

**CONNECTOR 2000 ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**June 30, 2004**

**CUSIP Prefix 20786L**

*Submitted in compliance with the provisions of the Continuing Disclosure Agreement dated February 11, 1998 (the "Disclosure Agreement") between Connector 2000 Association, Inc., a South Carolina non-profit public benefit corporation (the "Association") and Wachovia Bank, N. A., successor to First Union National Bank (the "Trustee"), in its capacity as dissemination agent relating to the \$200,177,680 Connector 2000 Association, Inc. Toll Road Revenue Bonds (Southern Connector Project, Greenville, South Carolina), Series 1998A, Series 1998B and Series 1998C (the "Bonds").*

## INTRODUCTION

This is the sixth report of annual financial information delivered pursuant to that certain Continuing Disclosure Agreement dated February 11, 1998 (the "Disclosure Agreement") between Connector 2000 Association, Inc., a South Carolina non-profit public benefit corporation (the "Association") and Wachovia Bank, N. A., as successor to First Union National Bank (the "Trustee"), in its capacity as dissemination agent relating to the \$200,177,680 Connector 2000 Association, Inc. Toll Road Revenue Bonds (Southern Connector Project, Greenville, South Carolina), Series 1998A, Series 1998B and Series 1998C (the "Bonds"). Capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein have the meaning set forth in the Disclosure Agreement, if defined therein.

The Bonds were sold by the Association on January 27, 1998 to Lehman Brothers, Inc. and Mesriow Financial, Inc., as managing underwriters (the "Underwriters") pursuant to a Bond Purchase Agreement executed on that date between the Association and the Underwriters. A final Official Statement dated February 3, 1998 (the "Official Statement") was prepared in connection with the sale of the Bonds. The closing of the sale of the Bonds took place February 11, 1998 (the "Closing Date").

For a narrative description of the Association, the Projects and the Construction of the Projects, see the annual reports previously filed by the Association pursuant to the Disclosure Agreement. As of December 31, 2003, the construction of the Projects was complete.

## OPERATION OF THE SOUTHERN CONNECTOR PROJECT

The sole corporate purpose of the Association is the design, financing, acquisition, construction and operation of the Southern Connector. The Southern Connector is an approximately 16-mile four-lane tollway facility constructed to interstate standards on new location. The Southern Connector extends from existing I-85 at its interchange with I-185, in Greenville County, South Carolina, proceeds southeast and interchanges with the new S.C. 153 Extension, continues east and interchanges with S.C. 20, with U.S. 25 south of Donaldson Center Industrial Park and with Fork Shoals Road before turning northeast and interchanging with I-385 at its intersection with U.S. 276 and Standing Springs Road east of the City of Greenville, South Carolina, between the cities of Mauldin, South Carolina and Simpsonville, South Carolina. The Bonds were issued to finance substantially all of the costs of the Southern Connector. Please refer to earlier annual reports for discussion of the Traffic and Revenue Study prepared in connection with the sale of the Bonds, the construction of the Projects and the initial operations of the Southern Connector.

At December 31, 2003, the Southern Connector had been open and collecting tolls approximately thirty three and one-half months. As required by Section 4 of the Disclosure Agreement, the Annual Report of the Association must present selected data relating to the operation of the Southern Connector Project and penetration of electronic toll collections ("ETC") for the preceding five years. The data from the commencement of operation of the Southern Connector Project is set forth in the following table:

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
<b>ETC Transactions</b>	300,900	579,294	866,640
<b>% of Total Transactions</b>	11%	15%	19%
<b>ETC Revenue</b>	\$200,706	\$371,124	\$489,942
<b>% of Total Revenue</b>	10%	13%	15%
<b>Total Transactions</b>	2,658,741	3,966,717	4,566,095
<b>Total Revenue</b>	\$2,004,896	\$2,953,883	\$3,333,252

The toll rates for the Southern Connector Project were set by the SCDOT pursuant to Section 57-5-1340 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended and under Section 6.4 of the License Agreement for the entire 50-year term of the License Agreement. From time to time, the Association will offer discounts or incentives for the use of ETC transponders on the Southern Connector Project. The following table sets forth the toll rates and incentives currently charged by the Association for the use of the Southern Connector.

<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>East Plaza</b>	<b>West Plaza</b>	<b>SC 20 (on/off ramps)</b>	<b>Fork Shoals Rd. (on/off ramps)</b>
2 axles	\$0.75	\$0.75	\$0.50	\$0.50
2 axle discount rate	\$0.60	\$0.60	N/A	N/A
3 axles	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$0.50	\$0.50
3 axle discount rate	\$1.20	\$1.20	N/A	N/A
4 axles	\$2.00	\$1.20	\$0.50	\$0.50
4 axle discount rate	\$1.60	\$1.60	N/A	N/A
5 axles	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$0.50	\$0.50
5 axle discount rate	\$2.00	\$2.00	N/A	N/A
6 + axles	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$0.50	\$0.50
6 + axle discount rate	\$2.40	\$2.40	N/A	N/A

One mainline toll plaza is located at the east end and one at the west end of the Southern Connector. The toll for all 2-axle vehicles at the mainline plazas is \$.75. At both mainline plazas a higher toll is required for vehicles having more than 2 axles. Unattended ramps are located at Fork Shoals Road and SC Route 20. A flat rate of \$.50 per vehicle, regardless of the number of axles, is charged at these ramps.

Motorists have the option of establishing an ETC prepaid toll account (Pal Pass), which allows them to travel through dedicated lanes without stopping and have their tolls automatically deducted from their prepaid toll account. Motorists with a Pal Pass account receive a 20% discount on all mainline toll plaza transactions. This 20% discount applies to all vehicles, regardless of the number of axles. No discount is applied to transactions at the unattended ramps.

Effective January 1, 2005, the toll rates will be adjusted absent contrary action by SCDOT as follows:

<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>East Plaza</b>	<b>West Plaza</b>	<b>SC 20 (on/off ramps)</b>	<b>Fork Shoals Rd. (on/off ramps)</b>
2 axles	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$0.50	\$0.50
3 axles	\$1.95	\$1.95	\$0.50	\$0.50
4 axles	\$2.60	\$2.60	\$0.50	\$0.50
5 axles	\$3.25	\$3.25	\$0.50	\$0.50
6 + axles	\$3.90	\$3.90	\$0.50	\$0.50

The Association has not determined whether and to what extent it will offer a discount or incentive for the use of the PalPass ETC transponders after the toll rates increase on January 1, 2005.

## **AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The financial statements of the Association for the period ended December 31, 2003 have been audited by Green Finney Horton, LLP, Certified Public Accountants. A copy of the general purpose financial statements of the Association for the period ended December 31, 2003, is attached to this Annual Report as **Appendix A**.

## **OTHER FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

The Association did not receive any federal or State highway expansion money during the fiscal period ending December 31, 2003. The Association did not issue or remarket any bonded indebtedness during the fiscal period ending December 31, 2003.

The Association has established a web site with the address: "www.southernconnector.com". Additional information is posted from time to time on the Association's web site. The Association regularly prepares and updates daily toll transactions and revenues on the web page. Recent press releases of the Association are also available on the web page.

## **CONCLUDING STATEMENT**

This Annual Report has been filed on behalf of the Association with each Nationally Recognized Municipal Securities Information Repository ("NRMSIR"). To the knowledge of the Association, the State of South Carolina has not created a State Information Depository. The Association has received no notice under the Disclosure Agreement and is not aware that any event of default has occurred thereunder.

The foregoing summary of the Bonds, the construction of the Southern Connector and the Operation of the Southern Connector Project is qualified by reference to the complete descriptions provided in the Official Statement. No statements contained in this report are intended to supercede or contradict any representations made in the Official Statement and in the event of any inconsistencies between the foregoing descriptions and the material contained in the Official Statement, the material contained in the Official Statement is intended to be controlling.

**APPENDIX A**

**AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**CONNECTOR 2000 ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002**



**CONNECTOR 2000 ASSOCIATION, INC., GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA**  
*(A Component Unit of the State of South Carolina)*

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

The Board of Directors  
Connector 2000 Association, Inc.  
Greenville, South Carolina

We have audited the accompanying basic financial statements of Connector 2000 Association, Inc., a component unit of the State of South Carolina and of the South Carolina Department of Transportation, as of and for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, as listed in the table of contents. These basic financial statements are the responsibility of Connector 2000 Association, Inc. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these basic financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the basic financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the basic financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the basic financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Connector 2000 Association, Inc. as of December 31, 2003 and 2002, and its changes in financial position and its cash flows for the years then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The Management's Discussion and Analysis on pages 2 through 12 is not a required part of the basic financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.



Greene, Finney & Horton, LLP  
March 15, 2004



## **MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

This section of the Connector 2000 Association, Inc. (the "Association") annual financial report presents a discussion and analysis of the Association's financial performance for the year ended December 31, 2003. Our analysis includes comparisons of 2003 information with the respective 2002 information. The Southern Connector Toll Road first opened to the public in late February 2001, and began collecting tolls March 14, 2001. We ask that you read this section of the report in conjunction with the basic financial statements that follow this section.

### **FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

- For 2003, operating revenues consisted of toll and other operating revenues and were \$3,335,751. Of this amount, toll revenues were \$3,333,252 and represented a 12.8% increase over 2002. Toll transactions for 2003 increased 15.1% to 4,566,095 in total. Daily average toll transactions increased to 12,510. Both toll transactions and toll revenues were still significantly less than amounts projected in the 1997 Traffic and Revenue Study prepared by Wilbur Smith Associates (discussed in the "Economic Factors and Next Year's Budget" section below).
- Total operating expenses in 2003 were \$2,573,634 compared to \$2,488,023 in 2002, an increase of 3.4%.
- Nonoperating revenues from interest earned on repurchase agreements and money market accounts decreased 11.3% to \$1,055,826 in 2003. Nonoperating expenses in 2003 were \$19,772,694, and consisted primarily of \$14,395,797 of interest expense and \$5,237,877 of amortization expense related to the Association's Interest in its License Agreement with the South Carolina Department of Transportation ("SCDOT").
- The Association's total net deficit increased by \$17,954,751 over the course of the year's operations to \$50,720,619. Of the 2003 increase in the net deficit, \$14,395,797 was attributable to interest expense, of which \$3,531,500 was cash payments of bond interest, \$10,783,141 was accreted bond interest and \$80,280 was amortization of original issue discount.
- Capital assets net of accumulated depreciation were \$178,530,430 at December 31, 2003, a decrease of approximately 2.5% from December 31, 2002. The decrease resulted primarily from amortization of the Association's interest in its License Agreement with SCDOT. (See the "Capital Assets" section of this management's discussion and analysis and Note 1, item J and Note 5 to the basic financial statements for information about the accounting treatment of the Association's interest in the License Agreement.)
- SCDOT approved Final Completion of the Southern Connector effective December 22, 2003.

- The balance of bonds payable increased by 4.5% to \$253,040,898 due to accretions on the capital appreciation bonds. Approximately \$1,633,000 of monies from our Senior Bonds Debt Service Reserve Account was used to pay the debt service payments in July 2003 and January 2004.

### ***ECONOMIC FACTORS AND NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET***

The sole corporate purpose of the Association is the design, financing, acquisition, construction and operation of the Southern Connector Toll Road. We issued \$200,177,680 of Toll Road Revenue Bonds ("Southern Connector Project"), Series 1998 on February 11, 1998, to finance substantially all of the costs of the Southern Connector. Wilbur Smith Associates ("Wilbur Smith") prepared a Traffic and Revenue Study in connection with the sale of the Bonds. The Traffic and Revenue Study was undertaken in order to determine an estimate of the utilization of the road, the appropriate toll rates for the highway and the resulting revenue the Association could reasonably expect to receive from the operation of the Southern Connector. Wilbur Smith assumed that the Southern Connector would be open to traffic on November 17, 2001, since that was the Guaranteed Completion Date under the construction documents. Due to favorable weather and other circumstances, the highway opened to traffic nearly nine months earlier, on February 27, 2001.

In the Traffic and Revenue Study, Wilbur Smith estimated that the traffic on the newly opened road would increase rapidly from the opening date to a stabilized volume over an approximately nine-month period. This was called the "ramp-up" period since the traffic would begin at essentially zero and build to a stabilized base, which would be inflated annually according to various assumptions contained in the study. At the end of this nine-month ramp-up period, Wilbur Smith projected the average number of "transactions" on the highway to be approximately 28,000 per day. When we say "transactions," we mean toll transactions. In other words, one vehicle passing through one tollgate and paying one toll equals one transaction. If a passenger car drove from Simpsonville (on the east side of the highway) to Anderson (on the west side of the highway) and back in a single day, that car would result in four "transactions" in that single round trip. It would pass through the east and west main line toll plazas once each way. Transactions occur at the two main line plazas and at the four ramp plazas. The main line plazas and the ramp plazas have different tolls. Different vehicle classifications (such as trucks and cars) also pay different tolls, so the translation of the number of transactions into toll revenues is a complicated process involving an estimate of where the traffic is going and the mix of vehicles traveling on the road.

Since opening, actual demand for the Southern Connector Toll Road has been well below Wilbur Smith's projection. Additionally, the percentage of the traffic consisting of trucks (which pay a higher toll) has been substantially less than what was projected. Consequently, our toll revenue has been substantially less than what was forecasted in the study. In 2003, although toll transactions and revenues have increased, they are still well below Wilbur Smith's projections, with toll transactions for 2003 averaging 12,510 per day. Toll transactions averaged 10,868 per day for 2002, and 9,074 for the nine and one-half months that the Southern Connector was open in 2001.

In 2001, we asked Wilbur Smith for an explanation as to why the actual utilization of the toll road was so much less than what was projected in the study. They listed four general factors. These were a longer ramp-up period; the current weak state of the economy; certain signing and promotional concerns; and low transponder use for electronic toll collection.

Wilbur Smith explained that the ramp-up time is driven by how long it takes the motoring public to become familiar with the route, to “try it out” and ultimately build travel habits that result in the total demand for a facility. The Traffic and Revenue Study assumed a ramp-up period of less than one year. It now appears that the ramp-up period is extending into 2004. One important factor contributing to the duration of the ramp-up period is signing and promotion, which are addressed below.

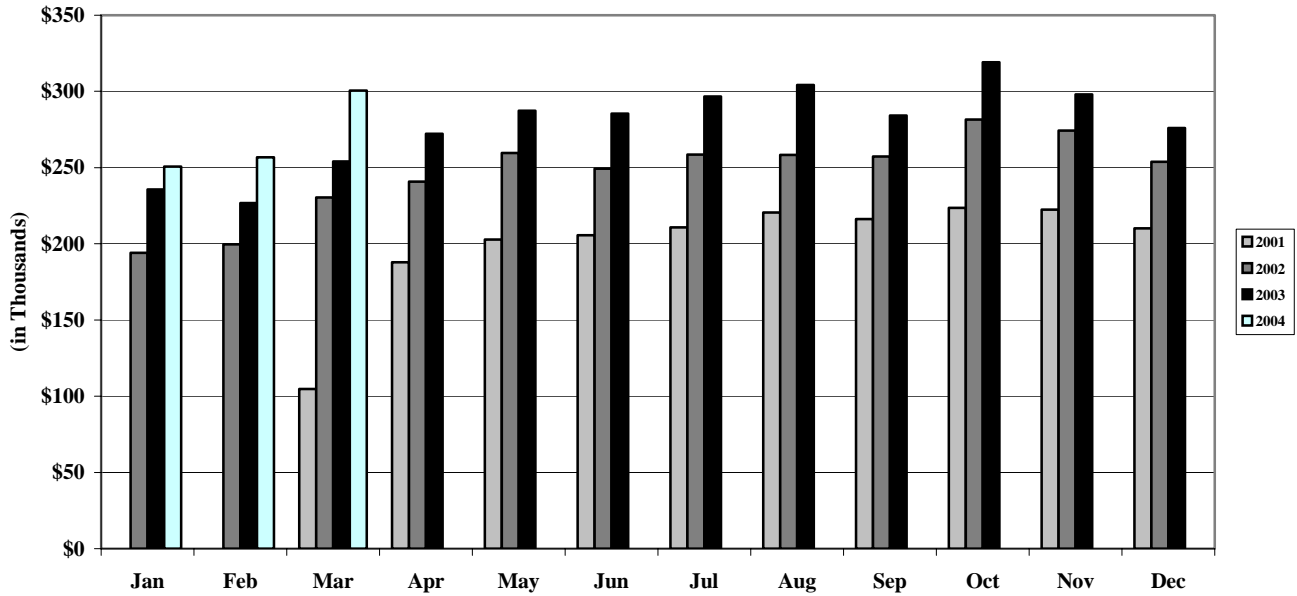
One of the principal purposes of the highway was to open southern Greenville County to new development. Greenville County has a very strong manufacturing base and has been actively trying to diversify its industrial output from what was historically textiles. From 1998 through 2003, the manufacturing sector of the economy has been very weak. The State of South Carolina has lost numerous manufacturing jobs and the South Carolina Department of Commerce has been actively recruiting industries to the State. Much of this activity has been focused on the replacement of lost industries in rural or economically underdeveloped areas and the reuse of existing industrial plants that have been abandoned by earlier industries. Greenville County, with its relatively low unemployment rate, has not been a priority for development efforts by the State Department of Commerce. Greenville County has redoubled its efforts to attract industry to the Southern Connector corridor. Given the continuing soft manufacturing economy, this development has not occurred as rapidly as expected. This slower development has adversely affected utilization of the highway.

Many of the circumstances identified by Wilbur Smith, which have led to the lower utilization of the highway, are beyond our control. We can do little to remedy the general economic conditions in Greenville County. However, in 2002 and 2003, we made concerted efforts to address factors that we can influence in order to promote demand for the Southern Connector. We are actively working with the Greenville Area Development Corporation to promote and publicize development opportunities along the Southern Connector corridor. We have worked with the South Carolina Department of Transportation to rectify many of the signage deficiencies identified by Wilbur Smith. We have undertaken aggressive advertising campaigns to make the public aware of the highway and the additional convenience it offers. Our advertising and marketing contractor received several awards for these efforts. Our staff has met individually with most of the large trucking firms located in and around the Southern Connector corridor. We have implemented a discount program for trucks that use the electronic toll system and have extended incentives to passenger cars for the acquisition of transponders. We have reduced our operating budget on several occasions and have established an operating reserve to be sure that revenues will be sufficient to cover operating expenses so that the highway can stay open even if there is a temporary downturn in traffic. We have undertaken to operate the Southern Connector as efficiently as possible while maintaining a level of customer service we believe necessary to grow traffic.

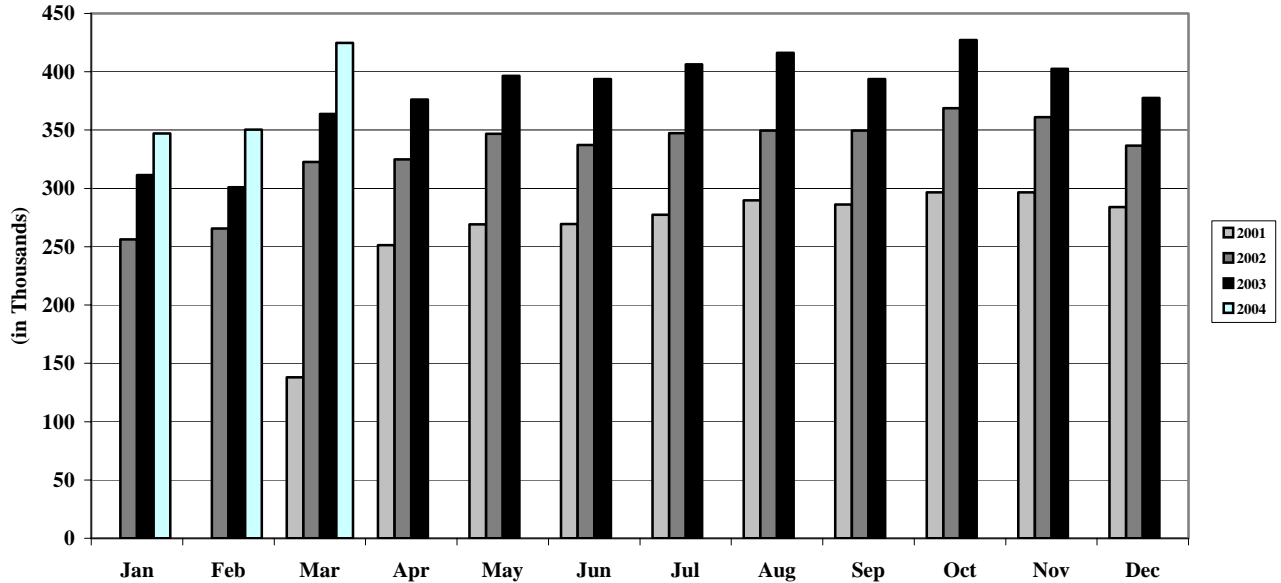
From 2002 to 2003 and continuing into 2004 (as of the date that this management’s discussion and analysis was written), both transactions and revenues have increased. Therefore, our efforts appear to be somewhat successful. The charts on the following page present comparisons of our monthly revenues and transactions since opening. Remember that in 2001, only nine and one-half months of traffic and revenues are shown, since toll collections began mid-March. Also, we only show results through March of 2004, since this management’s discussion and analysis was written in early April.

In 2004, we are continuing our quest to hold operating costs down yet still provide efficient service to our customers. Overall, our 2004 operating budget of \$2,777,209 represents a 7.9% increase over 2003 actual operating costs. The budget increase resulted primarily from increased costs of insurance, particularly health insurance, and equipment maintenance. The increase in equipment maintenance relates to our toll equipment. The toll system was completed and fully functional in July 2003. Prior to that time, the toll system vendor paid for maintenance of the toll equipment. From August 2003 through December 2003, the Association incurred toll equipment maintenance expenses of \$135,664. In 2004, a full year of toll equipment maintenance is budgeted at \$306,000.

### Revenues by Month



### Transactions by Month



### OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The annual report consists of two parts – management’s discussion and analysis (this section), and the basic financial statements, including the notes to the basic financial statements.

The basic financial statements provide short-term and long-term information about the Association’s overall financial status. The basic financial statements also include the disclosures that explain some of the information in the basic financial statements and provide more detailed data.

The Association follows governmental accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We present our basic financial statements on an accrual basis of accounting that is similar to the accounting basis used by most private-sector companies. Under the accrual basis, the current year's revenues earned and expenses incurred are accounted for in the Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets regardless of when cash is received or paid. All of the Association's assets and liabilities are included in the Statement of Net Assets. *Net assets* – the difference between assets and liabilities – is one measure of the Association's financial health or financial position. (Please note that we use the term *net deficit* throughout this section and in the basic financial statements to describe our situation, where liabilities exceed assets, and the resulting amount of net assets is negative.) Over time, increases or decreases in the Association's net assets or deficit are one indicator of whether our financial health is improving or deteriorating. However, other factors such as transactions (including vehicle class and toll rates), development along the Southern Connector corridor and the physical condition of the Southern Connector, should be considered in order to assess the Association's overall health.

## **FINANCIAL ANALYSIS**

### **Net Assets (Deficit)**

During the year ended December 31, 2003, the Association's net deficit increased by \$17,954,751 to \$50,720,619. Total assets decreased approximately 4.2% to \$204,295,895, while total liabilities increased approximately 3.7% to \$255,016,514. (See Table 1 below.)

**Table 1**  
**Net Assets (Deficit)**

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>Change</u>
Current and Other Assets	\$ 25,765,465	30,197,732	\$ (4,432,267)
Capital Assets	<u>178,530,430</u>	<u>183,051,195</u>	<u>(4,520,765)</u>
Total Assets	<u>204,295,895</u>	<u>213,248,927</u>	<u>(8,953,032)</u>
Long-term Liabilities (Bonds Payable)	(253,040,898)	(242,177,477)	(10,863,421)
Other Liabilities	<u>(1,975,616)</u>	<u>(3,837,318)</u>	<u>1,861,702</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>(255,016,514)</u>	<u>(246,014,795)</u>	<u>(9,001,719)</u>
Net Assets (Deficit):			
Invested in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt	(23,125,663)	(16,589,326)	(6,536,337)
Restricted	800,188	1,792,208	(992,020)
Unrestricted	<u>(28,395,144)</u>	<u>(17,968,750)</u>	<u>(10,426,394)</u>
Total Net Assets (Deficit)	<u><u>\$(50,720,619)</u></u>	<u><u>(32,765,868)</u></u>	<u><u>\$(17,954,751)</u></u>

The \$8,953,032 net decrease in total assets from 2002 to 2003 resulted primarily from the fact that total revenues in 2003 were not sufficient to completely offset such nonoperating expenses as debt service interest payments and amortization of the Association's interest in its License Agreement with SCDOT.



Total liabilities increased approximately 3.7% to \$255,016,514 at December 31, 2003. The bonds payable portion of total liabilities increased approximately 4.5% to \$253,040,898 due to accretions on the capital appreciation bonds. Capital appreciation bonds, or zero coupon bonds, are issued and initially recorded at amounts significantly less than their maturity values. Interest on capital appreciation bonds is not paid annually; instead, interest accretions simply increase the balance due on such bonds. Accordingly, such accretions are recorded as increases in interest expense and the corresponding bonds payable liability. Other 2003 liabilities decreased approximately 48.5% to \$1,975,616 due primarily to the 2003 payment of the balance of the early completion bonus mediation settlement that was due by the Association to the Developer of the Southern Connector at December 31, 2002.

Governmental accounting principles require the Association to classify its net assets in three categories as follows.

- The category “invested in capital assets, net of related debt” represents amounts invested in capital assets, less accumulated depreciation and amortization on those assets and less any liabilities (including bonds payable) that are attributable to the construction, acquisition, or improvement of those assets. However, if there are any bond proceeds that have not been spent yet, as was true for the Association at December 31, 2003, the portion of bonds payable related to those unspent bond proceeds is not to be included in this category as a reduction of amounts invested in capital assets. Instead, the unspent portion of bonds payable is used to offset the appropriate restricted net asset category as discussed below. At December 31, 2003, the balance of this category of net assets was a deficit of \$23,125,663, an increase of 39.4% over the 2002 deficit.
- The category “restricted net assets” represents the portion of net assets with attached constraints on the use of the assets. The constraints are externally imposed by such means or parties as debt covenants, laws, enabling legislation or creditors. This category includes any unspent bond proceeds restricted for certain purposes offset by bonds payable related to those unspent bond proceeds and interest accretions on capital appreciation bonds after project completion. Negative balances of restricted net assets are reclassified to the unrestricted net asset category. At December 31, 2003, the Association’s restricted net assets decreased by 55.4% to \$800,188 of net assets restricted for construction of the Southern Connector.
- The category “unrestricted net assets” represents the portion of net assets that can be used to finance daily operations and that have no constraints imposed. The balance of unrestricted net assets at December 31, 2003 was a deficit of \$28,395,144. The net deficit in this category increased 58.0% over 2002, due primarily to the reclassification of negative balances of net assets restricted for debt service and debt service reserves.

Table 2 presents the Association’s allocation of assets and liabilities at December 31, 2003 to the various categories of net assets.

**Table 2**  
**Net Asset Allocations**

	Invested in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt	Restricted for Debt Service Reserve	Net Assets Restricted for Debt Service	Net Assets Restricted for Other	Unrestricted Net Assets	Total Net Assets
Assets:						
Cash, cash equivalents and investments	\$ -	\$ 18,144,701	\$ 1,344,071	\$ 800,188	\$ 436,179	\$ 20,725,139
Receivables and other assets	4,413,595	509,614	-	-	117,117	5,040,326
Intangible and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation and amortization	178,530,430	-	-	-	-	178,530,430
Liabilities:						
Payables, deferred revenue and deposits	-	-	(1,765,750)	-	(209,866)	(1,975,616)
Bonds payable	(206,069,688)	(46,971,210)	-	-	-	(253,040,898)
Reclassification of negative balances of restricted net assets	-	28,316,895	421,679	-	(28,738,574)	-
Net Assets	<u>\$ (23,125,663)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 800,188</u>	<u>\$ (28,395,144)</u>	<u>\$ (50,720,619)</u>

A discussion of the changes in the net deficit for 2003 is presented below.

**Changes in Net Assets (Deficit)**

Although as presented in Table 3 on the next page, the Association's total revenues for 2003 were not sufficient to cover its total expenses for 2003, there was some improvement in operations compared to 2002. Although the total net deficit increased by \$17,954,751 to \$50,720,619 in 2003, our operating income increased by \$166,699 to \$762,117. Total operating revenues in 2003 increased approximately 8.2%, while operating expenses only increased approximately 3.4%. Our 2003 nonoperating revenues, which consisted of interest earned on monies in bank accounts and investments, decreased 11.3% from 2002 amounts to \$1,055,826, and fell short of 2003 nonoperating expenses by \$18,716,868.

In 2003, toll transactions increased by approximately 15.1%. This increase in traffic resulted in a corresponding increase in toll revenues of approximately 12.8% over 2002. See the charts presented in the "Economic Factors" section of this discussion and analysis for a month-to-month comparison of the increases in both revenues and traffic since the Southern Connector Toll Road opened. As these charts show, the lowest increase in monthly revenues from 2002 to 2003 occurred in November, when the increase was approximately 8.6% over the same month in 2002. The lowest increase in monthly transactions from 2002 to 2003 also occurred in November, when the increase was approximately 11.5% over the same month in 2002. For the period from January through March in 2004, monthly revenues have increased at 12.8% over the corresponding period in 2003, and transactions have increased 15.0%.

Since toll transactions and revenues are continuing to increase in 2004, we believe that the Southern Connector Toll Road remains in its ramp-up mode. We expect the ramp-up mode to continue throughout 2004.

**Table 3**  
**Changes in Net Assets**

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>Change</u>
Revenues:			
Operating revenues:			
Charges for Services (Toll Revenues)	\$ 3,333,252	2,953,883	\$ 379,369
Other	2,499	129,558	(127,059)
Nonoperating Revenues:			
Interest and Investment Earnings	<u>1,055,826</u>	<u>1,190,655</u>	<u>(134,829)</u>
Total Revenues	<u>4,391,577</u>	<u>4,274,096</u>	<u>117,481</u>
Expenses:			
Operating Expenses	2,573,634	2,488,023	85,611
Nonoperating Expenses	<u>19,772,694</u>	<u>19,011,913</u>	<u>760,781</u>
Total Expenses	<u>22,346,328</u>	<u>21,499,936</u>	<u>846,392</u>
Decrease in Net Assets	(17,954,751)	(17,225,840)	(728,911)
Beginning Net Assets	<u>(32,765,868)</u>	<u>(15,540,028)</u>	<u>(17,225,840)</u>
Ending Net Assets	<u><u>\$ (50,720,619)</u></u>	<u><u>(32,765,868)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (17,954,751)</u></u>

In 2002, other operating revenues consisted primarily of sponsor advertising revenues. However, our contract with the sponsor ended, so other operating revenues decreased by 98.1% from 2002 to 2003.

The increase in demand for the toll road in 2003 during the ramp-up period coupled with the Association's efforts to control costs, allowed us to generate operating income of \$762,117. By comparison, in 2002, our operating income was \$595,418.

Total operating expenses for 2003 increased by \$85,611, or 3.4%. In 2003, expenses for direct operations of the Southern Connector Toll Road were \$1,756,257, an increase of 9.6%. This increase was due primarily to equipment-related costs. In 2003, toll equipment maintenance was \$135,664. In 2002, the toll equipment was maintained at the expense of the toll system vendor. In addition, the Association bought \$21,373 of items such as signs, security cameras and traffic cones that were expensed because their cost was below the Association's capitalization limit of \$5,000. Indirect operating expenses decreased by 7.9% to \$817,377. Advertising expense decreased by \$79,266 and professional fees decreased by \$191,247 due to cost-cutting measures taken in 2003. Also, management fees decreased by \$112,105 as the Association terminated the operations contract with the management company at the end of 2002. (See Note 6 to the basic financial statements.)

The Association is contractually obligated to reimburse SCDOT for the costs of routine roadway maintenance of the Southern Connector highway. The contract states that after the first year, maintenance costs will be based on actual costs incurred by SCDOT. In 2002, we recognized a credit of \$96,945 for SCDOT maintenance fees because the Association's 2001 payments under the contract exceeded SCDOT's actual cost of maintenance in 2001. In 2003, we recorded SCDOT maintenance expense (an indirect operating expense) of \$212,070 based on notification we received from the SCDOT of its actual costs of maintaining the Southern Connector during its fiscal year ended June 30, 2003. The Southern Connector Toll Road was inspected by SCDOT in 2003 and received an excellent rating for pavement quality.

In 2003, our nonoperating interest revenues decreased by \$134,829 or 11.3%. The decrease occurred because we spent monies in our interest-bearing Construction Fund account and we used monies from our interest-bearing Senior Bonds Debt Service Reserve Account to make 2003 interest payments on the bonds. In 2003, monies in the Construction Fund earned interest at approximately 1.1% per year, while monies in the Debt Service Reserve Accounts earned interest at 5.4% per year.

Approximately \$16,240,318 of 2003 nonoperating expenses did not require any cash outlays. Noncash, nonoperating interest expense totaled \$10,863,421 and increased the balance due on the bonds. Noncash, nonoperating depreciation and amortization expenses totaled \$5,376,897 and decreased the carrying amounts of certain assets. The primary asset affected by amortization was the Association's interest in its License Agreement with SCDOT. (See the "Capital Assets" section of this management's discussion and analysis for more information.) The 4.9% increase in these noncash, nonoperating expenses from 2002 resulted because the amount of interest accretions on the Capital Appreciation Bonds increased under the bonds' accretion schedule, and overall amortization of the License Agreement increased as other costs were capitalized.

## ***CAPITAL ASSETS AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION***

### **Capital Assets**

Capital assets at December 31, 2003 consisted of equipment and an intangible asset, the Association's interest in a License Agreement with SCDOT. This License Agreement grants the Association the rights to acquire, construct, finance and operate the Southern Connector Toll Road. Through research of governmental accounting literature and consultations with various governmental accounting specialists, we determined that our interest in the license agreement should be valued at the cost of construction of the Southern Connector, including interest capitalized during the construction period. Although the term of the License Agreement is for 50 years, it automatically terminates upon payment of all of the bonds, scheduled to happen in 2038. Therefore, we are amortizing our interest in that License Agreement over the shorter period of approximately 37 years, from opening of the Southern Connector Toll Road in 2001 to 2038.

At December 31, 2003, the Association had \$178,530,430 invested in capital assets (See Table 4). This amount represents a net decrease of \$4,520,765, or 2.5%, from 2002 amounts.

Our interest in the License Agreement with SCDOT, our primary asset, decreased in 2003 by 2.5% to \$178,262,253. This net decrease was composed of \$713,105 of additional costs incurred in building the Southern Connector Toll Road offset by \$5,237,877 of amortization. The additional costs included payment for punch list items related to the toll system and wetlands mitigation.

**Table 4**  
**Changes in Capital Assets at Year-End**  
**(Net of Depreciation)**

	2003	2002	Change
Equipment, Net	\$ 268,177	264,170	\$ 4,007
Interest in License Agreement with SCDOT, Net	178,262,253	182,787,025	(4,524,772)
Total Capital Assets, Net	<u>\$ 178,530,430</u>	<u>183,051,195</u>	<u>\$ (4,520,765)</u>

Equipment, Net increased 1.5% in 2003. This net increase was composed of \$43,368 of new signage and \$64,344 of new vehicles offset by depreciation totaling \$103,164 and write-offs of defective equipment of \$541.

At December 31, 2003, we had no construction commitments outstanding under the contract with the developer of the Southern Connector. When we refer to “construction commitments,” we mean the portion of the contract price for the construction of the Southern Connector that had not yet been paid or accrued at December 31, 2003. At December 31, 2002, construction commitments outstanding totaled \$776,947 and were for the toll system and for wetlands mitigation.

SCDOT has approved Final Completion of the Southern Connector effective December 22, 2003. In 2004, in accordance with the terms of the bond documents, we transferred \$725,591 from the Construction Fund to the Debt Service Fund. The remaining \$74,598 balance in the Construction Fund is being used to pay costs for punch list items related to Final Completion.

**Debt Administration**

Long-term debt at December 31, 2003 included \$253,040,898 of Toll Road Revenue Bonds with maturity dates ranging from 2008 to 2038. This balance represents an increase of \$10,863,421, or 4.5%, over the 2002 balance. The balance of bonds payable increased from 2002 to 2003 due to accretions on the Series 1998B Senior Capital Appreciation Bonds and on the Series 1998C Subordinate Capital Appreciation Bonds. Principal payments on the Series 1998A Senior Current Interest Bonds do not begin until January 2008. Due to the accretion schedule on the Capital Appreciation Bonds, the balance of bonds payable will continue to increase for the next several years. All of the bonds are payable solely by the Association from toll revenues. None are obligations of the State of South Carolina.

Currently, we are not receiving sufficient toll revenues to pay debt service on the Senior Bonds. We had to use approximately \$76,000 of monies from our Senior Bonds Debt Service Reserve Account to meet the Senior Bond 2002 debt service payment due in January 2003. We used approximately \$1,633,000 of monies from our Senior Bonds Debt Service Reserve Account to meet the Senior Bond 2003 debt service payments due in July 2003 and January 2004. We acknowledge that unless future traffic counts and toll revenues increase to a level that will allow the Association to pay debt service as well as operating expenses, we will continue to be required to use Senior Bonds Debt Service Reserve Account monies to meet some portion of our debt service obligations. (See Note 1, item K to the basic financial statements for more information about the Funds and Accounts created under the bond indenture and the required flow of the Association’s funds.)

As a result of both lack of driver demand for the Southern Connector Toll Road and our need to use debt service reserve funds to meet the Association's debt service payment, in January 2003, Standard and Poor's ("S&P") downgraded the rating of the our bonds to B-minus and changed the outlook to stable. In January 2004, S&P affirmed that rating and outlook. The Association's Series 1998C Subordinate Capital Appreciation Bonds are not rated.

The Association's bond indenture contains provisions pertaining to the replenishment of the Debt Service Reserve Accounts in the event that monies from these accounts are used to pay debt service. In 2003, because of our inability to replenish the Senior Bonds Debt Service Reserve Account, the Trustee declared that an event of default had occurred under the indenture. We have consulted our legal counsel regarding this matter, and believe that the Trustee has misinterpreted the terms of the indenture. Although to date, we have been unable to resolve this interpretation issue with the Trustee, we have been working with the Trustee towards a resolution. In April 2003, we entered into a Tolling Agreement with the Trustee. In April 2004, the Tolling Agreement was renewed through April 2005 and shall automatically be extended from year to year unless either party gives the other at least sixty (60) days written notice that the Tolling Agreement shall expire on the next succeeding April 30. The Trustee and the Association have agreed that the Association's inability to replenish the Senior Bonds Debt Service Reserve Account will not be considered an event of default while the Tolling Agreement is in effect. (See Note 1, item K and Note 13 to the basic financial statements for more information about the terms of the bond indenture and the debt service reserve replenishment issue.)

***CONTACTING THE CONNECTOR 2000 ASSOCIATION, INC.***

This financial report is designed to provide our bondholders, patrons and interested parties with a general overall view of the Association's finances and to demonstrate the Association's accountability for the money it receives. If you have any questions about this report or need additional financial information, please contact Connector 2000 Association, Inc., at Post Office Box 408, Piedmont, South Carolina 29673 or by telephone at (864) 527-2150.



## **BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**



**CONNECTOR 2000 ASSOCIATION, INC., GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**(A Component Unit of the State of South Carolina)**

**STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS - PROPRIETARY FUND**

**DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002**

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>Business-Type Activities - Enterprise Fund</b>	
	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
Current Assets:		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 387,436	\$ 369,290
Cash and Cash Equivalents - Restricted	1,495,909	1,096,926
Investments	150,000	-
Investments - Restricted	747,093	-
Prepaid Expenses	44,505	221,562
Inventory	72,001	-
Total Current Assets	<u>2,896,944</u>	<u>1,687,778</u>
Noncurrent Assets:		
Restricted Assets:		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	-	3,631,159
Interest Receivable	510,225	3,649
Accounts Receivable	7,400	37,400
Investments	17,944,701	20,292,531
Total Restricted Assets	<u>18,462,326</u>	<u>23,964,739</u>
Capital Assets:		
Equipment	546,643	440,284
Interest in License Agreement with SCDOT	192,472,174	191,759,069
Less: Accumulated Depreciation and Amortization	(14,488,387)	(9,148,158)
Total Capital Assets	<u>178,530,430</u>	<u>183,051,195</u>
Other Assets:		
Bond Issuance Costs (Net of Accumulated Amortization of \$370,975)	1,987,155	2,049,855
Underwriters' Fees on Bonds (Net of Accumulated Amortization of \$451,560)	2,419,040	2,495,360
Total Other Assets	<u>4,406,195</u>	<u>4,545,215</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>204,295,895</u></b>	<b><u>213,248,927</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable	47,960	41,857
Deferred Toll Revenue	90,244	55,717
Transponder Deposits	8,820	6,500
SCDOT deferred maintenance	45,000	-
Amounts Payable from Restricted Assets:		
Accrued Interest Payable	1,765,750	1,765,750
Accrued Early Completion Bonus	-	1,850,000
Requisitions Payable	17,842	117,494
Total Current Liabilities	<u>1,975,616</u>	<u>3,837,318</u>
Noncurrent Liabilities:		
Revenue Bonds Payable, Net	253,040,898	242,177,477
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	<u>253,040,898</u>	<u>242,177,477</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b><u>255,016,514</u></b>	<b><u>246,014,795</u></b>
<b>NET ASSETS (DEFICIT)</b>		
Invested in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt	(23,125,663)	(16,589,326)
Restricted for:		
Capital Projects and Other Purposes	800,188	1,792,208
Unrestricted	(28,395,144)	(17,968,750)
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b><u>\$ (50,720,619)</u></b>	<b><u>\$ (32,765,868)</u></b>

The notes to the basic financial statements are an integral part of this statement.  
See accompanying independent auditors' report.

**CONNECTOR 2000 ASSOCIATION, INC., GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**(A Component Unit of the State of South Carolina)**

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS - PROPRIETARY FUND**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002**

	<b>Business-Type Activities - Enterprise Fund</b>	
	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>OPERATING REVENUES</b>		
Toll Revenues	\$ 3,333,252	\$ 2,953,883
Other Toll Road Revenues	2,499	129,558
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES</b>	<b>3,335,751</b>	<b>3,083,441</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		
Reimbursed Direct Toll Road Expenses:		
Automobile	16,130	18,543
Bank Fees and Charges	41,996	59,194
Contract Labor	124,794	105,703
Contract Services	179,393	50,129
Credit Card Discount Fees	16,937	13,485
Employee Benefits	135,447	148,453
Miscellaneous	33,603	10,657
Office Supplies	27,144	18,643
Payroll Taxes	79,681	84,257
Repairs and Maintenance	23,415	17,243
Salaries	967,099	965,357
Telephone	35,318	36,180
Utilities	75,300	73,886
Total Reimbursed Direct Toll Road Expenses	<u>1,756,257</u>	<u>1,601,730</u>
Other Toll Road Expenses:		
Advertising	50,876	130,142
Depreciation	103,164	88,057
Insurance	154,218	159,121
Marketing	31,252	36,769
Professional Fees	243,511	434,758
Toll Highway Management Fees	22,286	134,391
SCDOT Maintenance Expense	212,070	(96,945)
Total Other Toll Road Expenses	<u>817,377</u>	<u>886,293</u>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>2,573,634</b>	<b>2,488,023</b>
<b>OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>762,117</b>	<b>595,418</b>
<b>NONOPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)</b>		
Interest Earned on Cash Equivalents and Investments	1,055,826	1,190,655
Interest Expense	(14,395,797)	(13,731,258)
Amortization for:		
Interest in License Agreement with SCDOT	(5,237,877)	(5,141,635)
Bond Issuance Costs	(62,700)	(62,700)
Underwriters' Fees	(76,320)	(76,320)
TOTAL NONOPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)	<u>(18,716,868)</u>	<u>(17,821,258)</u>
DECREASE IN NET ASSETS	(17,954,751)	(17,225,840)
NET ASSETS (DEFICIT), Beginning of Year	(32,765,868)	(15,540,028)
<b>NET ASSETS (DEFICIT), End of Year</b>	<b>\$ (50,720,619)</b>	<b>\$ (32,765,868)</b>

The notes to the basic financial statements are an integral part of this statement.  
See accompanying independent auditors' report.

CONNECTOR 2000 ASSOCIATION, INC., GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA  
(A Component Unit of the State of South Carolina)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS - PROPRIETARY FUND

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	Business-Type Activities - Enterprise Fund	
	2003	2002
Receipts from:		
Toll Collections	\$ 3,370,099	\$ 2,976,408
Other Toll Road Operations	2,499	129,558
Payments for:		
Toll Road Employees and Contract Labor	(1,307,021)	(1,303,770)
Toll Highway Management Fee	(22,286)	(134,391)
Vendors and Service Providers	(2,934,656)	(1,605,107)
<b>NET CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>(891,365)</b>	<b>62,698</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Construction Costs on Southern Connector	(820,817)	(2,147,214)
Interest on Bonds Payable	(3,532,376)	(3,531,500)
Other	30,541	-
<b>NET CASH USED IN CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>(4,322,652)</b>	<b>(5,678,714)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Change in Investments	1,450,737	(544,158)
Interest Earned	549,250	1,197,049
<b>NET CASH PROVIDED BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>1,999,987</b>	<b>652,891</b>
<b>DECREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>(3,214,030)</b>	<b>(4,963,125)</b>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, Beginning of Year	5,097,375	10,060,500
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 1,883,345</b>	<b>\$ 5,097,375</b>
<b>Reconciliation of Cash and Cash Equivalents to Amounts Shown on Statement of Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted Cash and Cash Equivalents - Current Assets	\$ 387,436	\$ 369,290
Restricted Cash and Cash Equivalents - Current Assets	1,495,909	1,096,926
Restricted Cash and Cash Equivalents - Noncurrent Assets	-	3,631,159
<b>Total Reconciliation of Cash and Cash Equivalents to Amounts Shown on Statement of Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,883,345</b>	<b>\$ 5,097,375</b>

CONNECTOR 2000 ASSOCIATION, INC., GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA  
(A Component Unit of the State of South Carolina)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS - PROPRIETARY FUND (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002

RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING INCOME TO NET CASH USED IN OPERATING ACTIVITIES	Business-Type Activities - Enterprise Fund	
	2003	2002
Operating Income	\$ 762,117	\$ 595,418
Adjustments to Reconcile Operating Income to Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities:		
Depreciation Expense	103,164	88,057
Change In:		
Prepaid Expenses	177,057	(63,951)
Inventory	(72,001)	-
Accounts Receivable	-	(30,000)
Accounts Payable	6,103	(110,669)
Maintenance Fee Payable to SCDOT	-	(23,375)
Deferred Toll Revenue	34,527	19,745
Transponder Deposits	2,320	2,780
SCDOT Deferred Maintenance	45,000	-
Accrued Early Completion Bonus	(1,850,000)	-
Requisitions Payable	(99,652)	(415,307)
<b>NET CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>\$ (891,365)</b>	<b>\$ 62,698</b>
<b>NONCASH INVESTING, CAPITAL AND FINANCING ITEMS</b>		
Amortization of Interest in License Agreement with SCDOT	\$ 5,237,877	\$ 5,215,503
Amortization of Bond Issuance Costs	62,700	62,700
Amortization of Underwriters Fees on Bonds	76,320	76,320
Amortization of Original Issue Discount on Series 1998A Bonds	80,280	-
Interest Accreted on Series 1998B and 1998C Bonds	10,783,141	10,199,758
Accrual of Interest Payable	1,765,750	1,765,750
<b>TOTAL NONCASH INVESTING, CAPITAL AND FINANCING ITEMS</b>	<b>\$ 18,006,068</b>	<b>\$ 17,320,031</b>

The notes to the basic financial statements are an integral part of this statement.  
See accompanying independent auditors' report.

# CONNECTOR 2000 ASSOCIATION, INC., GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

## NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002

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### NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### A. Reporting Entity

Connector 2000 Association, Inc. (the “Association”) is a South Carolina nonprofit corporation organized as a “public benefit corporation” under the South Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act of 1994. The Articles of Incorporation of the Association were originally filed with the South Carolina Secretary of State on January 12, 1996, and were amended by a filing on March 5, 1997. The Internal Revenue Service has issued a letter dated October 20, 1997, determining that the Association is an exempt organization that is not a private foundation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”). The Association was formed to assist the South Carolina Department of Transportation (“SCDOT”) in the financing, acquisition, construction, and operation of turnpikes, highway projects, and other transportation facilities.

Although the Association was formed in 1996, its first financial activity occurred during February, 1998. At that time, the Association entered into a license agreement (the “License Agreement”) with the SCDOT that grants the Association rights and obligations to finance, acquire, construct, and operate an approximately 16 mile fully controlled access toll highway (the “Southern Connector”) and to construct the South Carolina Highway 153 Extension (the “SC 153 Extension”) (collectively, the “Projects”). Toll road revenue bonds were issued on February 11, 1998, to finance the construction of the Southern Connector.

The Association is only responsible for financing the Southern Connector portion of the Projects. The SCDOT provided financing for the SC 153 Extension portion of the Projects. The accompanying financial statements do not include any assets, liabilities or expenses related to the SC 153 Extension.

The State of South Carolina Office of Comptroller General has determined that the Association is a component unit of the State of South Carolina and of the SCDOT because of its fiscal dependence upon the SCDOT, and the fact that the SCDOT also determines the toll rates that will be charged. The Association is governed by a Board of Directors approved by the SCDOT.

The financial statements of the Association have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“GAAP”). For the purpose of applying GAAP, the Association’s management has determined that the Association is a governmental entity. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (“GASB”), which has jurisdiction over accounting and financial reporting standards applicable to governmental entities, and the Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”), which has jurisdiction over such standards applicable to nongovernmental entities, have agreed on a definition of a governmental entity that is to be used when determining whether governmental GAAP is applicable. Since (a) the Association is a public benefit corporation, (b) the members of the Association’s Board of Directors must be approved by the SCDOT and (c) upon dissolution of the Association, all of the Association’s net assets will revert to the SCDOT, the Association meets the criteria set forth in the definition of a governmental entity. Accordingly, the accompanying financial statements of the Association have been prepared in accordance with GAAP applicable to governmental unit proprietary funds.

The GASB is the standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. In these financial statements, FASB pronouncements and Accounting Principles Board (“APB”) opinions issued on or before November 30, 1989, have been applied unless those pronouncements conflict with or contradict GASB pronouncements, in which case, GASB prevails. As allowed by GAAP, the Association has elected not to apply the FASB pronouncements issued after November 30, 1989. The Association has elected not to apply those pronouncements. The accounting and reporting framework and the more significant accounting policies are described next.

CONNECTOR 2000 ASSOCIATION, INC., GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002

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NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

**A. Reporting Entity (Continued)**

Pursuant to governmental GAAP, in evaluating the Association as a reporting entity, management must consider all potential component units. The primary criterion for determining inclusion or exclusion of a legally separate entity as a component unit is financial accountability, which is presumed to exist if the Association both appoints a voting majority of the entity's governing body, and either 1) the Association is able to impose its will on the entity or, 2) there is a potential for the entity to provide specific financial benefits to, or impose specific financial burdens on, the Association. If either or both of the foregoing conditions are not met, the entity could still be considered a component unit if it is fiscally dependent on the Association. In order to be considered fiscally independent, an entity must have the authority to do all three of the following:

- i) Determine its budget without the Association having the authority to approve or modify that budget;
- ii) Levy taxes or set rates or charges without approval by the Association; and
- iii) Issue bonded debt without approval by the Association.

Finally, an entity could be a component unit even if it met all the conditions described above if excluding it would cause the Association's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete. Based on the criteria above, the Association has no component units required to be included in the Association's basic financial statements.

**B. Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements**

The government-wide financial statements (i.e., the Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities) report information on all of the activities of the Association (the "Primary Government").

*Governmental activities*, which normally are supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues, are reported separately from *business-type activities*, which rely, to a significant extent, on fees and charges for support. The Association has no governmental-type activities for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002.

The Statement of Activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or segment are offset by program revenues. *Direct expenses* are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function or segment. *Program revenues* include 1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services or privileges provided by a given function or segment and 2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or segment. Taxes and other items not properly included among program revenues are reported instead as *general revenues*. The comparison of direct expenses with program revenues identifies the extent to which each governmental function is self-financing or draws from the general revenues of the Association.

The combining schedules provided as supplementary information are included to reflect the financial activity of each reporting entity that makes up the arena operations enterprise segment.

CONNECTOR 2000 ASSOCIATION, INC., GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002

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NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

**C. Measurement Focus, Basis of Presentation and Accounting**

The **government-wide financial statements** are reported using the *economic resources measurement focus* and the *accrual basis of accounting*. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Property taxes are recognized as revenues in the year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

Since the Association uses only enterprise funds to account for its activity, there are no differences between the government-wide financial statements and the fund financial statements.

The accounts of the government are organized and operated on the basis of funds. A fund is an independent fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting segregates funds according to their intended purpose and is used to aid management in demonstrating compliance with finance-related legal and contractual provisions. There are a minimum number of funds maintained to keep the accounts consistent with legal and managerial requirements. The Association uses only the following fund type.

**Proprietary fund types** are accounted for based on the flow of economic resources measurement focus and use of the accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded at the time liabilities are incurred. The Association applies all applicable Governmental Accounting Standards Board (“GASB”) pronouncements, as well as the requirements of Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) Statements and Interpretations, Accounting Principles Board (“APB”) Opinions, and Accounting Research Bulletins (“ARBs”), issued on or before November 30, 1989, unless they conflict with or contradict GASB pronouncements. The Association has elected not to follow the aforementioned guidance issued after November 30, 1989 as allowed by GAAP. Proprietary funds are made up of two classes: enterprise funds and internal service funds. The association does not have any internal service funds and has one enterprise fund.

**Enterprise Funds** are used to account for operations (a) that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises — where the intent of the governing body is that the costs (expenses, including depreciation) of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges; or (b) where the governing body has decided that periodic determination of revenues earned, expenses incurred, and/or net income is appropriate for capital maintenance, public policy, management control, accountability, or other purposes. The Association has one major Enterprise Fund:

The **Operating Fund** is used to account for all of the operations of the Association. All activities to provide such services are accounted for in this fund.

Proprietary funds distinguish operating revenues and expenses from nonoperating items. Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services and producing and delivering goods in connection with the proprietary fund’s principal ongoing operations. Operating expenses for proprietary funds include the cost of sales and services, administrative expenses, and depreciation on capital assets. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as nonoperating revenues and expenses.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it the Association’s policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

**CONNECTOR 2000 ASSOCIATION, INC., GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002**

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**NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**C. Measurement Focus, Basis of Presentation and Accounting (Continued)**

Component units are either legally separate organizations for which the elected officials of the Association are financially accountable, or legally separate organizations for which the nature and significance of its relationship with the Association is such that exclusion would cause the Association's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete. The Association's basic financial statements and notes to the basic financial statements have included the amounts from the Corporation, a blended enterprise component unit.

The Association generally follows the authoritative guidance in GASB Statement No. 9, *Reporting Cash Flows of Proprietary and Nonexpendable Trust Fund and Governmental Entities That Use Proprietary Fund Accounting*, to distinguish operating from non-operating revenues and expenses. Thus, the principal operating revenues of the Association are toll revenues received from patrons. The Association also recognizes as operating revenues fees received from a sponsor of the Southern Connector who participates in, and shares costs of, advertising and promoting the toll road. Operating expenses of the Association consist of the costs of operating the Southern Connector, including administrative expenses, toll road management fees, contractual maintenance fees paid to SCDOT, and depreciation of equipment. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating revenues and expenses. Non-operating revenues include interest earned on cash equivalents and investments. The Association's amortization of its intangible interest in the License Agreement with SCDOT is reported as a non-operating expense. The Association has no plans to renew or extend the License Agreement upon its earliest expiration date.

The Master Indenture of Trust and supplements (the Trust Agreement) related to the Series 1998A, 1998B and 1998C Bonds, require that the Association adopt governmental GAAP. The Trust Agreement also requires that certain funds and accounts be established and maintained. The Association consolidates these funds and accounts for the purpose of enterprise fund presentation in its external financial statements.

In years prior to 2001, the Association was considered to be in the Development Stage since its activities consisted of construction of the Southern Connector. In 2001, upon commencement of toll road operations, the Association ceased development stage accounting for its activities.

**D. Use of Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with governmental GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**E. Budget**

The Association's Board of Directors adopts an annual non-appropriated operating budget. The Board of Directors also approves any amendments to the budget during the year. The budget is prepared using a modified accrual (non-GAAP) basis for Revenue Fund expenses. Expenses are recognized in the period in which they are paid rather than the period in which they are incurred for budgetary control purposes. Depreciation and amortization are not recognized as expenses, but capital outlays are recognized as expenses for budgetary control purposes. The expenses are reclassified for the purpose of preparing financial statements in accordance with governmental GAAP. Since the Association's activities are accounted for in a proprietary fund, a budget-to-actual comparison is not presented in the accompanying financial statements.



**CONNECTOR 2000 ASSOCIATION, INC., GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002**

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**NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**F. Cash and Cash Equivalents**

The Association considers all investments with maturities of three months or less when purchased to be cash equivalents. The amounts shown in the financial statements as “cash and cash equivalents” of the Association represent cash on deposit in banks and funds invested in open-end money market mutual funds.

**G. Investments**

The Trust Agreement requires that all bond proceeds received by the Association be held in trust to be expended in accordance with the indenture guidelines. All monies held in trust that are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (“FDIC”) must be secured by and/or invested in investment securities as defined in the Trust Agreement. Investment securities include, but are not limited to, direct obligations of, or obligations guaranteed by, the United States of America or an agency thereof (Note 2). The Association’s investments are stated at fair value (quoted market price or the best available estimate thereof).

**H. Receivables**

All of the Association’s receivables are reported net of any allowances for uncollectible amounts and any discounts.

**I. Prepaid Expenses**

Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid expenses in the accompanying basic financial statements.

**J. Interest in License Agreement with SCDOT**

The Association’s License Agreement with SCDOT grants to the Association various rights and obligations pertaining to the financing, acquisition, construction and operation of the Southern Connector and construction of the SC 153 Extension. The terms of the License Agreement provide that the Association finance and construct the Southern Connector and construct the SC 153 Extension with financing provided by the SCDOT. However, the SCDOT at all times retained fee simple title to the Southern Connector and to the SC 153 Extension, to all real property and improvements thereon, and to all rights-of-way acquired during construction. The Southern Connector was opened for traffic on February 27, 2001, and began collecting tolls on March 14, 2001. On July 22, 2001, the Southern Connector attained Substantial Completion. On December 22, 2003, the Southern Connector attained Final Completion. Beginning one year after the date of Final Completion, the Association will be required to pay monthly license fees to SCDOT (Note 5.)

The Association’s interest in the License Agreement constitutes an intangible asset relating to the Southern Connector that began generating revenues upon commencement of operations. In order to account for its interest in the License Agreement, the Association capitalized all costs of acquisition and construction of the Southern Connector, including interest expense incurred during the construction period. (See Note 1, item Q.) Upon commencement of operations, the Association began amortizing its interest in the License Agreement on a straight-line basis over the remaining term of the License Agreement through 2038 (See Note 5 for further details).

The Association’s financial statements do not reflect any of the costs of construction of the SC 153 Extension because those costs were directly financed and paid by the SCDOT.

CONNECTOR 2000 ASSOCIATION, INC., GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002

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NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

**K. Restricted Assets**

Certain proceeds of the Revenue Bonds are restricted by applicable bond covenants for construction, payment of operating and other expenses, or are set aside as reserves to ensure repayment of the bonds. Certain other assets are accumulated and restricted on a monthly basis in accordance with the Trust Agreement for the purposes of paying debt interest payments, due on a semiannual basis, and principal payments, due on an annual basis, and for the purpose of maintaining reserve funds at the required levels. The Trust Agreement provisions govern payments from the restricted accounts. Limited types of expenses may be funded from these restricted accounts. The funds and accounts are established as follows:

The *Construction Fund* was established for purposes of holding bond proceeds and investment earnings, which are used to pay the costs of constructing the Southern Connector.

The *Revenue Fund* was established to hold all revenues from toll road operations. The Trust Agreement provides that all revenues from the operation of the Southern Connector shall be delivered by the Association to the Trustee immediately upon receipt by, or on behalf of, the Association and shall be deposited by the Trustee into the Revenue Fund. The Trustee is obligated to transfer money on a monthly basis from the Revenue Fund to the other various funds established under the Trust Agreement in the priority listed below:

1. Operating costs budgeted by the Association for the next succeeding month shall be distributed to the Association.
2. There shall be transferred to the Rebate Fund amounts, which equal the amount required to be on deposit therein.
3. The Trustee shall transfer to the Senior Bonds Debt Service Account amounts which, when added to other amounts in the Senior Bonds Debt Service Account, and available for such purposes, will provide for the accumulation, in substantially equal monthly installments, of the amounts required to pay the sum of:
  - a. any interest to become due and payable on each series of outstanding Senior Bonds on the next interest payment date (within the next six months) for such Series; and
  - b. any principal installments to become due and payable on any series of outstanding Senior Bonds on or before the next date (within the next 12 months) on which such principal installment is payable
4. If the Senior Bonds Debt Service Reserve Account contains less than the Senior Bonds Debt Service Reserve Account Requirement, the Trustee shall transfer into the Senior Bonds Debt Service Reserve Account, an amount equal to 1/24 of the Senior Bonds Debt Service Reserve Account Requirement or the amount needed to attain the Senior Bonds Debt Service Reserve Account Requirement, whichever is less. The transfers shall continue until the Senior Bonds Debt Service Reserve Account contains the Senior Bonds Debt Service Reserve Account Requirement.

**CONNECTOR 2000 ASSOCIATION, INC., GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002**

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**NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**K. Restricted Assets (Continued)**

5. The Trustee shall transfer to the Subordinate Bonds Debt Service Account amounts which, when added to other amounts in the Subordinate Bonds Debt Service Account and available for such purposes, will provide for the accumulation, in substantially equal monthly installments, or otherwise as may be provided in any Supplemental Indenture, of the amounts required to pay the sum of:
  - a. any interest to become due and payable on each series of outstanding Subordinate Bonds (within the next six months) on the next interest payment date for such Series; and
  - b. any principal installments to become due and payable on any series of outstanding Subordinate Bonds on or before the next date (within the next 12 months) on which such principal installment is payable
6. If the Subordinate Bonds Debt Service Reserve Account contains less than the Subordinate Bonds Debt Service Reserve Account Requirement, the Trustee shall transfer into the Subordinate Bonds Debt Service Reserve Account, an amount equal to 1/60 of the Subordinate Bonds Debt Service Reserve Account Requirement or the amount needed to attain the Subordinate Bonds Debt Service Reserve Account Requirement, whichever is less. All transfers shall continue until the Subordinate Bonds Debt Service Reserve Account contains the Subordinate Bonds Debt Service Reserve Account Requirement.
7. After the date of Final Completion of the Southern Connector Project, the Trustee shall deposit into the Renewal and Replacement Fund the amounts included in the annual budget of the Association, which are required pursuant to the Renewal and Replacement Plan then in effect under the License Agreement.
8. The Trustee shall pay to SCDOT amounts certified by an Authorized Association Representative as being due SCDOT for (i.) the Maintenance Costs reimbursable to SCDOT under the License Agreement, together with any accruals from prior periods and interest owed thereon under the License Agreement and (ii.) any reimbursements to SCDOT for condemnation awards for rights of way for the Southern Connector Project in excess of the amounts reserved therefore on the Completion Date.
9. The Trustee shall pay amounts certified by an Authorized Association Representative as being due SCDOT for the License Fee owing to SCDOT under the License Agreement, together with any accruals from prior periods and any interest owed thereon under the License Agreement.
10. Money remaining in the Revenue Fund shall be used by the Trustee to make or provide for all deposits, payments, or transfers certified by an Authorized Association Representative as being required by any agreement or other instrument creating or evidencing any obligation of the Association which is not a Senior Bond or Subordinate Bond, at the time and in the amount provided for in such instrument.
11. The Trustee shall transfer any money remaining in the Revenue Fund at the end of any fiscal year to the Program Fund.

The *Debt Service Fund*, consisting of the Senior Bonds Debt Service Account and the Subordinate Bonds Debt Service Account, was established as a sinking fund for the payment of interest and principal on the revenue bonds.

**CONNECTOR 2000 ASSOCIATION, INC., GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002**

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**NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**K. Restricted Assets (Continued)**

The *Debt Service Reserve Fund*, consisting of the Senior Bonds Debt Service Reserve Account and the Subordinate Bonds Debt Service Reserve Account, was established for the purpose of paying bond interest and maturing principal in the event that monies held in the Debt Service Fund and other funds would be insufficient for such purposes.

The *Renewal and Replacement Fund* was established for the purpose of holding monies in reserve to pay the costs of reconstruction, renewal, repair, and replacement of the Southern Connector. At December 31, 2003 and 2002, this account was inactive.

The *Program Fund*, consisting of the Retained Balance and the General Account, was established to hold monies in reserve to pay debt service if monies in other accounts are insufficient for such purpose and to pay other fees and costs as defined in the Trust Agreement. The *Program Fund Retained Balance Account* was inactive at December 31, 2003 and 2002.

The *Rebate Fund* was established for the purpose of holding and paying arbitrage investment earnings to the United States Treasury. As a result of investing tax exempt bond proceeds at rates of return not exceeding the maximum amount that is permitted under the applicable tax code, at December 31, 2003 and 2002, the *Rebate Fund* was inactive.

**L. Compensated Absences**

Under its Operations Contract, which was terminated in December 2002 (See Note 6), the Association was required to reimburse the toll road management contractor for actual operating costs incurred. Accordingly, any vested or accumulated vacation leave was recorded as benefits accrue to contractor employees. There were no accumulating sick-leave benefits therefore there is no liability that must be recognized. At December 31, 2003 and 2002, the liability for accumulated absences was immaterial. No liability or expense was recorded in these basic financial statements.

**M. Capital Assets**

All capital assets, including the Association's intangible interest in its License Agreement with SCDOT, are stated at cost. The Association adopted asset capitalization policies recommended by the State of South Carolina's Office of Comptroller General.

Pursuant to this policy, equipment with costs greater than \$5,000 and intangible assets with costs in excess of \$100,000 are capitalized. Equipment depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the equipment's estimated useful life of five years. A full year of depreciation is taken in the year an asset is placed in service. The Association's interest in its License Agreement with SCDOT is amortized over the term of the License Agreement, which ends year 2038 (See Note 5 for further details). When capital assets are disposed of, the cost and accumulated depreciation is removed from the books. The resulting gain or loss is included in operations.

**N. Bonds Payable and Related Bond Issuance Costs, Discounts and Fees**

The current and non-current portions of bonds payable are recorded as liabilities in the accompanying statement of net assets. Bond issuance costs, discounts and underwriters' fees on all bonds are deferred and amortized over the terms of the bonds. Bond discounts are amortized using the bonds outstanding method, which approximates the effective interest method. Bond issuance costs and underwriters' fees are amortized using the straight-line method.

CONNECTOR 2000 ASSOCIATION, INC., GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002

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NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

**N. Bonds Payable and Related Bond Issuance Costs, Discounts and Fees (Continued)**

Bond discounts are presented as a reduction of the face amount of the related revenue bonds payable whereas bond issuance costs and underwriters' fees are recorded as other assets.

**O. Rebatable Arbitrage**

Arbitrage involves the investment of proceeds resulting from the sale of tax-exempt securities in a taxable investment that yields a higher rate, which produces income in excess of interest costs. Federal law requires entities to rebate to the government such income on tax-exempt debt if the yield from those earnings exceeds the effective yield on the related tax-exempt debt issued. The Federal Government only requires arbitrage to be calculated, reported and paid every five years or at maturity of the debt, whichever is earlier. However, the potential liability is calculated annually for financial reporting purposes, and any arbitrage rebate liability incurred is recognized at that time. The liability is recorded using the revenue reduction method, whereby the rebate is recorded as a reduction of interest revenue. At December 31, 2003 and 2002, no such liability had been incurred.

**P. Fund Equity**

Proprietary Fund Equity is classified as net assets (deficit) and displayed as the following three components:

*Invested in capital assets, net of related debt* — Consists of capital assets, including restricted capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and amortization, and reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets (including the accreted interest liability that was capitalized during its Development Stage).

*Restricted net assets* — Consists of net assets with constraints placed on their use either by (1) external groups such as creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or (2) law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. In all cases, if individual restricted net asset categories are negative, the negative balance is eliminated and reclassified against unrestricted net assets.

*Unrestricted net assets* — All other net assets that do not meet the definition of “restricted” or “invested in capital assets, net of related debt.”

Unless otherwise dictated in the Trust Agreement, the Association's policy is to first apply restricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net assets are available.

The Association's net deficit at December 31, 2003 and 2002 has resulted from shortfalls since commencement of operations due to lower than expected traffic counts and toll revenue. The Association anticipates that future development along the Southern Connector corridor will encourage increased traffic, which in turn, will generate toll revenues that will reduce the deficit.

**Q. Interest Capitalization**

In accordance with FASB Statement No. 62, Capitalization of Interest Cost in Situations Involving Certain Tax-Exempt Borrowings and Certain Gifts and Grants, the Association capitalized the interest costs incurred during the construction of the Southern Connector. The amount of interest capitalized for assets constructed with tax-exempt borrowings consisted of the interest cost of the borrowings, including amortization of the original issue discount, less interest earned on the related interest-bearing investments acquired with proceeds of the related tax-exempt borrowings, incurred prior to commencement of toll road operations.

**CONNECTOR 2000 ASSOCIATION, INC., GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002**

**NOTE 2 – DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS**

The Association’s Trust Agreement requires that all fund bank deposits that are not insured by the FDIC be collateralized by investment securities. The types of investment securities that may be used as collateral are: obligations of, or guaranteed by, the United States of America or certain of its agencies; repurchase agreements with underlying securities that are obligations of, or guaranteed by, the United States of America or certain of its agencies; certain obligations of, or guaranteed by, any state within the territorial United States of America; agreements that provide for the forward delivery of any securities previously described; investments in money market mutual funds rated “AAAm”, “AAm”, “AAAmG” or better; unsecured investment agreements with any bank or financial institution, the unsecured debt or counter-party rating of which is “investment grade” rated as of the date of acquisition; and any other obligation which, at the date of acquisition, is rated by a rating agency in one of the two highest rating categories for long-term obligations or in the highest rating category for short-term obligations.

The following schedule reconciles deposits and investments within the footnotes to the amounts in the statement of net assets:

	Statement of Net Assets			Notes	
	2003	2002		2003	2002
Unrestricted Current Assets:					
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 387,436	369,290	Deposits	537,876	\$ 78,535
Investments	150,000	-	Investments	20,187,263	25,311,371
Restricted Current Assets:					
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,495,909	4,728,085			
Investments	747,093	-			
Noncurrent Assets:					
Restricted Investments	17,944,701	20,292,531			
	<u>\$ 20,725,139</u>	<u>25,389,906</u>		<u>20,725,139</u>	<u>\$ 25,389,906</u>

GASB Statement No. 3, *Deposits with Financial Institutions, Investments (including Repurchase Agreements), and Reverse Repurchase Agreements*, requires entities to categorize their bank deposits to give an indication of the level of risk assumed at year-end. The credit risk categories are concerned with custodial credit risk, which is the risk that an entity will not be able to recover deposits if the depository financial institution fails to recover the value of collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party if the counter-party to the deposit transaction fails. There are three categories of deposit credit risk as follows:

(Category 1) – insured or collateralized with securities held by the Association or by its agent in the Association’s name,

(Category 2) – collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution’s trust department or agent in the Association’s name, and

(Category 3) – uncollateralized, including any bank balance that is collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution, or by its trust department or agent, but not in the Association’s name

**CONNECTOR 2000 ASSOCIATION, INC., GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002**

**NOTE 2 – DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)**

The Association's bank balances and carrying amounts at December 31, 2003 and 2002, were as follows:

Year	Risk Category			Bank Balance	Carrying Amount
	1	2	3		
2003	\$ 316,532	-	207,485	524,017	\$ 537,876
2002	\$ 66,480	-	-	66,480	\$ 66,480

None of the deposits above were on deposit with the South Carolina State Treasurer.

See Note 1, item K and Note 10 for additional information about restrictions on deposits in and balances of the various Trust Funds at December 31, 2003 and 2002.

Pursuant to requirements of GASB Statement No. 3, *Deposits with Financial Institutions, Investments (including Repurchase Agreements), and Reverse Repurchase Agreements*, at December 31, 2003 and 2002, the Association's investments in repurchase agreements were categorized to give an indication of the level of risk assumed by the Association at year-end. The credit risk categories are concerned with custodial credit risk, which is the risk that an entity will not be able to recover the value of investment or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party if the counter-party to the investment transaction fails. There are three categories of investment credit risk as follows:

(Category 1) – insured or registered, or securities held by the Association or by its agent in the Association's name,

(Category 2) – uninsured and unregistered, with securities held by the counter-party's trust department or agent in the Association's name, and

(Category 3) – uninsured and unregistered, with securities held by the counter-party, or by its trust department or agent, but not in the Association's name, including the portion of the carrying amount of any repurchase agreement that exceeds the market value of the underlying securities.

The Association's investments in open-end money market mutual funds were not required to be categorized since the investments were not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book entry form.

The Association's investments at December 31, 2003 and 2002, were as follows:

2003	Risk Category			Carrying Amount	Market Value
	1	2	3		
Repurchase Agreements	\$ -	18,691,794	-	18,691,794	\$ 18,691,794
Not Categorized:					
Open-end Money Market Mutual Funds	-	-	-	1,495,469	1,495,469
Total Deposits	\$ -	18,691,794	-	20,187,263	\$ 20,187,263

**CONNECTOR 2000 ASSOCIATION, INC., GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002**

**NOTE 2 – DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)**

2002	Risk Category			Carrying Amount	Market Value
	1	2	3		
Repurchase Agreements	\$ -	20,292,531	-	20,292,531	\$ 20,292,531
Not Categorized:					
Open-end Money Market					
Mutual Funds	-	-	-	5,018,640	5,018,640
Total Deposits	\$ -	20,292,531	-	25,311,171	\$ 25,311,171

The investment types listed above include all investment types in which monies were held during the year ended December 31, 2003 and 2002. None of the investments above were with the South Carolina State Treasurer.

For information regarding restricted assets at December 31, 2003, see Note 1, item K and Note 10 for additional information regarding restricted assets.

**NOTE 3 – RECEIVABLES**

At December 31, 2003 and 2002, the Association's receivables were as follows:

	2003	2002
Receivables:		
Interest	\$ 510,225	\$ 3,649
Right-of-way Refunds	7,400	7,400
Due From Management Company	-	30,000
Gross Receivables	\$ 517,625	\$ 41,049

**NOTE 4 – CAPITAL ASSETS**

The following tables summarize the changes in capital assets of the Association during the past two years and their balances at December 31, 2003 and 2002:

Description	Balance			Balance December 31, 2003
	December 31, 2002	Additions	Disposals	
Capital Assets:				
Interest in License Agreement with SCDOT	\$ 191,759,069	713,105	-	\$ 192,472,174
Equipment	440,284	107,712	(1,353)	546,643
Subtotal Capital Assets	192,199,353	820,817	(1,353)	193,018,817
Less: Accumulated Depreciation/Amortization:				
Interest in License Agreement with SCDOT	8,972,044	5,237,877	-	14,209,921
Equipment	176,114	103,164	(812)	278,466
Subtotal Accum. Depreciation/Amortization	9,148,158	5,341,041	(812)	14,488,387
Totals	\$ 183,051,195	(4,520,224)	(541)	\$ 178,530,430



**CONNECTOR 2000 ASSOCIATION, INC., GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002**

**NOTE 4 – CAPITAL ASSETS (CONTINUED)**

Description	Balance December 31, 2001	Additions	Disposals	Balance December 31, 2002
Capital Assets:				
Interest in License Agreement with SCDOT	\$ 188,286,854	3,472,215	-	\$ 191,759,069
Equipment	440,284	-	-	440,284
Subtotal Capital Assets	188,727,138	3,472,215	-	192,199,353
Less: Accumulated Depreciation/Amortization:				
Interest in License Agreement with SCDOT	3,830,409	5,141,635	-	8,972,044
Equipment	88,057	88,057	-	176,114
Subtotal Accum. Depreciation/Amortization	3,918,466	5,229,692	-	9,148,158
Totals	\$ 184,808,672	(1,757,477)	-	\$ 183,051,195

At December 31, 2003 and 2002, depreciation and amortization expense related to capital assets was \$5,341,041 and \$5,229,692, respectively. See Note 1, item M for additional information about the Association's capitalization policy, and its methods of calculating depreciation and amortization.

The Association had no construction commitments outstanding at December 31, 2003. The Association had \$776,947 of construction commitments outstanding at December 31, 2002.

**NOTE 5 – INTEREST IN LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH SCDOT**

On February 11, 1998, the Association entered into the License Agreement with the SCDOT regarding the construction and operation of the Southern Connector and SC 153 Extension Projects (the "Projects"). The License Agreement grants to the Association, the exclusive right (1) to acquire, in the name of the SCDOT, rights-of-way and other real property necessary to the development and operation of the Projects, (2) to develop and construct the Projects, (3) to finance the Southern Connector, (4) to operate, repair, renew and replace the Southern Connector in accordance with the terms of the agreement, and (5) to collect tolls from the users of the Southern Connector.

In order to finance the Southern Connector, the Association issued three series of toll road revenue bonds pursuant to the Trust Agreement, more particularly described in Note 10 (the "Bonds".) Interest on the Bonds is exempt from both federal income tax and South Carolina income tax. The Bonds are special limited obligations of the Association, payable solely from net revenues and monies held in certain accounts and other property included in the trust estate established by the Trust Agreement. The bonds are not, and shall never, constitute an indebtedness to the State of South Carolina, the SCDOT, or any agency, department or political subdivision of the State of South Carolina. (See Note 10 for additional information.)

The License Agreement specifies that, upon its termination, the Association is to convey to the SCDOT full title to all property and improvements acquired in whole, or in part, with proceeds of the Bonds. (As stated in the License Agreement, the title to all real property and improvements thereon acquired or constructed during the term of the License Agreement is held by the SCDOT.) The License Agreement specifies a termination date of 50 years after substantial completion of the Southern Connector. However, the License Agreement automatically terminates upon repayment, redemption or defeasance of the Bonds and all other project debt. Since the Bonds mature January 1, 2038, management considers that date to be the effective termination date of the License Agreement.

**CONNECTOR 2000 ASSOCIATION, INC., GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002**

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**NOTE 5 – INTEREST IN LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH SCDOT (CONTINUED)**

In order to fulfill its responsibilities under the License Agreement, the Association entered into an agreement (the “Development Agreement”) with Interwest Carolina Transportation Group, LLC (the “Developer”) whereby the Developer agreed to perform the obligations of the Association under the License Agreement with respect to construction of the Southern Connector and the SC 153 Extension and assumed various additional responsibilities. In order to fulfill its responsibilities under the Development Agreement, the Developer in turn entered into contracts with various subcontractors for the performance of certain obligations. The Developer agreed to complete the construction of the Southern Connector at a guaranteed price of \$173,802,263, which included acquisition of all rights-of-way, relocation of utilities and railroads, and all design and construction activities, including toll plazas, toll collection equipment, operations systems and other costs. The Developer commenced construction on February 27, 1998. On February 23, 2001, the Association received notification from the SCDOT of its acceptance of the roadways and bridges, thereby permitting the Association to commence operations of the Southern Connector. On February 27, 2001, the Southern Connector was opened to the public. At that time, traffic was allowed on the Southern Connector free for a two-week introductory period. Toll collection operations began on March 14, 2001. Substantial completion was reached on July 22, 2001.

Ninth in priority, the Association will be required to pay a license fee to the SCDOT in the amount of \$125,000 per month for a period of 25 years, commencing thirteen months after final completion of the Southern Connector and of \$1 per month thereafter for the remainder of the term of the License Agreement. Payment of the monthly license fees will commence on the first day of the calendar month following the first anniversary of the final completion date of the Southern Connector.

So long as any project debt remains outstanding, any license fees not paid when due will be deferred and will accrue interest at a rate of 5% per annum compounded annually. The SCDOT is responsible for maintaining the Southern Connector (costs of maintenance are to be reimbursed by the Association in eighth priority in the flow of funds set forth in Note 1.K.) The SCDOT is responsible for setting the toll rates in accordance with the terms of the License Agreement. The SC 153 Extension, the costs of which are not included in the accompanying financial statements, is operated, maintained, renewed and replaced by the SCDOT as part of the South Carolina Highway System. (See Note 6 for information regarding the Operations Contract.)

The Association’s rights under the License Agreement, as described above, constitute an intangible asset that is valued and recorded at an amount equal to the cost of construction of the Southern Connector, including related capitalized interest. (See Note 1, item J for additional information.)

**NOTE 6 – OPERATIONS CONTRACT**

On December 28, 2000, the Association entered into a contract (the “Operations Contract”) with Southern Interwest, LLC, (the “Contractor”) whereby the Contractor will operate the Southern Connector on behalf of the Association for a fee. Under the Operations Contract, tolls for the use of the Southern Connector were collected by the contractor on behalf of the Association. Toll revenues are deposited into the Revenue Fund and applied as described in Note 1. K, herein. The Contractor was responsible for all work (as defined in the Operations Contract) relating to operations of the Southern Connector and all obligations of the Association under the License Agreement relating to the operation, repair, maintenance and insurance of the Southern Connector. The Operations Contract had an original expiration date of December 31, 2004 and provided renewal options of successive one-year terms, upon the mutual agreement of the parties. For compensation for the services provided under the Operations Contract, the Association paid the Contractor for certain costs of work as defined in the Operations Contract plus a management fee and a subordinated management fee. The original management fee consisted of a regular monthly fee totaling \$200,000 per year and a subordinated management fee of \$100,000 per year. The subordinated fee not paid each year when due would be deferred and would accrue interest at a rate of 10% per annum compounded annually.

**CONNECTOR 2000 ASSOCIATION, INC., GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002**

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**NOTE 6 – OPERATIONS CONTRACT (CONTINUED)**

Effective March 1, 2002, the Association renegotiated the amount of the annual management fee. The annual management fee was reduced to \$100,000 (payable in monthly installments) and the subordinated management fee of \$100,000 was eliminated. Effective December 31, 2002, the Operations Contract was terminated, but later the Association agreed to extend the Contract through February 28, 2003 to assist in the transition to self-management of the toll highway. The Association agreed to compensate the managing agency for the additional effort necessary to complete the transition. The total management fees paid during 2003 was \$16,667. The total management fees and subordinated management fees paid during 2002 was \$100,000 and \$16,667, respectively.

**NOTE 7 – ACCRUED INTEREST PAYABLE**

At December 31, 2003 and 2002, accrued interest payable was \$1,765,750, which consisted of the Senior Current Interest Bond (Series 1998A) payment due January 1, 2004 and 2003. Interest is paid January 1 and July 1 of each year to holders of the Senior Bonds at rates of 5.250% and 5.375% per annum.

**NOTE 8 – REQUISITIONS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED EARLY COMPLETION BONUS**

Requisitions payable consisted of requisitions for payment of construction costs and services that had been incurred as of December 31, 2003 and 2002, but were not yet paid. The Association's Engineer approves all requisitions prior to payment from the Construction Fund.

The balance outstanding and unpaid for the accrued early completion bonus at December 31, 2002 was \$1,850,000. In January 2003, the attorneys representing the Association and the Developer reached an agreement on the amount of a completion bonus that had been in dispute. The total amount due to the developer was settled to be \$2,322,500 (of which \$472,500 had already been paid in 2002). The completion bonus was capitalized in the "Interest in License Agreement with SCDOT" component of the capital assets.

**NOTE 9 – INTEREST COSTS INCURRED**

Interest costs expensed during the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, totaled \$14,395,797 and \$13,731,258, respectively.

**NOTE 10 – BONDS PAYABLE**

As discussed in Notes 1 and 5, the Association issued three series of tax-exempt toll road revenue Bonds pursuant to the Trust Agreement. All of the Bonds were issued on February 11, 1998. The Bonds are special limited obligations of the Association that are not, and shall never, constitute an indebtedness to the State of South Carolina, the SCDOT, or any agency, department or political subdivision of the State of South Carolina, including the County of Greenville, South Carolina and the City of Greenville, South Carolina. Following is a brief description of each bond issue:

Series 1998A: Series 1998A Senior Current Interest Toll Road Revenue Bonds which were dated 2/11/98 - \$66,200,000 original principal amount at issuance; interest payable semi-annually on January 1 and July 1 at rates of 5.250% and 5.375%; \$21,400,000 of bonds mature January, 2023; \$44,800,000 of bonds mature January, 2038. There was an original issue discount on the Series 1998A bonds at issuance of \$2,693,952.

**CONNECTOR 2000 ASSOCIATION, INC., GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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**NOTE 10 – BONDS PAYABLE (CONTINUED)**

Series 1998B: Series 1998B Senior Capital Appreciation Toll Road Revenue Bonds which were dated 2/11/98 - \$87,385,622 original principal amount at issuance; interest accretes at various rates ranging from 5.30% to 5.85%; \$438,100,000 of bonds mature serially from January 2008 to January 2038.

Series 1998C: Series 1998C Subordinate Capital Appreciation Toll Road Revenue Bonds which were dated 2/11/98 - \$46,592,058 original principal amount at issuance; interest accretes at various rates ranging from 6.15% to 6.30%; \$241,800,000 of bonds mature serially from January 2008 to January 2038.

Bonds payable changes during 2003 and balances at December 31, 2003, were as follows:

	Balance December 31, 2002	Increases	Decreases	Balance December 31, 2003
<b>Senior Bonds</b>				
Series 1998A	\$ 66,200,000	-	-	\$ 66,200,000
Original issue discount on Series 1998A	(2,299,242)	80,280	-	(2,218,962)
Subtotal Series 1998A	63,900,758	80,280	-	63,981,038
Series 1998B	115,358,881	6,742,636	-	122,101,517
<b>Subordinate Bonds:</b>				
Series 1998C	62,917,838	4,040,505	-	66,958,343
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 242,177,477</b>	<b>10,863,421</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$ 253,040,898</b>

Bonds payable changes during 2002 and balances at December 31, 2002, were as follows:

	Balance December 31, 2001	Increases	Decreases	Balance December 31, 2002
<b>Senior Bonds</b>				
Series 1998A	\$ 66,200,000	-	-	\$ 66,200,000
Original issue discount on Series 1998A	(2,379,522)	80,280	-	(2,299,242)
Subtotal Series 1998A	63,820,478	80,280	-	63,900,758
Series 1998B	108,988,741	6,370,140	-	115,358,881
<b>Subordinate Bonds:</b>				
Series 1998C	59,168,499	3,749,339	-	62,917,838
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 231,977,718</b>	<b>10,199,759</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$ 242,177,477</b>

Additions to bonds payable represents the amortization of original issue discount on the Series 1998A Senior Current Interest Toll Road Revenue Bonds, and accretions on the Series 1998B Senior Capital Appreciation Toll Road Revenue Bonds and 1998C Subordinate Capital Appreciation Toll Road Revenue Bonds. At December 31, 2003 and 2002, no principal payments on bonds were due within one year.

**CONNECTOR 2000 ASSOCIATION, INC., GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002**

**NOTE 10 – BONDS PAYABLE (CONTINUED)**

A summary of the debt service requirements (annual principal and interest payments) to maturity for the Bonds is as follows:

Year Ending December 31	Principal	Interest	Totals
2004	\$ -	3,531,500	\$ 3,531,500
2005	-	3,531,500	3,531,500
2006	-	3,531,500	3,531,500
2007	-	3,531,500	3,531,500
2008	6,200,000	3,507,875	9,707,875
2009-2013	42,500,000	16,775,500	59,275,500
2014-2018	67,200,000	15,213,625	82,413,625
2019-2023	99,600,000	13,210,750	112,810,750
2024-2028	135,800,000	10,604,876	146,404,876
2029-2033	177,500,000	7,148,751	184,648,751
2034-2038	217,300,000	2,660,625	219,960,625
Totals	<u>\$ 746,100,000</u>	<u>83,248,002</u>	<u>\$ 829,348,002</u>

As discussed in Note 1, item K, the terms of the Trust Agreement require the establishment of seven bank fund accounts as listed below. The proceeds of the Bonds were allocated among, and deposited into, certain of these accounts. The monies deposited into these accounts were invested as provided in the Trust Agreement. Authorized payments of construction costs, debt service, arbitrage rebates, operating costs, and renewal and replacement costs may only be paid from certain funds as specified in the Trust Agreement. Payment of debt service of the Bonds is secured by the Trust Estate, which includes all monies deposited into these various funds, excluding amounts in the rebate account and in the renewal and replacement account. The Trust Estate also includes the Association's interest in Revenues as defined in the Trust Agreement, the Association's interest in the License Agreement with the SCDOT, and any other property pledged as security for the Bonds.

The accounts established by the Trust Agreement and the balances therein at December 31, 2003 and 2002, were as follows:

Fund	Amount	
	2003	2002
Construction	\$ 800,188	\$ 3,631,159
Revenue	25,120	271,758
Debt Service	1,344,071	1,037,205
Debt Service Reserve	18,144,701	20,292,531
Renewal and Replacement Program	-	-
Rebate	-	-
Total	<u>\$ 20,314,080</u>	<u>\$ 25,232,653</u>

During the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, payments from the various accounts were made in accordance with the terms of the Trust Agreement.

**CONNECTOR 2000 ASSOCIATION, INC., GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002**

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**NOTE 10 – BONDS PAYABLE (CONTINUED)**

The Trust Agreement contains certain other bond covenants including, but not limited to, the following:

- The Association is prohibited from taking any action, or omitting to take any action, that would cause the Bonds to lose their tax-exempt status.
- After the Southern Connector is completed and operational, an Engineer (as defined) must inspect the toll road annually and submit a report documenting the physical condition of the toll road, offering advice, recommendations and a cost estimate as to the proper operation of the toll road during the ensuing fiscal year, offering advice and recommendations regarding the insurance to be carried, and stating the amount to be deposited into the Renewal and Replacement Fund for the next fiscal year.
- Prior to the end of each fiscal year, the Association is required to file an annual budget for the next fiscal year with the Trustee.
- Beginning on the first day of the second full fiscal year immediately following the later of (i) the Final Completion date of the Southern Connector, and (ii) the last date through which interest on any of the bonds is to be paid from proceeds of the bonds, the tolls charged by the Association shall equal or exceed the greater of (a) 1.25 times the aggregate debt service on all outstanding Senior Bonds due in that fiscal year, and (b) the amount required to fund all transfers to the Senior Bonds Debt Service Reserve Fund as defined in the Trust Agreement, and to equal not less than 1.10 times the aggregate debt service on all outstanding Bonds due in that fiscal year. The Trust Agreement also specifies actions to be taken if the Association determines that revenues may be inadequate to meet this covenant.
- The Association monitors the covenants for compliance throughout the year. The Association believes it was in compliance with its bond covenants throughout 2003 and 2002.

**NOTE 11 – RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Association is exposed to various types of risk including loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; injuries to construction workers and others; professional design; and damage to property of others. The Association obtained commercial insurance covering all of its known risks of loss as follows:

Automobile Liability	Professional Design
Worker's Compensation	Crime
Directors and Officers	Force Majeure
Builder's Risk	General Liability

No claim settlements have exceeded insurance coverage during the past three years. There were no significant reductions in insurance coverage during the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002.

**NOTE 12 – RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

During the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, the Association paid \$50,876 and \$125,012, respectively, for advertising to an advertising agency controlled by a member of the Association's Board of Directors.

**CONNECTOR 2000 ASSOCIATION, INC., GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002**

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**NOTE 13 – CONTINGENCIES**

On March 21, 2003, the Trustee sent Notice #2 to the registered owners of the Bonds. In such notice, the Trustee informed the bondholders of a dispute concerning the interpretation Section 505 (1) of the Trust Agreement. As previously communicated to the bondholders, on January 2, 2003, the Trustee made a withdrawal of approximately \$72,320 from the Senior Bonds Debt Service Reserve Account in order to pay a portion of interest payment then due on the Association's Series 1998A Senior Current Interest Bonds. On February 6, 2003, the Trustee notified the Association by letter that there were not sufficient Revenues available to replenish the Senior Bonds Debt Service Reserve Account to the level that existed prior to such withdrawal. The Trustee contends that Section 505(1) of the Trust Agreement requires the Association to deliver to the Trustee on or before the last day of each month monies sufficient to replenish the Senior Bonds Debt Service Reserve Account to the Senior Bonds Debt Service Reserve Account Requirement. The Association reminded the Trustee that the Indenture is a "lock box" structure, all of the Revenues available to pay the Bonds and replenish the funds and accounts of the Indenture are already transferred to the Trustee. The Association contends that the provisions of Section 505(1) merely direct the Trustee as to the disposition of Revenues among the various accounts and the ordering of transfers of such revenues. The Trustee and the Association were unable to resolve their differences in the interpretation of such section of the Trust Agreement and the Trustee notified the bondholders that an event of Default has occurred under Section 902(3) of the Trust Agreement. The Trustee informed bondholders it intends to forebear from initiating legal actions in connection with the alleged default and solicited their comment and direction. The Trustee and the Association entered into a Tolling Agreement dated as of April 16, 2003, (the "Tolling Agreement") whereby, among other matters, the Trustee and the Association agreed that the above-described event would not be deemed to be an Event of Default under the Trust Agreement during the term of the Tolling Agreement.

In the Tolling Agreement, the Association agrees not to assert any defense it may have based on the lapse of time under the statute of limitations during the term of the Tolling Agreement relating to the above-described events. This original agreement was to expire on April 30, 2004, but the expiration date could be extended upon mutual written agreement of the parties. In April 2004, the Association and the Trustee amended the Tolling Agreement by extending the term of the Tolling Agreement until April 30, 2005. The amendment also provided for the Tolling Agreement to automatically be extended thereafter for additional periods ending April 30<sup>th</sup> of each year unless either party gives the other at least sixty days advance written notice that the Tolling Agreement shall expire on the next succeeding April 30<sup>th</sup>.

**NOTE 14 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

In accordance with the terms of the Trust Agreement, immediately after the Final Completion date has been attained, the Association is required to (a) reduce the Construction Fund monies down to only those amounts needed for punch list items and is to (b) activate the Renewal and Replacement Fund (priority 7 under the Trust Agreement).

The Final Completion date for the Association was achieved with an effective date of December 22, 2003. In accordance with the Trust Agreement, in January 2004 the Association reduced the Construction Fund from approximately \$800,000 to \$75,000 (amount estimated for punch list items) with the remaining balance (approximately \$725,000) being deposited into the debt service fund. The money deposited in the debt service fund will be used to redeem bonds no later than the first optional call date (January 1, 2008) as required by the Trust Agreement. In addition, the Association will activate the Renewal and Replacement Fund when funds become available.

**CONNECTOR 2000 ASSOCIATION, INC., GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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**NOTE 15- OTHER MATTERS**

In prior years, the Association was a Development Stage Enterprise focused on construction of the Southern Connector. During the Development Stage, expenses incurred by the Association increased its net deficit, since no toll road operations had begun and no revenues were earned. The road was opened to public traffic in early 2001 and toll collection commenced March 14, 2001.

Since commencing operations, the Southern Connector has experienced significantly lower traffic counts than those projected during the Traffic and Revenue Study performed in 1997 during the planning phase of the Southern Connector Project - less than half of the traffic volume projected in the Revenue Study.

Several factors have contributed to this shortfall. The Southern Connector is the first toll road in Upstate South Carolina. Since citizens in the Greenville, South Carolina vicinity are unaccustomed to using toll roads, they have been resistant to the concept of paying tolls. Furthermore, the Southern Connector was envisioned as a means of fostering development in southern Greenville County, and its corridor runs through a largely undeveloped area, serving as a thruway connecting Interstate 385 with Interstate 85. This lack of development, coupled with the fact that the Southern Connector was opened almost nine months ahead of schedule, means that the demand for the toll road is in its infancy. In addition, current economic conditions have slowed potential economic development along the Southern Connector.

Due to the factors discussed above, the Association's revenues for 2003 and 2002 fell well short of amounts anticipated, and the Association suffered a decrease in net assets (loss) of \$18.0 million for 2003 and \$17.2 million for 2002. In addition, the Association used a portion of its debt service reserve fund to help fund a portion of its 2003 interest payments. Unless revenues increase sharply in the coming years, the Association will continue to have to draw monies from its debt service reserve funds.