

RFATS

Rock Hill-Fort Mill Area Transportation Study

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES

Friday, December 19, 2008 - 12:00 p.m. (NOON)
City Hall – Room 373

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Bob Runde; Jim Reno; Paul Lindemann; Buddy Motz; Doug Echols; and Danny Funderburk.

ADMINISTRATIVE / TECHNICAL / MANAGEMENT STAFF PRESENT: Allison Love (York County); Sarah Rayfield (York County); Phil Leazer (York County); Stephen Allen (York County); Carol Rhea (York County); Jim Baker (York County); Carey Smith (CRH); Wendy Bell (Catawba COG); Andy Merriman (Fort Mill); Doug Frate (SCDOT); Kevin Sheppard (SCDOT); Dianne Janicki (SCDOT); Patrick Tyndall (FHWA); Brian Barnes (SCDHEC); Renee Shealy (SCDHEC); Myra Reece (SCDHEC); Jason Harris (Catawba Indian Nation); Frances Thomas (CRH); David Hooper (CRH) and Leigh Welch (CRH).

CITIZENS / VISITORS PRESENT:
Barre Mitchell (CAC); Amy Massey (Kimley-Horn).

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A. Welcome – Chairman Runde called the meeting to order at 12:10 PM. Chairman Runde welcomed everyone in attendance and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

B. Citizen Comment Period – Chairman Runde invited citizens in attendance to address the Policy Committee. There were no comments.

2. REVIEW / APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Runde asked if there were any changes, deletions or comments to the minutes of the November 21, 2008 meeting. Hearing none, Mr. Funderburk made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Motz seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

3. REVIEW OF AIR QUALITY NONATTAINMENT ISSUES:

- Future Air Quality Nonattainment Boundary Options- Ms. Thomas reviewed background information presented at the November meeting in regards to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards and York County boundary options. Specifically, the decrease in the 8-hour ozone standard from 0.08 ppm to 0.075 ppm; the review process every five years as required by the Clean Air Act; timeline for

submitting boundary recommendations; and the ten factors EPA considers to change a boundary.

Ms. Thomas then stated local staff recommends the following boundary:

A York County nonattainment boundary that extends the current boundary to the west (Hwy 321) to capture the monitoring station. If the monitoring station shows compliance by 2009, request boundary reverts to current boundary (RFATS Study Area).

Mr. Motz asked how the extension of the boundary will affect the nonattainment factor. Staff explained along with Mr. Barnes how it will strengthen the argument to EPA to request a change in the boundary by including the monitor that indicates the area is above the standard.

Ms. Thomas then presented a map showing the Charlotte Bi-State Nonattainment Area and the pros and cons of separating from the Charlotte Nonattainment Area. Specifically, in regards to pros, the following applies:

- Based on violation data and trends, SC/RFATS area more likely to reach nonattainment status by required timeframe
- Charlotte nonattainment area may be reclassified in future to “serious” violation impacting both economic development and transportation
- Bi-state coordination issues
- EPA views area as one for their decision making
- RFATS does not currently receive additional funding eligibility or consideration from being linked to Charlotte.

In regards to the cons, the following applies:

- Due to its size, Charlotte does have technical resources and expertise to share with other MPO’s
- Industries may benefit (credits) short-term from larger nonattainment areas; however, being in attainment sooner and avoiding reclassification to “serious” status would be more beneficial
- No collateral damage anticipated, i.e., other partnerships, but Charlotte could be less cooperative on future initiatives

Ms. Thomas also stated there are anticipated significant hurdles in posing a separation from Charlotte. Specifically, the EPA mindset is more of a regional approach and the need for political support at the highest level. Ms. Thomas then presented the recommendation to extend the nonattainment boundary westward to include the monitor and request separation from the Charlotte Nonattainment Area. Mr. Smith then asked about the consequences of the “serious” classification. Ms. Shealy indicated mandatory measures would be in place with no funding such as vehicle inspections, HOV lanes and forced mass transit. Mr. Echols made a motion

to approve the recommendation. Mr. Reno seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

- Pending EPA Action (November 17th letter) – Ms. Shealy stated a letter was received from EPA requesting a voluntary bump-up to a “serious” classification due to the anticipation of the standard not being met by 2010. Ms. Shealy also stated EPA would disapprove the SIP for the attainment demonstration portion of the area for failure to request voluntary bump-up. Staff discussion followed regarding the implications of a serious classification and how a request to withdraw the 2007 SIP will allow time to get an approvable SIP within the 18 month time frame following a failure to submit a SIP. Ms. Shealy noted this is the best approach to take at this time. Mr. Echols made a motion to support the planned action of SCDHEC to withdraw the SIP. Mr. Funderburk seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Reno asked if SCDHEC has been in touch with the regional EPA Administrator and if follow-up has taken place with New Jersey who faces a similar situation in regards to the refusal to accept the voluntary bump-up. Ms. Shealy stated SCDHEC is in constant communication with EPA and no follow-up has taken place with New Jersey.

Mr. Motz asked what is being done to improve air quality in our area. Ms. Shealy noted the goal of improvement has been moved and data shows air quality is improving every year.

Ms. Thomas asked when the final SIP would be re-submitted. Ms. Shealy stated the final SIP will be re-submitted by November 30, 2009.

4. PROPOSED POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS:

A. Election of Officers– Following the rotation schedule, Mr. Funderburk made a motion to recommend Mr. Echols as Chairman. Mr. Reno seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Echols then recommended Mr. Motz as Vice-chairman. Mr. Funderburk seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

5. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Next regular meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2009 at Manchester Meadows.

6. ADJOURN:

Meeting adjourned at 1:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Leigh W. Welch