

RFATS

Rock Hill-Fort Mill Area Transportation Study

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES

Friday, February 27, 2009 - 12:00 p.m. (NOON)
Manchester Meadows Conference Room

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Runde; Jim Reno; Paul Lindemann; Buddy Motz; Sarah Nuckles; Carl Gullick; and Danny Funderburk.

ADMINISTRATIVE / TECHNICAL / MANAGEMENT STAFF PRESENT: Sarah Rayfield (York County); Stephen Allen (York County); Susan Britt (York County); Carey Smith (CRH); Wendy Bell (Catawba COG); Andy Merriman (Fort Mill); Stan Bland (SCDOT); Greg Shaw (SCDOT); Kevin Sheppard (SCDOT); Dianne Janicki (SCDOT); Sid Bacchus (SCDOT); Patrick Tyndall (FHWA); Michael Juras (SCDHEC); Leslie Coolidge (SCDHEC); Bill Meyer (CRH); Harold Shapiro (Catawba COG); Frances Thomas (CRH); David Hooper (CRH) and Leigh Welch (CRH).

CITIZENS / VISITORS PRESENT:

Bobby Rosinki (WRHI); Amy Massey (Kimley-Horn); and Marie Unal (Citizen).

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A. Welcome – Vice-Chairman Motz called the meeting to order at 12:10 PM.

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

2. REVIEW / APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Vice-Chairman Motz asked if there were any changes, deletions or comments to the minutes of the December 19, 2008 meeting. Hearing none, Mr. Funderburk made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Reno seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

3. UPDATE ON CURRENT PROJECTS:

A. York County Capital Projects – No report available.

B. SCDOT Report – Mr. Bacchus briefed the Policy Committee on the following two projects:

US 21 Bridge Replacement and Roadway Improvements - a public hearing occurred on February 24, 2009 at Fort Mill High School; ROW acquisition phase will begin in summer 2009.

SC 5 Bridge Replacement - a public meeting is scheduled on March 10, 2009 from 5-7 pm at the Van Wyck Community Center for the Lancaster and York County communities.

Mr. Bacchus also stated Ms. Machael Peterson is coordinating the Local Participation Agreements for CMAQ and Enhancement projects process and will be providing additional information on the requirements at the next Study Team meeting on March 5.

C. 82X Bus Service – Mr. Hooper provided a ridership report on the CATS 82X Commuter Bus Service for the 4th quarter of 2008. Mr. Hooper stated that ridership has increased modestly due to the economy and increased fuel costs and that on a year-over-year basis ridership is up approximately 7.2%.

Commissioner Nuckles inquired as to a start date for the additional route on Celanese Rd and plans on advertisement. Mr. Hooper stated a proposed start date of July, 2009 or by the following quarter and noted a request has been presented in the federal and state grant applications to support the expansion of this route. Mr. Hooper also stated information will be presented at the City level on the website and as a press release once the new route begins. The initiation of this new route is contingent on local government support and funding.

D. TEP and CMAQ Projects – Mr. Hooper presented the September 08 – February 09 progress report on TEP and CMAQ projects. Specifically, there are 21 total CMAQ projects of which the following three are completed:

- Rock Hill Signal Controller Upgrade
- Rock Hill Alternative Fuel Vehicle
- Rock Hill Dave Lyle Traffic Study

Mr. Hooper also noted three active projects, seven of the 07-08 project contracts could be released by February/March and seven of the 08-09 project contracts are pending release in late summer of 2009 due to the LPA process audit. Mr. Hooper noted he will attend a mandatory meeting at SCDOT on the LPA process on March 18.

Commissioner Nuckles commented on the higher level of accountability expected from FHWA and SCDOT. Mr. Reno then inquired about the validity of the cost estimates on the older projects. Mr. Hooper stated no indication has been given as to a change of the cost estimates.

Mr. Hooper stated of the 10 TEP projects, the following three were completed:

- Fort Mill Main Street Enhancement Phase I
- York County Airport Trail Phase II
- Rock Hill White Home Pedestrian Connectivity

Currently 3 projects are active and 4 are pending issuances of contracts; Mr. Motz then requested a follow up meeting with the contractor responsible for work being done at the airport and its impact on the York County Airport Trail in regards to repairing the damage done to the road during the duration of the construction project.

4. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

A. RFATS Recertification Review – Mr. Tyndall stated RFATS received a conditional certification from FHWA with three corrective actions (CMP, TIP updates, and IT projects) noted in the final report issued in November 2008. Mr. Tyndall also stated FHWA is working with RFATS staff very closely and stated items will be corrected by the deadlines indicated.

B. Economic Recovery Act of 2009 – Mr. Tyndall presented information on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Mr. Tyndall stated 27.5 billion dollars were appropriated for highways nationwide with 40 million assigned to FHWA for administration costs with 26.6 billion apportioned to the states. Mr. Tyndall then noted the following distributions for South Carolina:

- 67% of funds used on any area in SC
- 30% Sub-allocation for areas based on population
- 3% Transportation Enhancement

Mr. Tyndall then stated that money has been set aside for populations over and under 200,000 as well as for populations under 5,000 in the sub-allocation. Mr. Tyndall went on to state that the amount of funds apportioned to South Carolina totaled 463 million of which the following is allocated:

- 13.8 million for enhancements
- 43 million for areas with populations over 200,000
- 85 million for areas with populations under 200,000
- 10.3 million for areas with populations under 5,000
- 310 million for any areas of the state

Mr. Tyndall also noted 50% of funds apportioned have to be obligated within the first 120 days, beginning Feb 17, or it is lost and a second redistribution will occur in one year, in February 2010, in which the government will redistribute the funds to the states. Mr. Tyndall then stated the following requirements have to be met:

- Governor Sanford will have to certify that the state will continue to spend the federal funds already allocated for transportation and not replace the funds. If the Governor does not agree to this, the state can not participate in the redistribution.
- All Federal regulations apply to the ARRA projects
- Governor Sanford has to acknowledge within 45 days that funds will be used to promote jobs and promote economic health.

Mr. Tyndall noted a portion of the bill establishes a discretionary grant in which major projects can solicit for the funds available in this project and all projects are 100% federally funded with a huge emphasis on accountability, stewardship and oversight. This information is available at www.recovery.gov.

Mr. Sheppard then spoke on the statewide use of the funds and noted 463 million has been approved and the following is the proposed distribution for South Carolina:

- 150 million for resurfacing
- 74 million for interstate maintenance
- 19 million for safety / traffic
- 56 million for bridge projects
- 14 million for enhancements
- 150 million MPO/COG/SIB/County/Other

Mr. Sheppard also stated the Commission has approved the release of up to 200 million of the apportioned stimulus funds for South Carolina as follows:

- up to 100 million for resurfacing (York County/Lancaster - 3 million allocated in resurfacing (US 52 Bypass, Secondary Rd 12 and US 521 in Lancaster and SC 160, S245 and SC 324 in York County)
- 14 million for enhancements (2 million per engineering districts)
- 50 million in interstate maintenance (none in YC)
- 12.5 million in safety / traffic
- 37.5 million in bridge projects (Ross Branch and Beaver Dam Creek branch in the Catawba COG region)

Mr. Sheppard then stated all COGs and MPOs were requested to send in projects for consideration with over 800 projects submitted and a total of 50 candidate projects. Mr. Sheppard noted 5 projects in the RFATS / Catawba COG area appear to be eligible to receive stimulus funds and stated all projects should have proper documentation showing all requirements have been met and projects should be ready to proceed, i.e. plans completed, ROW and environmental permits and documentation obtained.

Mr. Sheppard also noted any funds not used by February, 2010 for selected projects will be re-distributed by the Federal government. Mr. Merriman asked if money can be recouped through the funds for upfront costs of the projects. Mr. Sheppard clarified stating

all upfront costs should already be incurred and the project should be ready for construction. Mr. Tyndall also stated ARRA funds can be used on preliminary engineering.

C. US 21 Bridge Enhancements and Local Funding – Ms. Thomas summarized enhancements / funding options for the US 21 Bridge project. Specifically, Ms. Thomas presented a power point presentation showing graphics of the addition of pedestrian accommodations, access for future transit railing design and lighting. Ms. Thomas noted the additional enhancement costs are \$715, 500 and would include local and federal funding support. The local participation would be \$575,000 and York County, Rock Hill and Fort Mill will submit a joint application for the 09-10 funding cycle of TEP funds. Mr. Tyndall noted only pedestrian lighting is eligible for enhancement funds.

5. PROPOSED POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS:

A. TIP Amendment - Ms. Thomas stated RFATS staff has received notice from SCDOT and FHWA that the FY 08-09 CMAQ projects as well as two project reallocations from the 07-08 funding cycle have been approved and can be reflected in the current TIP. Ms. Thomas then requested the Policy Committee consider an amendment to the FY 07-12 TIP to add CMAQ projects in the amount of \$3,950,046.00 in Federal funds and authorize a 30-day public comment period. Ms. Nuckles made a motion to approve the request and authorization. Mr. Reno seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

B. TIP Amendment – Ms. Hooper requested the consideration of an amendment to the FY 07-12 TIP to add the stimulus projects in the amount of \$3,098,000.00 in Federal funds for resurfacing projects and authorize a 30-day public comment period. Mr. Lindemann made a motion to approve the request and authorization. Mr. Funderburk seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Receive Annual Report from Citizens Advisory Committee – Mr. Hooper stated the Annual CAC report summarizes the core activities of the CAC which include review and recommendation on a number of RFATS' grant programs and planning activities. Mr. Motz thanked the CAC for their involvement. Mr. Hooper also noted the next CAC meeting is scheduled for March, 2009.

B. The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2009.

7. ADJOURN:

Meeting adjourned at 1:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Leigh W. Welch