



Capitol Connection E-Newsletter- November 2015

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Registration Now Open for 2016 District Days at the Capitol

The 2016 District Days at the Capitol will take place on February 17, February 24, and March 2. Counties are encouraged to attend as they will have the opportunity to hear firsthand from state agency leaders and legislators on pressing issues on the table during the 2016 legislative session.

For more information and to register, click [here](#).

Please contact ACCG Legislative Policy Coordinator Ines Owens if you have any questions. She can be reached at (404) 522-5022 or iowens@accg.org.

Stay Informed and Engaged: Appoint or Confirm Your CLC!

ACCG is asking all counties to appoint or confirm their county legislative coordinator (CLC). The CLC plays an integral role in assisting with ACCG's advocacy efforts during the legislative session. CLC's help keep county commissioners and county management updated on legislation of importance to counties and provide county-specific information to ACCG, as requested, in order to help legislators assess the impact of proposed bills.

County chairs are asked to officially designate a CLC by passing a [resolution](#) at a commission meeting.

Click [here](#) to obtain the most recent list of CLC's. **If your county is not on the list, your CLC has NOT been confirmed or appointed for 2016.**

Please contact ACCG Legislative Policy Coordinator Ines Owens at iowens@accg.org to confirm or appoint your county legislative coordinator as ACCG prepares for the start of the next session.

2015 Immigration Report Due Next Month

The deadline to submit the annual immigration report to the Department of Audits and Accounts (DOAA) is December 31, 2015. This year's report covers the reporting period of December 1, 2014 – November 30, 2015. DOAA opened the report collection system on November 1, 2015, and is currently accepting reports. No changes were made to the reporting system or county requirements during the 2015 legislative session. The DOAA sent a letter to each county in October containing an overview of the requirements and a list of resources that they have made available for assisting with the reporting process.

A copy of the letter can be found [here](#).

Counties are encouraged to begin preparing to submit their reports to ensure they have all the information needed to file by the deadline. Any technical questions about filing the report should be directed to DOAA (Immhelp@audits.ga.gov or www.audits.ga.gov/). All questions regarding the legal requirements about the report should be directed to your county attorney.

Annual SPLOST Reports Due on December 31

State law (48-8-122) requires each county and city to publish an annual special purpose local option sales tax (SPLOST) report in their local newspaper and on their website before December 31, 2015. Please remember that, in addition to the current SPLOST funds, the reporting requirements apply to all previous SPLOST projects where the county has not spent all the collected proceeds. Counties are not responsible for reporting on any city projects.

Click [here](#) to obtain a copy of the ACCG model report. The model report may also be found in the back of the ACCG SPLOST Guidebook.

Please contact ACCG Legislative Director Clint Mueller at (404) 522- 5022 or cmueller@accg.org if you have any questions.

GEFA 2016 State Revolving Fund Solicitation

The Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) has opened the project solicitation period for the 2016 Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRF). The SRFs provide low-interest financing for publicly-owned water and wastewater projects. Potential applicants for 2016 SRF financing should reply to this solicitation. Eligible projects will be considered for inclusion in the 2016 Clean Water or Drinking Water Intended Use Plan (IUP). A project cannot be funded if it does not appear in the appropriate IUP. Communities that submit a project for inclusion in the IUP are not obligated to apply. Inclusion on the IUP does not guarantee funding.

The deadline is Thursday, December 31, 2015, 5:00 p.m. Please click [here](#) for more information on the SRF funding process and to access project solicitation information as well as the application.

SRTA Accepting Applications for Transit Capital Funding Program

The State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) is accepting applications for its transit capital funding program, GO! Transit. GO! Transit is a competitive funding program designed to address some of the critical capital-related public transportation needs throughout the state. Eligible applicants include existing public transportation operators in Georgia as well as local, regional, and state government units, including Community Improvement Districts.

The application window for this program will close on Sunday, January 31, 2016. Click [here](#) for more information. All questions may be directed to gotransit@georgiatolls.com.

ACCG Legislative Committee Webpage

There are many legislative issues assigned to study committees that the ACCG policy staff members have been following. In efforts to keep county officials informed about those issues and where they lie in the process, ACCG has created a webpage dedicated to information on legislative study committees.

Click [here](#) visit the page.

Model Ordinance on County Purchasing Cards Available

During the 2015 legislative session, the General Assembly passed HB 192 requiring that counties adopt ordinances and usage policies prior to county elected officials being issued county p-cards and credit cards. Prior to the bill's effective date (Jan. 1, 2016), the board of commissioners must adopt a policy that meets the new law, publicly vote to authorize elected officials to use the county p-card or credit card, and enter into a user agreement with each authorized elected official.

ACCG has provided counties with a model resolution, ordinance, and user agreement for use by counties to govern the use of p-cards and credit cards by elected officials. The model resolution and ordinance, as well as additional information on HB 192, can be found [here](#).

Please contact your county attorney with any questions regarding this legislation and its implications.

RFP for Five Star & Urban Waters Restoration Grants

The National Wildlife Foundation recently announced an RFP for the Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program. The Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program is a public-private partnership funded in part by the federal Environmental Protection Agency's Wetlands and Urban Waters Programs and the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and in conjunction with the Urban Waters Federal Partnership.

The RFP closes on February 13, 2016. Click [here](#) for more information.

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grants Available

The Environmental Protection Agency is seeking applicants for its [Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving \(EJCPS\)](#) Cooperative Agreements Program. A total of \$1.2 million in the cooperative agreements will be awarded to community-based organizations seeking to address environmental and/or public health issues in their local areas through collaborative efforts with other stakeholders, such as state and local governments, industry professionals, academia, and non-governmental organizations. The solicitation period will close on February 12, 2016, at 11:59 p.m.

Click here to read the [RFP](#).

Interested applicants may partake in Pre-Assistance calls. Further information on the EJCPS Cooperative Agreements Program, including information on the Pre-Assistance calls, can be found [here](#).

For information on how to apply, visit [here](#).

GDOT ACECGA Transportation Summit Presentation Available

The Georgia Department of Transportation recently released its presentation from the 2015 Transportation Summit hosted by the American Council of Engineering Companies of Georgia in partnership with ACCG. Some key points from the presentation include GDOT's approved budget increases for the Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG) in the amounts of \$36 million for FY 16 Amended and \$41 million for FY 17. The proposed increase roughly equals ACCG's projections during the session but does so a year ahead of the anticipated schedule. The increase to LMIG is approximately 30 percent over funding from prior years.

Click [here](#) to view the presentation in its entirety.

Please contact ACCG Associate Legislative Director Shaun Adams at sadams@accg.org with any questions.

Georgia EPD to Host Training for Online Permitting Systems

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) will host training for its online system (GEOS) as well as the federal Environmental Protection Agency's online system NetDMR. Hosted in conjunction with the UGA Carl Vinson Institute of Government, the training will take place in various locations and will begin in early December.

Additional information can be accessed through the following links:

[GEOS Training Information](#) and [GEOS Training Calendar](#)

[NetDMR Training Information](#) and [NetDMR Training Calendar](#)