

PROFILE

Norman Whitaker, AICP

Norman Whitaker is Executive Director of the Central Midlands Council of Governments in Columbia, South Carolina. The Council of Governments serves a population of 700,000 in Richland, Lexington, Newberry and Fairfield counties. The agency provides a variety of local and regional planning services and technical assistance to local governments within the four-county region, including transportation planning; aging services and programs; economic and community development; housing; environmental planning; GIS; governmental services; land use planning; research and statistics; and internet services.

Prior to joining CMCOG in 2003, he was Executive Director of the Knoxville, Knox County (TN) Metropolitan Planning Commission, Planning Director for Portsmouth, Virginia, and Planning and Economic Development Director for Beaumont, Texas.

He has 33 years of professional experience involving land use planning, transportation, parks and open space, growth management, downtown revitalization, coastal zone management, historic preservation, economic development, and capital projects management.

He has been a speaker at national, state and regional conferences and seminars, and has taught planning courses for the University Of Tennessee Graduate School of Planning and the UT Center for Government Training. His work was included in the book *Planners on Planning: America's Leading Planners Offer Real Life Lessons*.

He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and has a Master of Science degree in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Texas at Austin. He lives in Lexington, South Carolina with his family. His wife Melanie and he have three children: Nathan, David and Hannah.