CENTRAL PINES
REGIONAL COUNCIL

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

January 2026

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

# Table of Contents


03 Message from Lee

05 Major Metro Regional Council Highlight

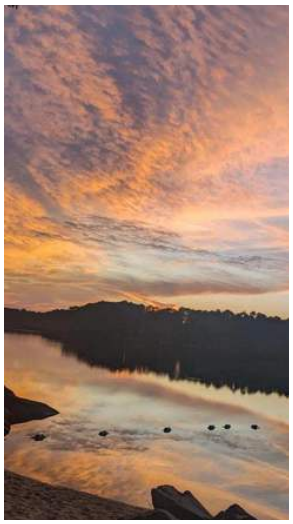
06 Member Request Dashboard

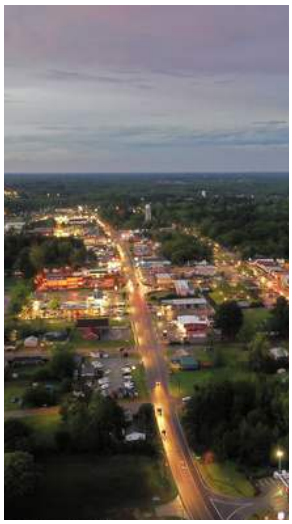
07 NARC Updates

10 CPRC with Lee Tour

11 Financial Report

12 Upcoming Events





# Message from Lee

## Lee Worsley

CPRC Executive Director

I am pleased to present my Executive Director's report for January 2026. The purpose of the Executive Director's Report is to highlight CPRC activities and offer insights into how other regional councils in similar-sized regions across the United States operate. I ask that you share this report with your colleagues in your respective Boards for your jurisdiction. I will also send this to the region's local government managers and assistants.

### I was inspired...

I am not sure if you felt the way I did after the holidays. A little sluggish and perhaps not as excited to get up and to the office as on most days of the week. I had taken a good bit of time off for the holidays this year, and my first day back in the office was Monday, January 5. Our CPRC staff meetings are also on the first Monday of the month, so my first meeting of the day was our staff meeting.

Something really cool happened by the end of the staff meeting, and it was just what I needed to get excited about the work we do. I was reminded of the important and great work our staff does. How dedicated they are to public service, and how the work that they do really impacts the lives of lots of people across the region positively. Here is a peek at what I heard during that 1 ½-hour span.

- The work we do to support 18 veterans in the region through our Veterans Direct program. We heard from Jenisha and Mary about the program and learned how they've personally observed veterans' health improve through the consistent care they're receiving at home. Without the program, it's likely that many of these veterans would be confined to some sort of long-term care facility.
- We recognized Area Agency on Aging Assistant Director Ashley Price for receiving her master's in health administration. Ashley started at CPRC as a Program Associate and did not have a bachelor's degree. Now, 10 years later, after several promotions and working hard to get her bachelor's and master's degrees, she is now the Assistant Director of one of our largest programs in the organization. What an awesome story!

- Triangle West TPO Executive Director Doug Plachcinski and CPRC CFO Hope Tally recognized Triangle West staff member KC Chae for his efforts in learning and refining TWTPO's finance processes. He has great attention to detail and offered creative solutions.
- We also recognized the Central Pines Area Agency on Aging team, who came together to spread holiday cheer to an older adult family in our region. Led by Jasmine Wilson, a member of the AAA Team, team members shared their holiday spirit of giving to support a grandfather, a grandmother, and their 10-year-old grandson, identified through Meals on Wheels of Wake County. In addition to fulfilling a wish list of basic needs, Jasmine helped coordinate essential services, including home repairs to address cold conditions and fall-prevention equipment to improve safety. Team members were also able to deliver the gifts to the family personally.
- The Town of Cary gave a shout-out to our Housing Program Manager, Hunter Fillers, and Planner Thomas McAllister. CPRC works with the Town of Cary on its $750,000-per-year CDBG program. Mary Lederle from the Town of Cary wrote the following: "Hunter, Thomas, and I completed our first group of in-person Cary subrecipient monitoring, and I wanted to let you know that I appreciated all the work that Hunter and Thomas put into the preparation and execution of these four monitoring visits. Their time and expertise were valuable when reviewing subrecipient documents in advance and preparing technical assistance guides for grantees. Hunter and Thomas did a great job leading the monitoring discussion and documentation review. I could tell they spent considerable time preparing outside of our weekly check-ins, which paid off in the form of efficient, effective, and personable discussions with our grantees."
- Finally, Area Agency on Aging Director Jenisha Henneghan recognized Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman Charlene Purkett for exemplifying CPRC's core value of Excellent Customer Service. Jenisha said, "A resident at a long-term care facility in Orange County recently took the time to write a letter commending Charlene for her support during a very stressful situation. The resident shared how Charlene took the time to truly listen, treated her with dignity, and thoughtfully mediated on her behalf. Most importantly, she expressed that she could trust Charlene, that Charlene saw her as a person and an adult, and stated, "I would readily trust her again." Thank you, Charlene, for stepping into your role as an Ombudsman with excellence and for demonstrating outstanding customer service."

In just 1 ½ hours, I went from the post-holiday blahs to feeling energized, inspired, and so proud of the outstanding work, value, and impact that staff from CPRC delivers. This only scratches the surface of what is delivered across our region, and I just wanted to share how I felt after the staff meeting and thought that conveying this to our Board members and others was important.

Happy New Year!!

# Major Metro Regional Council Highlight

Learning from our peer regional councils across the country is a great way for member governments to see other regional initiatives underway and worth attention. The Greater Nashville Regional Council (GNRC) does significant work in the area of regional solid waste planning.

## Greater Nashville Regional Council

GNRC's solid waste planning department is supported by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and works to coordinate, conduct and maintain assessments of solid waste needs in the region. Assessments are completed every 5 years and help municipalities to project and plan for regional projects. The department also coordinates stakeholders to build multi-jurisdictional capacity in solid waste management.  You can learn more about their work HERE.

# Local Government Member Request Dashboard

Our Member Services Team maintains a real-time Member Request dashboard that helps to track incoming requests from our local governments, rate of utilization by members, and emerging areas of need.

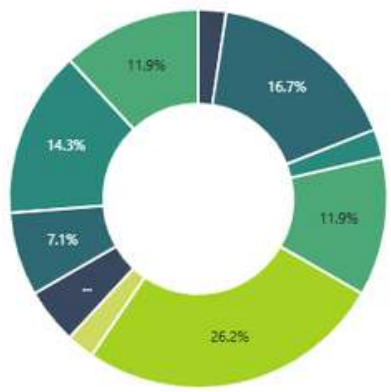
## Member Requests

25-26 Requests
42

24-25 Requests
60

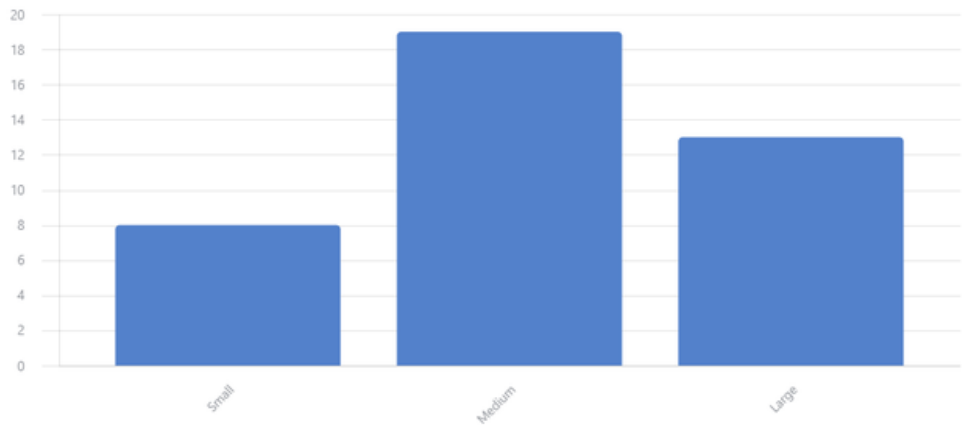
25-26 Space Reservations
75

Request by Category




Category
- Strategic Planning
- Infrastructure Planning
- Grant Administration
- Community Planning & Zoni...
- Retreat and Meeting Facilita...
- Human Resources Services
- Finance Services
- Other
- Housing Services
- Data or Information Seeking

Requests by Size



# NARC Updates

The National Association of Regional Councils publishes a Transportation Thursdays and an eRegions Update each week. Here is a selection of items from those newsletters that may be of interest.

NARC
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

## How Governments are Balancing Data Center Tradeoffs

As data center development grows across the country, Route Fifty highlights strategies government leaders are using to balance economic benefits with environmental and community impacts. The article outlines how local officials and cities are addressing concerns of data center's energy use through policy tools, such as ensuring data centers pay the operational costs placed on public usage, while others are leveraging tax incentives to support workforce development. For example, Janesville, Wisconsin is partnering with technical colleges to create data center workforce training programs, and the Nevada Public Utility Commission approved a clean transition tariff to support data centers and clean energy development.

Read More →

## Details from CPRC on Data Center Convenings & Resources

Central Pines Regional Council is committed to helping communities understand growth pressures, infrastructure demands, and economic opportunities. As interest in data centers continues to increase across North Carolina and our region, this new resource aims to define what a data center is and provide a concise overview of key considerations and strategies for local governments as they navigate development requests.

CPRC Data Center Development Resources →

## How Local Governments Can Learn from Microtransit Programs

The Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC), a Washington state-based think tank released a report outlining how local governments and transit agencies can learn from jurisdictions using microtransit. Unlike fixed-route systems, microtransit is an on-demand, flexible service that fills transportation gaps by connecting riders to major transit hubs and reaching previously inaccessible areas. Successful programs in Washington offer key takeaways including engaging communities early, choosing vendors carefully, and planning for long-term budget sustainability. By assessing these programs and identifying potential barriers, local transit agencies and governments can learn how microtransit fits within their existing networks while enhancing mobility and accessibility.

Central Pines hosted an Evergreen Exchange meeting on Microtransit in 2025. During this roundtable, facilitated by Nick Sliwinski, Wake Forest, many ideas were shared and this discussion inspired Holly Springs Council Member Chris Deshazor. Holly Springs, along with Lee County, has recently incorporated microtransit as an option in their communities. Council Member Deshazor shared the following: "While many communities were still gathering information, Wake Forest had already implemented this service. One of their key challenges was offering it for free initially without considering long-term growth. I was able to bring some of their lessons back to our staff, who then reached out to Wake Forest staff for additional insights. That input helped our team present a strong proposal to Council for approval."

Holly Springs Buckle Ceremony

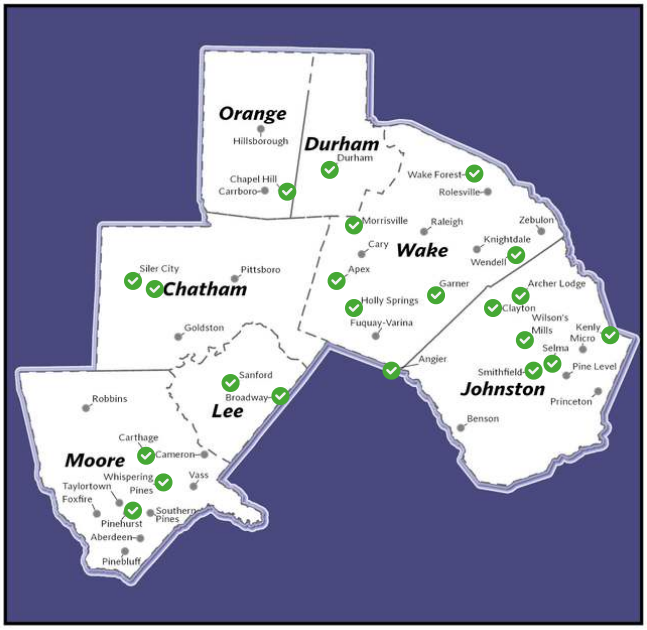
# Additional NARC Articles of Interest

Click the individual links to read more.

- Urban Institute Releases New Report on Transit-Oriented Development
- USDOT Launches Advanced Air Mobility Initiative
- Cities Shift Focus to Bus Rapid Transit Projects
- EPA Unveils New Cyber Resources to Protect Water Systems
- Vancouver's TransLink Offers a Model for America's Transit Systems
- EPA Proposes Regulations for Perchlorate
- Homelessness & Housing Program Trends by State
- DC Region Task Force Adopts Recommendations, Advances Proposed $460M Transit Plan
- Legislators in Michigan Introduce a Bill to Address Data Center Water & Energy Usage

# CPRC with Lee Tour

As many of you know, I have a goal to visit all fifty local governments this year. I am beginning my tour by scheduling visits with local governments with a manager or administrator, and then will be turning to our Mayor-Council local governments next. You can follow along with the hashtag #CPRCwithLee.



Up to this point, I have visited:

| | |
|---|---|
| Morrisville | Archer Lodge |
| Selma | Apex |
| Pinehurst | Wake Forest |
| Holly Springs | Garner |
| Kenly | Chatham County |
| Chapel Hill | Wilson's Mills |
| Sanford | Wendell |
| Broadway | Clayton |
| Carthage | Angier |
| City of Durham | Smithfield |
| Siler City | Whispering Pines |

I also have upcoming visits scheduled with Hillsborough, Wake County, Cary, Johnston County, Raleigh, and Fuquay-Varina.

# Financial Report

Below you will find the Board Financial Report for the month of December.

| Month Ending: | December 2025 | |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| **Central Pines Regional Council** | | |
| Revised Budget | Revenue Collected | Expense Disbursed |
| 32,046,591 | 11,302,256.92 | 9,339,377.02 |
| | | |
| Member Dues Budgeted | Member Dues Collected | % Collected |
| 928,000 | 655,881.36 | 71% |
| | | |
| Q1 Top Funding Agencies | | |
| 1. NC Dept of Aging & Adult Services | | |
| 2. City of Raleigh | | |
| 3. NC Housing Finance Agency | | |
| 4. NC Department of Transportation | | |
| 5. Town of Cary | | |
| 6. City of Durham | | |
| 7. Wake County | | |
| 8. NC Department of Information Technology | | |
| 9. Durham VA Medical Center | | |
| 10. Town of Apex | | |

| **Triangle West TPO** | | |
|---|---|---|
| Revised Budget | Revenue Collected | Expense Disbursed |
| 5,803,366 | 929,869.26 | 2,115,482.75 |
| | | |
| Member Dues Budgeted | Member Dues Collected | % Collected |
| 905,937 | 740,234.00 | 82% |
| | | |
| Q1 Top Funding Agencies | | |
| 1. City of Durham | | |
| 2. NC Department of Transportation | | |
| 3. Durham County | | |
| 4. Orange County | | |
| 5. GoTriangle | | |

# Upcoming Events

Be sure to mark your calendars for these upcoming events!

Legislative Visits
February 1-3
Washington, D.C.

Executive Director Lee Worsley and Local Government Service Director Alana Keegan will be in Washington, D.C. for legislative visits.

Regional Day
Fri., Feb. 20
9:30 am - 1:30 pm
@CPRC Office

**Register**

This half-day program is tailored for county and municipal elected officials—especially newly elected leaders—as well as managers and assistant managers. Participants will gain practical insights into regional collaboration, explore tools and services available through CPRC, and hear from experts on issues shaping our communities. Regional Day also provides valuable opportunities for peer networking, learning, and orientation to the resources that support effective local governance. Whether you're new to public office or continuing your service, Regional Day equips you with the context and connections to lead confidently.