



## **Upstate Regional Summit - Tentative Agenda**

- 8:15 – Registration, Hospitality Area & Expo open/underway  
9:00 – Opening Welcome, Carol Burdette
- 9:02 – Pledge of Allegiance, Rick Jenkins, GSA Business
- 9:05 – Opening Video
- 9:10 – Brief Reflection, Burdette, Irv Welling, Neal Workman (discuss history of TATT, introduce Amy Wood)
- 9:20 – Value of Regionalism (Amy Wood moderates discussion with elected officials and business leaders)
- 9:35 – Where Have We Been, Where Are We Now, Where Are We Going?, Dean Hybl
- 9:50 – Breakout Session Charge, Sue Schneider
- 10:00-10:50 – Breakout Sessions – Part 1 (What’s Next Upstate? Idea generation, Front Burner Table Top Discussions)
- 10:50-11:40 – Breakout Sessions – Part 2 (Panel Discussions)
- 11:40-12:00 – Break, Head to Lunch
- 12:00 – Amy Wood and Carol Burdette welcome for lunch
- 12:02 – Invocation
- 12:12 – Breakout Session “Takeaway”, Ryan Johnston, Upstate Business Journal
- 12:15 – Reflections from the morning (Amy Wood moderates with Carol Burdette, Neal Workman and Irv Welling on stage and 4 TATT Board Members with Microphones in audience getting feedback)
- 12:30 – Speaker Introduction, Fred Cartwright, Clemson University CU-ICAR
- 12:35 – Keynote Address, Glenda Hood
- 1:00 – Amy Wood moderates discussion and questions with Glenda Hood
- 1:20 – Closing, Hank McCullough

## Upstate Regional Summit Breakout Sessions

### Tentative topics for Table Topics and Panel Discussions

Schedule:

10:00-10:50 – Idea Generation and Front Burner Table Topics

During this time five breakout rooms, each focused on a different driver area of the Our Upstate Vision, will be setup each with areas where attendees can share ideas for “What’s Next Upstate?” both by posting ideas on sticky notes and through posting them online through an available tablet or their own mobile device. Concurrently, in each room task force members will also be hosting informal “Front Burner Table Topic” discussions where attendees can engage with others interested attendees and task force members in a discussion about key issues facing the Upstate. Attendees are encouraged to flow from room to room to provide ideas and participate in conversations in any area that is of personal or professional interest.

10:50-11:40 – Driver Topic Subject Expert Panel Discussions

For the second half of the breakout time, each breakout room will feature a facilitated panel discussion on an overarching regional issue associated with that specific driver area. The discussion will include subject experts from across the region, but will be designed to include interaction between the panelists and attendees. Attendees will be assigned to a panel discussion area based on preferences provided prior to the event.

#### **Community Vibrancy**

Front Burner Table Topic Discussions:

What are ways to grow vibrancy in communities and neighborhoods with little or no budget?

How do we maximize tourism assets in the Upstate?

How do we take full advantage of the Upstate’s rich history and cultural diversity?

Panel Discussion:

What is the Value of Cultivating Community Vibrancy?

- Why should a local community invest in creating community vibrancy and a sense of place?
- How should we balance community vibrancy against other community needs that may appear more urgent?
- How can different sectors – government, nonprofit, private, community groups – contribute to community vibrancy?

Moderator: Abe Goldberg, USC Upstate; Confirmed Panelists: Knox White, Mayor, City of Greenville; Suzette Cross, Executive Director, Blue Ridge Arts Council;

## **Economic & Entrepreneurial Vitality**

Front Burner Table Discussions:

How do we build communication and partnerships amongst workforce stakeholders?

What specific needs must be addressed to ensure that the Upstate is positioned to support emerging industry and business opportunities?

How can our cities and counties help grow local entrepreneurs and improve the local workforce?

Panel Discussion:

Do Entrepreneurs and Small Businesses in the Upstate have the Tools Needed to Be Successful?

- What has been done to create an entrepreneurial spirit and how do we continue to grow the resources and opportunities?
- How easy is it for entrepreneurs and start-ups to access capital resources in our region? How can we improve access to capital?
- What kind of balance needs to be struck between the incentivizing and development of local, homegrown companies vs. outside investment?

Moderator: Jim Price, Nexsen Pruet; Confirmed Panelists: John Warner, President, Innoventure; A.J. Kramer, Commercial Relationship Manager, TD Bank; Erin Ouzts, USC Upstate; Gustavo Nieves, South Carolina Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

## **Human Potential**

Front Burner Table Discussions:

What does a “Knowledge Based Culture” look like and how do we create one in the Upstate?

How can we make the Upstate a great place to live for individuals with special needs and disabilities?

What regional opportunities might exist to address issues such as homelessness, hunger and poverty?

Panel Discussion:

Dealing with the “Barbell Effect”: How Do We Address the Current and Future Needs of Our Two Most Vulnerable (and Diverse) Population Groups?

- What do we need to be doing to prepare for the continued growth of our senior population in the Upstate? What programs might be important at a regional level?
- How can our region support our best and brightest high school students with the quickly rising costs of higher education?
- How do we cultivate a culture that values lifelong learning?

Moderators: Paul Corbeil, Oconee County Council & Karen Burgess, Brown Mackie College; Confirmed Panelists: Stan Means, Elder Source Senior Ministries; Peggy Baxter, Community Advocate; Zach Eikenberry, Next High School; Burke Royster, Superintendent, Greenville County Schools

## **Sustainable Growth**

Front Burner Table Discussions:

How are local comprehensive plans used? Can they be an accurate roadmap for future growth?

How can promoting sustainable growth practices provide financial benefits?

What diversity of housing options exists in the Upstate? Is it enough to meet current and future needs?

Panel Discussion:

What Components of Sustainable Growth are Achievable in the Upstate?

- Is there a consistent definition for Sustainable Growth? What are you trying to sustain and how do you determine a level of importance?
- What types of transit opportunities are viable in the Upstate? How viable are bikeways in the region? Where are walkable communities feasible in the Upstate beyond a few downtowns? What are the opportunities for regional solutions?
- How can the Upstate support land use patterns that more efficiently use existing land?
- How could a strong regional food system benefit our region?

Moderator: Barry Nocks, Clemson University; Confirmed Panelists: Stephanie Monroe, City of Woodruff; Scott Park, Greenville County Planning; Fred Cartwright, Clemson University CU-ICAR

## **Natural Beauty & Resources**

Front Burner Table Discussions:

Is the Upstate really in danger of being out of EPA air quality attainment? If so, what could be the economic ramifications and what can we do about it?

How can we replicate the success of the Swamp Rabbit Trail in other parts of the Upstate? Is there long-term potential for a regional trail network?

What more do we need to be doing to preserve our special natural places in the Upstate?

Panel Discussion:

How Do We Manage Protecting Natural Resources with Creating Economic Prosperity?

- Does the Upstate do a good job of balancing the protection of our natural resources against the demands of our growing economy?
- How can we address the disconnect between promoting conservation of natural resources and the current system of paying for providing resources to consumers based on consumption?
- Recent studies predict that if current growth patterns remain unchanged, huge areas of the Upstate will be developed, resulting in significant losses in the region's forests, farmlands and other natural resources. How can we continue to grow and avoid these losses?
- Is there a specific environmental need or issue the Upstate needs to be paying attention to in the next decade that could have long-term ramifications?

Moderator: Dyke Spencer, Powdersville Water; Confirmed Panelists: Kevin Laird, Goodwyn Mills & Cawood; Ed Bruce, Duke Energy; Phil Hughes, Hughes Investments; Brad Wyche, Upstate Forever