

LAC letter-june

CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Legislative Audit Council

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June 2, 2014

Honorable Thomas C. Alexander
Legislative Council
Senate
Legislative Building
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Mr. Alexander:

Charles L. A. Terreni

As you requested, we have reviewed the information you provided concerning the Heritage Corridor as well as the report of our review of the program issued in February 2011.

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In the report, we recommended that the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism and the Office of the Governor examine alternatives to the program's current management and advisory structure. One of those alternatives was to place all operations under the S.C. National Heritage Corridor Board. The board would have complete autonomy, receive and match the federal funds, be responsible for the employees, and the state would have no administrative, staffing, or oversight responsibilities. If there are no state funds involved with the program, this would be an appropriate structure. It is our understanding that the SCNHC does not receive state funding other than grant funds which are awarded through a competitive process. If the state were to provide funds for the program, it should retain an oversight function over the expenditure of these funds.

In the report, we also recommended that the S.C. National Heritage Board develop outcome measures to gauge the effectiveness of the program. The review prepared for the U.S. National Park Service pointed out that "one of the areas of SCNHC coordinating entity's management capacity that could be strengthened is its collection and use of monitoring data and records of usage." The review was limited in its ability to "provide definitive evidence of the SCNHC coordinating entity's achievement of outcomes, especially attributions to the NPS funding and NHA designation." We would continue to recommend that the board develop outcomes measures and collect the data to measure the effectiveness of the program.

Thank you for allowing us to comment on these reports. Please contact me if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Perry K. Simpson
Director

Perry K. Simpson
Director
/mrw

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