



*Workers install sewer pipe for service in a new area.*

## Summary of Recommendations

### 1. Introduction

This chapter summarizes the recommendations made by the Task Force. Specific actions recommended for Council or the County Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) are included in italics.

For more information on the recommendations, see the included references.

A number of these recommendations are considered “paramount” or of utmost importance to the County. These are included in boxes throughout this chapter.

## 2. Recommendations Already Implemented or In Process

The progress and recommendations that have already come out of the Master Planning process include:

1. **The SWAG Intergovernmental Agreement<sup>1</sup>.** The Sewer Water Action Group (SWAG), composed of representatives from the county water suppliers and distributors, the OCSC and the County, worked out an intergovernmental agreement that lays out how to:

- Facilitate the working together of the County and the Municipalities for their mutual benefit and progress through the expansion of sewer systems and water systems.
- Protect the Municipalities from the costs related from system expansions outside of municipal limits, unless the cities decide to expand their systems outside of their municipal limits.
- Assure fair treatment for entities wishing to connect to the water and sewer system and receive water and sewer service.

The County continues to affirm that it “does not want to be in the water business” and desires to use the SWAG agreement as a vehicle to enhance the County water system without specifically involving itself in owning or running water facilities.<sup>2</sup> (See Part 3. Water: Chapter 3 and Part 4. Sewer: Chapter 3)

2. **The Oconee County Infrastructure Advisory Commission<sup>3</sup>.** Oconee County Infrastructure Advisory Committee assembled, held its first meeting, and elected Mr. Bob Winchester of the Oconee County Sewer Commission as Chairman. This committee opens the way for greater communication and cooperation among the utility service providers in the County, including gas, water, sewer, electricity and communications.

3. **Oconee County / OCSC Memorandum of Understanding.** Also proceeding from the Master Planning progress is the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) being developed between the County and the OCSC. Task Force members recommended that the County begin working through some of the differences in understanding so that a better working relationship could be attained. This has happened and the MOU is nearly complete. (See Part 4. Sewer: Chapter 3)

4. **I-85 sewer and water development<sup>4</sup>.** Also coming out of the Master Planning Process was a preliminary design and plan for providing water

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<sup>1</sup> Updated 1/06.

<sup>2</sup> Updated 1/06.

<sup>3</sup> Updated 1/06.

<sup>4</sup> Updated 1/06.

and sewer to the I-85 area in Southern Oconee County. This work led to an opportunity to begin collaboration with the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) to complete Phase I of this project, which would include the necessary piping and pump stations to transfer the sewage from the SCDOT Welcome Center to a proposed Oconee County Wastewater Treatment Plant located in the region. The SCDOT has contracted with the County for some funding for this project. Representatives from the County are also working to secure funding. (See Part 4. Sewer: Chapter 10)

#### 5. **I-785 Regional Interstate Connector and Clemson / Seneca Bypass.**

Another exciting possibility coming out of the Master Plan is the concept of an interstate connector running through Oconee and Pickens Counties that would join I-85 near Fairplay with I-26 toward Asheville. (See Part 5. Transportation: Chapter 4)

6. **Solid waste recommendations.** The Task Force made a number of recommendations to Council to address issues related to solid waste, including:

- Cease accepting furniture at the Manned Convenience Centers (MCCs) (See Part 2. Solid Waste: Chapter 11)
- Increase the tipping fees charged for commercial haulers. (See Part 2. Solid Waste: Chapter 11)

### 3. General Recommendations

The Task Force recommends that, with regard to infrastructure:

1. **Bi-annual update<sup>5</sup>.** There should be bi-annual updates to the Master Plan to ensure that it is current and reflect the latest information and thinking of the Council and the Task Force.

*Council should update the Master Plan by January of each even numbered year in time for budgetary planning for the following years by utilizing and directing staff.*

2. **Systematic presentation to Council.** Because of the amount of material and number of recommendations in the Master Plan, Council should consider the recommendations in a prioritized and systematic manner for discussion, approval, implementation or, if necessary, modification.

*The County CAO is responsible for presenting the recommendations in a prioritized and systematic manner for discussion, approval or modification.*

<sup>5</sup> Updated 1/06.

**3. Public involvement and input.** The Task Force sought to get input from those affected by the different parts of the Master Plan, and from experts and those knowledgeable on the subjects. Because of the extensive amount of material in the Master Plan, the Task Force recommends that general public input be solicited as the individual issues are brought before Council.

*The County CAO should make available pertinent information from the Master Plan to the public as the individual issues from the plan are brought before Council.*

**4. Preservation / Responsibility:** Oconee County must take the lead in preserving its natural, cultural, historical and social resources.

*Many of the recommendations in the Master Plan reflect opportunities for Council to take the lead in preserving its natural, cultural, historical and social resources. Specific steps of action are mentioned under those recommendations.*

**5. Policies.** Oconee County development and planning should include the following policies (See Part 1. Existing Conditions: Chapter 4):

- Industrial Development- Efforts for industrial development should be concentrated in the southern part of the County, in addition to the areas around the Municipalities.
- Residential Development - The County should work to emphasize the lake areas and the central part of the County as prime for residential development.
- Commercial Development - Commercial development should be encouraged in the Municipalities, along the corridors between them, and along I-85.
- Development in the National Forest - Development in the National Forest area should be discouraged.

*The County CAO should direct the Economic Development and Planning Departments to adopt these policies.*

**6. Corps property at Welcome Center.** The County should pursue the possibility of acquiring the Corps property adjacent to the Welcome Center. (See Part 4. Sewer: Chapter 10)

*Council should direct the County CAO to take steps toward pursuing this property.*

## 4. Solid Waste Recommendations

**1. The Solid Waste Department as an enterprise fund.** In keeping with its designation as an enterprise fund, the Solid Waste Department must move toward operation and funding as such. This would include a shift toward users paying for services. (See Part 2. Solid Waste: Chapter 12)

*Council should review the current operation of the Solid Waste Department and make necessary changes to remove the department as a tax liability. Necessary actions to improve operations and reduce cost should be reviewed each year and those recommendations should be provided to County Council not later than November. This will allow the recommendations to be considered during the budget cycle.*

**2. Shift in Public Understanding.** Because of the rising costs and liabilities associated with solid waste disposal, the County must shift public perception of the County offering “free” disposal to an understanding that “users pay for services”. (See Part 2. Solid Waste Chapters 12 and 13)

*The County CAO should develop a strategy for developing a “users pay for services” understanding in the County.*

**3. Additions or changes in policy requiring Council attention.** The Solid Waste Department should adopt the following additions or changes in policy:

- **Definition of Commercial Waste.** Any waste disposed in containers larger than a single 90 gallon roll-cart should be considered commercial waste. (See Part 2. Solid Waste Chapter 6)
- **The Solid Waste Commission** will include representatives from each of the council districts and two at-large members. Presently the Commission consists of representatives from each district, two at-large members and 3 ex-officio members from the Municipalities.
- **Dead Animals.** The County will stop receiving any dead animals for disposal at the C&D landfill, after the determination of an alternative method of disposal. (See Part 2. Solid Waste Chapter 9)
- **C&D Disposal.** All users should pay for disposal in the C&D landfill. (See Part 2. Solid Waste Chapter 9)
- **Commercial Waste.** Oconee County should charge a tipping fee for all commercial waste, regardless of where the waste is generated. (See Part 2. Solid Waste Chapters 6 and 9)
- **Disposal fees for non-profit organizations.** Non-profit organizations should pay for disposal services that they use. Exceptions or allowances may be made for organizations whose function benefits the solid waste department, such as second hand stores, etc. (See Part 2. Solid Waste Chapter 6 and 9)

- **Disposal fees for car batteries and tires.** Oconee County should consider charging for the disposal of lead-acid batteries and tires. (See Part 2. Solid Waste Chapter 7)
- **Reduced rates for recyclers.** Allow reduced rates for disposal for haulers bringing a minimum tonnage of recyclables to the County's MRF. (See Part 2. Solid Waste Chapter 7)

*The County CAO should direct the Solid Waste Director to adopt and implement the above policies.*

**4. Actions, additions or changes in policy requiring CAO attention.** The Solid Waste Department should adopt the following additions or changes in policy:

- Institute a comprehensive educational campaign
- Work with builders and County operations to encourage construction and demolition waste separation and recycling.
- Promote backyard composting through an annual event, at a minimum.
- Enter into long-term contracts with markets to improve returns whenever possible.
- Consider trucking recyclables to market.
- Encourage commercial and institutional recycling through waste audits, hauler negotiation and market identification, with a goal of increasing the County recycling rates.
- Work to increase recycling rate and volumes. Economies of scale will help cause the recycling program to be more profitable. (See Part 2. Solid Waste Chapter 8)

*The County CAO should direct the Solid Waste Director to adopt and implement the above actions and policies.*

**5. Future Disposal.** The Task Force recommends that the County continue its present strategy of disposal in a private landfill. (See Part 2. Solid Waste Chapter 7)

*Council should direct the County CAO to develop a strategy for developing and implementing a "users pay for services" understanding in the County.*

**6. Tri-County Landfill.** The County should continue to pursue a settlement for this property by 2006. (See Part 2. Solid Waste Chapter 2)

**7. Trucking of Waste.** The County should further investigate and pursue self-hauling of its MSW waste. (See Part 2. Solid Waste Chapter 7)

*Council should direct the Solid Waste Director to develop a detailed strategy and make recommendations regarding self-hauling of its MSW waste.*

**8. Continue on-going discussions with the Municipalities regarding Solid Waste plans.**

*The County CAO should direct the Solid Waste Director to continue discussions with the Municipalities regarding County Solid Waste issues and plans.*

**9. Enforcement of litter laws.** Ensure strong enforcement of litter and illegal dumping violations through the Sheriff's Department and the magistrates.

*Council should direct the County Attorney to draft new ordinances that can be better enforced in courts.*

*Council should encourage the Sheriff's Department and magistrates to enforce the ordinances.*

*Council should direct the Solid Waste Commission to propose a plan for better involving citizens in litter enforcement.*

**10. Litter.** Improve coordination of litter control efforts in the County.

*Council should direct the County CAO to conduct frequent coordination meetings with representatives from local government departments affected by litter and illegal dumping.*

**11. Bottle Bill.** Oconee County should encourage the passing of a "bottle bill" in South Carolina in order to reduce litter and encourage recycling.

*Council should direct the County CAO to draft a letter for Council to send to the Legislative Delegation supporting a bottle bill.*

**12. Thrift centers.** Oconee County should consider "thrift centers" at some of the MCCs. Thrift centers are covered areas provided to allow citizens to place usable items where they can be retrieved and used by others instead of disposing of them.

*Council should direct the Solid Waste Director to make recommendations regarding the feasibility and costs of thrift centers at some of the MCCs.*

**13. Disposal fee for tires.** Oconee County should encourage the State to charge a disposal fee for all tires purchased, even used tires, and to require all who sell tires to receive tires from their customers.

*Council should direct the County CAO to draft a letter for Council to send to its State Delegation in support of legislation requiring a disposal fee for all tires purchased, even used tires, and to require all who sell tires to receive tires from their customers.*

**14. Disposal Fee for C&D.** All users should pay disposal fees for C&D.

*Council should approve a policy directing the Solid Waste Department to begin charging all customers for C&D disposal beginning January 1, 2005.*

**15. Yard Waste Disposal.** All users should pay for yard waste disposal.

*Council should approve a policy directing the Solid Waste Department to begin charging all customers for yard waste disposal beginning January 1, 2005.*

**16. Mulch prices.** Adjust mulch price to fair market rates.

*The CAO should instruct the Solid Waste Director to evaluate mulch prices and propose pricing for mulch that is consistent with fair market value.*

**17. MCC sticker system.** Implement a sticker system at MCCs to prevent non-county residents and businesses from disposing of garbage at the centers.

*Council should direct the County CAO to develop and implement a sticker system to identify users at MCCs.*

**18. Tax bills.** Indicate the millage used for solid waste on the tax bills.

**19. Pay As You Throw (PAYT).** Further evaluate the suitability and implementation process for PAYT in Oconee County. (Solid Waste 13)

*Council should direct the CAO to begin evaluate the suitability and implementation of PAYT in Oconee County.*

## **5. Water Recommendations**

**1. Water Resource Protection.** Implement standards for septic system maintenance, buffers and setbacks. (See Part 3. Water: Chapter 7)

*Council should direct the County Planner to draft ordinances for septic system maintenance, buffers and setbacks along significant water bodies in Oconee County.*

2. **Fire flow capacity.** In order to provide better fire protection for the citizens of Oconee County and to reduce fire insurance rates, the Task Force recommends that the County support and encourage water system expansion that, where feasible, meets SCDHEC requirements for the installation of fire hydrants. (See Part 3. Water: Chapter 8)

*Council should direct its representatives on the SWAG to encourage water system expansion that meets SCDHEC requirements for the installation of fire hydrants, and to keep Council abreast of opportunities for progress in this arena.*

3. **Special Tax District.** In order to provide funding for water system improvements, a Special Tax District (SpTD) could be created. The SpTD would include all the unincorporated areas of the County. (See Part 3. Water: Chapter 3)

*Council should direct the CAO to draft a preliminary plan for funding infrastructure in Oconee County, including, but not limited to a Special Tax District, a local option sales tax, and fees in lieu of taxes. The plan should include costs, advantages, disadvantages, and implementation strategy for the plan.*

4. **Water Commission.** In order to protect the County's valuable water resources, the Oconee County Water Commission should be actualized according to the statute by which it was created. (See Part 3. Water: Chapter 3)

*Council should review the statute, select members and direct them to work to protect Oconee County water resources.*

5. **Working relationship with the Water Suppliers and Distributors.** The County should continue to build its relationship with the Municipalities and the County water suppliers so that the County can build on the present momentum. (See Part 3. Water: Chapter 3)

*Council has formed an Infrastructure Advisory Commission to meet and make recommendations regarding water and sewer issues.*<sup>6</sup>

6. **Better system of buying and selling water among suppliers and distributors.** This would include helping the water suppliers and distributors develop cooperative agreements so that they could more effectively buy and sell water to each other. This would alleviate the pressure that each has to make sure that it has WTP capacity for itself, and would be a better use of capital resources. This would be a long term "win-win" situation for all County citizens. (See Part 3. Water: Chapter 3)

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<sup>6</sup> Updated 1/06

*Council should direct its representatives on the SWAG group to work toward water agreements among the water suppliers.*

**7. Tri-City Loop.** In order for water suppliers to effectively transport water from one municipality to the other, a Tri-City water loop is proposed. Costs are presented below. (See Part 3. Water: Chapter 8)

**Table ES-1. Tri-City Loop Summary of Costs**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Length (miles)</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Seneca / Walhalla	7.4	\$3,539,000
Seneca / Westminster	8.0	\$3,808,000
Walhalla / Westminster	6.6	\$3,256,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>\$10,603,000</b>

*Council should:*

*1) direct the CAO to develop a strategy for prioritizing and funding this project*

*2) direct SWAG representatives to encourage the Municipalities to develop long-term contracts for the sale and purchase of water among the water suppliers in order to optimize the water treatment capacity in the County.*

**8. System improvements for I-85 development.** The Pioneer system needs upgrades to be able to support development along I-85. These improvements include:

- a new connection with Seneca at Hwy 11 and Hwy 123 with a pump station,
- a 16 inch pipe from this connection stretching south along Hwy 11 to Hwy 24 and over to Tokeena Crossroads,
- a 12 inch line from the existing Seneca connection on Hwy 59 to Tokeena Crossroads,
- an new elevated storage tank,
- a 16 inch line from Tokeena Crossroads to Fairplay and on to Exit 1 of I-85.

The cost of these improvements is \$7.7 million. (The Tri-City Loop is not required in order to supply water for I-85.) (See Part 3. Water: Chapter 8.)

*Council should continue to support and encourage the County CAO and the Economic Development Director to pursue funding to implement this project.*

**9. Needed System Improvements.** Each of the major suppliers/distributors submitted a list of projects needed for their systems to meet future demands. These lists included new water treatment plants (WTPs), new storage tanks, additional water mains, etc. The total for all these projects is approximately \$96 million and does not include the Tri-City loop or the I-85 upgrades. The lists are included in the Water Chapter of this document. (See Part 3. Water: Chapter 8.)

*Council should direct the County CAO to make recommendations as appropriate for County support and/or involvement in these projects.*

## **6. Sewer Recommendations from the Task Force**

**1. Oconee County should have ongoing meetings and discussions with the OCSC** for mutual benefit and advancement of sewer infrastructure in the County. (See Part 4. Sewer: Chapter 3.)

*Council has appointed an infrastructure committee that meets regularly to discuss infrastructure issues. The OCSC is a participating member of this committee. Also, the County and the OCSC keep each other abreast of relevant happenings.*<sup>7</sup>

**2. Oconee County should coordinate and encourage GIS mapping of facilities.** (See Part 4. Sewer: Chapter 6.)

*The County Supervisor/Administrator should direct those responsible for the Oconee County GIS efforts to coordinate with the others entities in the County in order to enhance the GIS effort and save time and money.*

**3. Oconee County should institute a countywide septic tank management program.** (See Part 4. Sewer: Chapter 8)

*Council should coordinate with the OCSC to begin the preliminary work to determine how to implement a Septic Tank Management program in Oconee County.*

**4. If necessary, Oconee County should create a Special Tax District to provide funding for infrastructure development. The SpTD would include all the unincorporated areas of the County.** (See Part 4. Sewer: Chapter 3)

*Council should direct the CAO to draft a preliminary plan for funding infrastructure in Oconee County, including, but not limited to a Special Tax District, a local option sales tax, and fees in lieu of taxes. The plan*

<sup>7</sup> Updated 1/06.

*should include costs, advantages, disadvantages, and implementation strategy for the plan..*

5. In order to avoid mandates by the SCDHEC Stormwater regulators, the County should take a proactive stance to address the water quality issues in the Golden Corner. If the County can address its stormwater issues before the State forces it to, then the County may be able to avoid or at least postpone its “capture” under the expensive stormwater regulations. (See Part 4. Sewer: Chapter 16)

*Council should direct the County CAO to develop a strategy for protecting the water resources in Oconee County. This will include but not be limited to*

- *Public education and outreach*
- *Public participation and involvement*
- *Illicit discharge detection and elimination*
- *Construction site runoff control*
- *Post-construction runoff control*
- *Pollution prevention and good housekeeping.*

6. As opportunity lends itself, Oconee County should support the Oconee County Sewer Commission (OCSC) in its endeavors to:

- encourage industries to pursue water conservation methods where economically feasible and when compliance with their discharge permit is not jeopardized.
- provide incentives for industries to minimize their flows and to return unused flow capacity to the plant.
- reduce and eliminate I/I.
- continue to maintain its facilities in good working order and to maintain compliance with its permit.
- construct treatment facilities to accept septage from Oconee County residents and entities.
- complete GIS mapping of OCSC sewer facilities.

(See Part 4. Sewer: Chapter 6)

*Council should:*

*1) direct the CAO, Director of Economic Development and County Engineer to meet with the OCSC to determine how the County can support these endeavors.*

*2) support these endeavors with funding wherever mutually beneficial.*

7. Oconee County should support and encourage efforts by the Municipalities to reduce and eliminate I/I. (See Part 4. Sewer: Chapter 6)

## Industries

8. Oconee County should encourage industries to pursue water conservation methods where economically feasible and when compliance with their discharge permit is not jeopardized. (See Part 4. Sewer: Chapter 6)

## Economic Development

9. Oconee County should continue to encourage diversified industrial and commercial growth in the County. (See Part 4. Sewer: Chapter 5)

*The CAO should direct the Director of Economic Development to continue pursuing diversified industrial and commercial growth in Oconee County.*

## Sewer expansions

These are the recommendations related to sewer system expansion in Oconee County.

### **Sewer Expansion to I-85 and Southern Oconee County (See Part 4. Sewer: Chapter 10)**

Phase 1 – includes the sewage lift stations, piping and a 500,000 GPD wastewater treatment plant to accept sewage from the existing SCDOT Welcome Center and from a proposed industrial park along Highway 59. Also included are the water mains to supply the area with the necessary water. The 500,000 GPD wastewater treatment plant is sized to handle the flow for Phases 1-5.

Phase 2 – includes the infrastructure to provide sewer service to the other exits along I-85 in this area. These include the Exit 2 (Hwy 59 in Oconee County), Exit 4 (Hwy 243 in Anderson and Oconee Counties), Exit 11 (Hwy 24 in Anderson County) and Exit 14 (Hwy 187 in Anderson County).

Phase 3 – includes the sewer infrastructure necessary to provide sewer service to much of the southern part of Oconee County.

Phase 4 – includes water and sewer infrastructure necessary to develop the Corps property next to the Welcome Center.

Phase 5 – includes sewer service to the southern end of Hwy 11 near I-85 in Southern Oconee County.

*The OCSC is presently in the process of performing the preliminary engineering for Phase I. The County is working to secure the funding for the project.*<sup>8</sup>

### **Airport Area Sewer**

Recommendation: Work to determine if institutional considerations would make Alternative 3 – Flow to WestPoint Stevens WWTP feasible. (This arrangement seems unlikely.) If not, then Alternative 1 – Pump to Martin Creek P.S. would be best. For planning purposes, Alternative 1 is considered. The Task Force also recommends further work with the OCSC to determine their timetable and implementation plans regarding a WWTP in the Martin Creek area.

Alternative 1: Pump to Martins Creek P.S. Install gravity sewer along Shiloh road running toward the WestPoint Stevens plant. A pump station would be installed to collect wastewater from near WestPoint Stevens and pump it back to a line flowing to Martin Creek P.S. A pump station at the airport would collect and pump flow from an industrial park to be located there into this same gravity line. (See Part 4. Sewer: Chapter 11)

### **Richland Creek Sewer**

Phase 1 sewer along Hwy 123.

Phase 2 - Gravity sewer for the rest of the area.

(See Part 4. Sewer: Chapter 12)

### **Sewer Service to Salem and Hwy 11**

This included the installation of a WWTP and collection system.

However, because the County wishes to encourage development in the southern portion of the County, this is not recommended at this time. (See Part 4. Sewer: Chapter 13)

### **Duke Power and Keowee Key**

Connect Duke Power onto the sewer system by pumping to Seneca. (See Part 4. Sewer: Chapter 14)

*Presently the OCSC is pursuing the preliminary engineering for Phase I of the I-85 project, Richland Creek Phases I and II, a septage receiving station, and upgrades to the Martin Creek basin pumping system. Duke Power is working with the City of Seneca, the County and the OCSC to work out agreements for sewer service to the Oconee Nuclear Station.*<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Updated 1/06.

<sup>9</sup> Updated 1/06.

## 7. Transportation Recommendations

The Task Force recommends:

### Roads and Transportation

Oconee County should take an aggressive approach with ACOG and SCDOT in regard to highway projects and funding, which would include at least annual discussions between the County and ACOG and SCDOT regarding future highway planning and project status. (See Part 5. Transportation: Chapter 4)

*Council should select two members of Council to begin on-going dialogs with the ACOG and the SCDOT to ensure that the County's needs and vision are well represented to these organizations in their planning, funding and construction efforts.*

1. Work with ACOG and SCDOT planners to begin the Clemson - Seneca Bypass and the I-785 Upstate Regional Connector. (See Part 5. Transportation: Chapter 4)
2. Work with ACOG and SCDOT to address the highway needs presented in Table ES-2. (See Part 5. Transportation: Chapter 4)

**Table ES-2. Problem areas and improvement needs**

Highway	Proposed Improvements
Highway 76-123 By-pass at Seneca	Limit access to the highway or build a limited access highway around this route (Wells Highway or a new highway).
Wells Highway (SC 488) – West side	Widen in a more limited access fashion, with lanes divided with a grass median and left turn lanes placed at periodic or strategic locations.
Wells Highway (SC 488) – East side	Widen and make limited access as soon as possible.
Sheep Farm Road	Widen
Highway 28 between Walhalla and Seneca	Limit access
Highway 11 between Salem, Walhalla, and Westminster to I-85	Install limit access by frontage roads, requiring acceleration, deceleration, or center turn lanes for major developments, install bridges for major road crossings and install periodic passing lanes.
Highway 24 between Westminster and Anderson	Install limit access by frontage roads, requiring acceleration, deceleration, or center turn lanes for major developments, install bridges for major road crossings and install periodic passing lanes.

Highway 59 between Seneca and I-85	Install limit access by frontage roads, requiring acceleration, deceleration, or center turn lanes for major developments, install bridges for major road crossings and install periodic passing lanes. Consideration should be given as to the impact of I-785 if and when it becomes a reality, and whether limited access is as much a priority.
Intersection at Radio Station Road and Hwy 123	This intersection is often congested and needs improvements.
Highways 130, 188, and 183 from Lake Keowee	Install limit access by frontage roads, requiring acceleration, deceleration, or center turn lanes for major developments, install bridges for major road crossings and install periodic passing lanes.
Intersection of 130 and Highway 123	Needs improvements

3. Support and encourage GIS mapping of roads and highways. (See Part 5. Transportation: Chapter 4)

4. Direct Oconee County Planning Commission to require limited access or center turn lanes, and deceleration/acceleration lanes to large developments. (See Part 5. Transportation: Chapter 4)

*Council should:*

1) *direct the County CAO to begin on-going dialogs with the ACOG and the SCDOT to ensure that the County's needs and vision are well represented to these organizations in their planning, funding and construction efforts, including the immediate highway needs and the I-785 Regional Connector.*

2) *direct the County CAO and the County Economic Development Office to continue working with the legislative delegation, as well as other Counties and decision makers, to pursue making I-785 a reality.*

*The County CAO should:*

1) *direct the Oconee County Planning Office to require limited access or center turn lanes, and deceleration/acceleration lanes to large developments in order to limit access on the highways mentioned above.*

2) *direct those responsible for the Oconee County GIS efforts to include the highway system in there GIS mapping, if this is not already being done.*

**Rail Transportation (See Part 5. Transportation: Chapter 5)**

*Council should direct the County CAO to work with State Legislative Delegation and SCDOT to encourage an Oconee County stop for the HSR service.*

**Air Transportation (See Part 5. Transportation: Chapter 6)**

*Council should implement the Airport CIP.*

**Public Transportation (See Part 5. Transportation: Chapter 7)**

1. The Task Force realizes the hardships on those without an independent mode of transportation, and also Council's responsibility to be good stewards of the tax monies with which they are entrusted. The Task Force believes that there is insufficient justification for moving forward with expanded public transportation services in the unincorporated areas of Oconee County at this time. The Task Force therefore recommends that additional work be done if Council is interested in pursuing these services. This work could include:

- Additional citizen, taxpayer and user input to better assess the usage, benefits of and willing to pay for additional public transportation services in Oconee County, possibly including a referendum.
- Carefully evaluate the successes and/or problems experienced by other rural counties with public transportation programs. (Because of the differences in needs and users, using CAT for this comparison would seem to have limitations.)
- Utilize and take advantage of funding and support available through numerous state and federal programs that want to help with public transportation.

2. Encourage and support the use of public transportation in Oconee County.

3. Encourage and support the City of Seneca and CAT to expand CAT to the Oconee County area, reviewing successes and failures as a pilot study. It will be better to expand an existing system than to create a new one.

*Council should direct the County CAO to stay abreast of the development of public transportation in Oconee County, to support the endeavors of the City of Seneca and CAT in the County and to make periodic recommendations as appropriate for the benefit of the County.*

**Table ES-3. Summary of Major Recommendations**

Number	Recommendations	Recommended Council or CAO Action
1	<b>Systematic presentation to Council.</b> Because of the amount of material and number of recommendations in the Master Plan, Council should consider the recommendations in a prioritized and systematic manner for discussion, approval, implementation or, if necessary, modification.	Council should direct the Task Force to present the recommendations in a prioritized and systematic manner for discussion, approval or, if necessary, modification.
2	<b>Annual update.</b> There should be an annual update to the Master Plan to ensure that it is current and reflect the latest information and thinking of the Council and the Task Force.	Council should update the Master Plan each year in time for budgetary planning for the following year by utilizing and directing staff.
3	<b>The Solid Waste Department as an enterprise fund.</b> In keeping with its designation as an enterprise fund, the Solid Waste Department must move toward operation and funding as such. This would include a shift toward users paying for services.	Council should review and make the necessary changes to remove the OCSWD as a tax liability. Necessary actions should be completed by November each year.
4	<b>Shift in Public Understanding of Solid Waste Services.</b> Because of the rising costs and liabilities associated with solid waste disposal, the County must shift public perception of the County offering “free” disposal to an understanding that “users pay for services”.	The County CAO should direct the OCSWD to develop and recommend a strategy for developing a “users pay for services” understanding in the County.
5	<b>Water Resource Protection.</b> Implement standards for septic system maintenance, buffers and setbacks.	Council should direct the Planning Department to draft ordinances for septic system maintenance, buffers and setbacks along significant water bodies in Oconee County.
6	<b>Ongoing communication with OCSC.</b> Oconee County should have ongoing meetings and discussions with the OCSC for mutual benefit and advancement of sewer infrastructure in the County.	Council should appoint a team of representatives for ongoing meetings with the OCSC. These representatives should include the Director of Economic Development, a County engineering representative and the County CAO. These meetings are included in the Memorandum of Understanding between Oconee County and the OCSC.
7	<b>Sewer Expansion to I-85 and Southern Oconee County</b>	Council should continue pursuing this project to make this a reality.
8	<b>Aggressive involvement in highway planning.</b> Oconee County take an aggressive approach with ACOG and SCDOT in regard to highway projects and funding, which would include at least annual discussions between the County and ACOG and SCDOT regarding future highway planning and project status.	Council should select two members of Council to begin on-going dialogs with the ACOG and the SCDOT to ensure that the County’s needs and vision are well represented to these organizations in their planning, funding and construction efforts. <u>Council should consider having a representative on the County Transportation Committee.</u> <sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Updated 1/06.