

Cover:

This year's front cover depicts the latest project in South Carolina's design-build portfolio, the new Cooper River Bridge. The 2.5 mile long span features a full eight-lane project which includes a 12 foot wide bike path and vertical clearance to accommodate the new 1,000 foot wide shipping channel into Charleston. Completion date for the bridge is scheduled a year earlier than the original 2006 date. The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) will provide construction oversight and maintenance for the project. Promoting community and continual economic development, County Council agreed in fiscal year 2001 to support the Cooper River Bridges replacement project with an annual contribution of \$3 million for 25 years, beginning in fiscal year 2004. The project will enhance national and international shipping accessibility to the Port of Charleston.

Photograph courtesy of SCDOT.

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Distinguished Budget Presentation Award



The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) presented a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to Charleston County, South Carolina for its annual budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2002. In order to receive this award, a governmental unit must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, as an operations guide, as a financial plan, and as a communications device.

This award is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our current budget continues to conform to program requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA to determine its eligibility for another award.