
- Public meetings at convenient and accessible locations and times
- Timely information on issues, processes, and procedures
- Input on goals, objectives, alternatives, policy, and evaluation criteria
- Seeking out traditionally underserved populations

## **Anderson County Overview**

Located in the heart of the Upstate, Anderson County is home to historic cities, such as Anderson and Pendleton, and the vacation destination of Lake Hartwell. It is also situated midway between the metropolitan cities of Atlanta and Charlotte. Covering over 757 square miles, Anderson County is home to 192,709 residents.

Median Age	40.5	Race	
Persons over 65	17%	White	79.9%
Persons under 18 years	17.3%		
		Black	16.3%
Female	51.9%		
Male	48.1%	American Indian/Alaska Native	0.2%
Median Household Income	\$43,518	Asian	0.9%
Language other than English spoken at home	2.2%	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.0%
Persons below poverty level (18 to 64)	15.7%	Some other race alone	0.9%
		Two or more races	1.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

## **Public Participation Strategies**

### **Anderson County Website**

In 2018, Anderson County decided to create and manage its own website. The website is user friendly and gives the public easy access to everything Anderson County has to offer. The website includes:

- Code of Ordinances
- Americans with Disabilities Act complaint and grievance procedures
- Title VI complaint procedures
- Links to ANATS, GPATS, and ACOG
- Links to the City of Anderson Transit Routes and Schedules
- 2016 Comprehensive Plan
- Anderson County Transportation Committee (ACTC)
- Public Service Announcements

## News Media

Anderson County works with the Administrator’s office to disseminate information to the local media. Meeting information is covered in the local newspaper, local television news stations, Anderson County TV, and local radio. Staff members are available to speak with reporters as needed on upcoming projects.

## Legal Advertisements

Legal notices and public hearings are circulated in the Anderson Independent Mail.

## Social Media

Anderson County uses Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube to communicate activities and events to the public.

## Public Meetings

Public meetings are held in various locations depending on where the project is located. Meetings are held in ADA accessible locations to allow everyone an opportunity to attend and participate in the decision making process. The format of these meetings vary from workshop, drop-in, and presentation by staff.

## Surveys

Surveys are used to garner feedback from citizens pertaining to the project. Surveys are available online and at meeting locations.

## Media Outlets

Social Media		
County website	<a href="https://www.andersoncountysc.org">https://www.andersoncountysc.org</a>	
Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/ACSCGov">https://www.facebook.com/ACSCGov</a>	
Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/acscgov">https://twitter.com/acscgov</a>	
News		
Anderson Independent Mail	<a href="mailto:michael.ellis@independentmail.com">michael.ellis@independentmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:nikie.mayo@independentmail.com">nikie.mayo@independentmail.com</a>	
Anderson Observer	<a href="mailto:gwilson@andersonobserver.com">gwilson@andersonobserver.com</a>	
Easley Progress	<a href="mailto:easnews@civitasmedia.com">easnews@civitasmedia.com</a>	

Williamston Journal	<a href="mailto:stanwelch@yahoo.com">stanwelch@yahoo.com</a>	
WSPA	<a href="mailto:assignmentdesk@wspa.com">assignmentdesk@wspa.com</a>	
<b>Radio</b>		
WAIM - 1230 AM	<a href="mailto:waimradio@yahoo.com">waimradio@yahoo.com</a>	864-226-1511
WESC - 92.5 WMYI - MY 102.5	<a href="mailto:jessicalalley@clearchannel.com">jessicalalley@clearchannel.com</a>	864-482-1816
WHZT - Hot 98.1 WJMZ - 107.3 JAMZ	<a href="mailto:kari.sayers@coxinc.com">kari.sayers@coxinc.com</a>	864-282-1078
WPCI – 1490 AM	N/A	864-834-3193
WPJM - 800 AM The Light	N/A	864-877-1112
WRIX - 103.1	<a href="mailto:productions@talk103.com">productions@talk103.com</a>	864-617-0865
WSPA - Magic 98.9 WFBC - B93.7	<a href="mailto:cmccrory@entercom.com">cmccrory@entercom.com</a>	864-241-4261

### **Stakeholder Outreach**

The stakeholders identified below have potential involvement with transportation projects directly or indirectly in Anderson County, including public participation aspects. These stakeholders will be informed as relevant projects emerge.

#### **ANATS, GPATS, ACOG**

Anderson County coordinates with ANATS (Anderson Area Transportation Study), GPATS (Greenville Pickens Area Transportation Study), and ACOG (Appalachian Council of Governments) to ensure local processes are consistent with state and federal policies. ANATS plans for transportation needs for the Anderson urban area. GPATS plans for transportation needs for the Greenville-Pickens urban area, including portions of Anderson County which lie within the GPATS boundary. ACOG plans for transportation needs in the unincorporated areas of Anderson County that are not included in the ANATS or GPATS areas. Currently, transportation-related activities follow the public participation procedures of ANATS, GPATS, and ACOG, of which Anderson County residents are made aware.

The planning process provides multiple opportunities for the public to participate. Several meetings are held throughout the community. Each meeting includes community education and

interactive participation, such as mapping concerns and prioritizing goals. Members of the public also have the opportunity to provide feedback through online and mailed surveys. Additional meetings are held so the public can review the plan prior to finalization.

### **Anderson County Transportation Committee (ACTC)**

The Anderson County Transportation Committee is made up of seven members appointed every two years by the Anderson County SC Legislative Delegation to disperse "C-funds" for various road projects in the county. C-funds represent a portion of the gasoline taxes collected at the pumps. The goal of this committee will be to provide the citizens of Anderson County with the best and safest roads, bridges, and sidewalks as possible for which Anderson County is responsible.

### **County Departments**

County Departments with involvement in transportation projects include the Roads and Bridges Department, the County Administrator's Office, and the Planning and Community Development Department. Citizens of Anderson County have full access to County departments through a variety of means.

### **Minorities**

According to the 2012-2016 US Census American Community Survey, Blacks is our largest minority population consisting of 16.3%; Hispanic or Latino 3.4%; Asian and Some other race alone 0.9%; American Indian and Alaska Native 0.2%; Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander .04%; and 1.8% report they are more than two races.

Appealing to minority and low income persons can be challenging; however, there are things we can do to engage these populations. We can go into the communities where these groups gather and post and hand out informational flyers, make sure notices are in the appropriate language, and make contact with community leaders and ask to speak at their next meeting. By taking these proactive measures we can begin to engage minority and low income populations.

### **Low Income**

Low income households account for 28.3% of Anderson County's population. The median household income is \$43,518. Low income persons should be given every opportunity to provide input in the transportation planning process, to assure affordable, safe and reliable transportation.

### **Limited English Persons**

Anderson County takes steps to ensure meaningful access to the services, information are provided for individuals who are Limited English Proficient. Anderson County will assist persons with Limited English proficiency to participate in the transportation planning process. Staff will make every effort to provide document translation and interpreters where feasible, upon request.

## County Boards

County decision-making bodies potentially involved in transportation projects and/or community representation include the County Council, the Planning Commission, and the Human Relations Council. Citizens of Anderson County have full access to County decision-making bodies through a variety of means.

## Public Agencies

There are several public agencies that can provide input in transportation projects. Most of the clients served by these agencies fall into the under-represented population that needs to participate in the process. Such agencies can help overcome the barriers that are faced by these populations.

## Updates

The Public Participation Plan will be reviewed on an annual basis and updated every three years.

## Public Organizations

American Legion	1301 E Greenville Street	864-224-6487	
Anderson Area YMCA	201 E Reed Road	864-716-6260	<a href="http://www.andersonareaymca.org">www.andersonareaymca.org</a>
Anderson County Disabilities	212 McGee Road	864-260-4515	
Anderson County Health Department	220 McGee Road	864-260-5541	
Anderson County Library	300 N McDuffie Street	864-260-4500	<a href="mailto:administration@andersonlibrary.org">administration@andersonlibrary.org</a>
Anderson Housing Authority	1335 E River Street	864-260-5120	<a href="http://www.andersonha.org">www.andersonha.org</a>
AnMed Health	800 N Fant Street	864-512-1000	<a href="http://www.anmedhealth.org">www.anmedhealth.org</a>
Big Brother Big Sister	210 N McDuffie Street Suite LL4	864-844-9907	<a href="http://www.bbbsupstate.com">www.bbbsupstate.com</a>
Habitat for Humanity	210 S Murray Avenue	864-375-1177	
Haven of Rest	219 W Whitner Street	864-226-6193	<a href="mailto:info@havenofrest.cc">info@havenofrest.cc</a>
Salvation Army	103-112 Tolly Street	864-225-7381	<a href="http://salvationarmyanderson.org">http://salvationarmyanderson.org</a>
United Way of Anderson County	604 N Murray Avenue	864-226-3438	<a href="http://www.unitedwayofanderson.org">www.unitedwayofanderson.org</a>