

RFATS

Rock Hill-Fort Mill Area Transportation Study

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES

Friday, March 27, 2009 - 12:00 p.m. (NOON)
Room 373 – Rock Hill City Hall

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Runde; Jim Reno; Buddy Motz; Sarah Nuckles; Doug Echols; Kathy Pender; and Wes Hayes

ADMINISTRATIVE / TECHNICAL / MANAGEMENT STAFF PRESENT: Sarah Rayfield (York County); Phil Leazer (York County); Allison Love (York County); Steve Allen (York County); Carey Smith (CRH); Wendy Bell (Catawba COG); Doug Frate (SCDOT); Kevin Sheppard (SCDOT); Brian Klauk (SCDOT); Randall Young (SCDOT); Leslie Coolidge (SCDHEC); Kyle Lancaster (SCDHEC); Lisa Clark (SCDHEC); Jason Harris (CIN); Bill Meyer (CRH); Frances Thomas (CRH); David Hooper (CRH) and Leigh Welch (CRH).

CITIZENS / VISITORS PRESENT:

Bobby Rosinki (WRHI); Mark Ullmer (Allen Tate); Denise Williams (CIN); Jim VanBlarcom (CAC); Carol Higgins (CAC); Barre Mitchell (CAC); Amy Massey (Kimley-Horn); Rob Wayson (Wilbur Smith Assoc); and Marie Unal (Citizen).

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A. Welcome – Chairman Echols called the meeting to order at 12:20 PM.

B. Citizen Comment Period – Chairman Echols invited citizens in attendance to address the Policy Committee. Mr. Van Blarcom addressed Mr. Motz in regards to the extension of the Pennies for Progress program. Mr. Motz stated that the 2010 Pennies for Progress Program will be on the ballot for York County citizens to vote on in 2010. There were no additional comments.

2. REVIEW / APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Echols asked if there were any changes, deletions or comments to the minutes of the February 27, 2009 meeting. Hearing none, Mr. Reno made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Echols seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

3. UPDATE ON CURRENT PROJECTS:

A. York County Capital Project (Fort Mill Southern Bypass) – Mr. Leazer presented an update on the status of the Fort Mill Southern Bypass. Mr. Leazer then discussed the impact

of funding short falls and increased construction costs on the overall Pennies Projects funded under both the 1997 and 2003 rounds. Ms. Pender then inquired as to what measures are going to be taken to cover the shortfalls. Mr. Leazer responded that a combination of funding from Federal (Economic Stimulus), State (SCDOT), and local sources (2010 Pennies Referendum) will help cover the budgetary shortfalls.

Commissioner Nuckles then commented on how the One Cent Sales Tax program is an effective funding mechanism for individual counties to utilize in order to advance needed roadway improvements. Mr. Motz then noted that the current budgetary shortfalls are a result of price increases in material costs and in no way reflects on the management of individual projects or the Pennies for Progress Program(s) more broadly.

B. SCDOT Report – Mr. Young introduced the new Program Manager, Mr. Brian Klauk, who has been assigned to assist RFATS Study Area. Mr. Young then went on to provide an update on the SC 5 & US 21 bridge replacement projects:

SC 5 Bridge Project – a public meeting has been held to receive comments on the design of the bridge; it was also noted that construction on this project is expected to begin in Spring 2010.

US 21 Bridge Project – a public hearing was held on February 24, 2009 to receive comments on the design of the bridge as well as the associated pedestrian enhancements; it was also noted that ROW acquisition is expected in Spring 2009, with construction to begin November 2009. Mr. Young also indicated that this project is a candidate to receive some funding support as a part of the American Reinvestment & Recovery Act (ARRA).

4. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

A. DOT Commission Action Regarding Stimulus Funding for Local Projects and Discussion of RFATS Allocation – Commissioner Nuckles reviewed information on action taken by the SCDOT Commission regarding the distribution of stimulus funding; specifically, Commissioner Nuckles stated that RFATS' direct allocation is \$836,210 – Commissioner Nuckles went on to state how projects will lead to job creation; Commissioner Nuckles indicated that emphasis was given to projects that are leveraged and shovel ready; it was also noted that consideration was given to economically depressed and/or underserved areas within South Carolina as well. In total, Commissioner Nuckles stated that over 500 projects were submitted for funding consideration.

Mr. Echols then inquired about the funding and distribution process in the next round of allocations from the Economic Stimulus Bill. In response, Commissioner Nuckles stated that the projects evaluated for additional stimulus funding will be reviewed under the statewide ranking criteria (Act 114) and then individual project selections will be identified. Ms. Pender then asked if the resurfacing funds allocated for South Carolina are only for Federally recognized roads. Commissioner Nuckles stated that roads should fall under the guidelines of Title 23 of FHWA.

Ms. Thomas then stated that action is needed by the Policy Committee; specifically, the need to amend the FY 2007-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to reflect \$836,210 and how it will be used. Ms. Thomas then requested that the Policy Committee grant preliminary approval to allocate \$836,210.00 to the South Cherry Road Pennies Project. Mr. Hayes made a motion to approve this allocation and a TIP amendment. Mr. Reno seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B. Update on Non-Attainment Status – Ms. Coolidge provided a summary report on recent actions taken by SCDHEC regarding the non-attainment status within the RFATS Area; additionally, Ms. Coolidge reviewed some opportunities / strategies for reducing ground level ozone and encouraged members to take appropriate action on both a personal and professional level to improve air quality.

5. PROPOSED POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS:

A. TIP Amendment – Ms. Thomas stated that no public comments were received during the 30-day public comment period and requested that the Policy Committee give final approval to amend the FY 07-12 TIP to add seven CMAQ projects in the amount of \$3,950,046 in Federal funds. Mr. Motz made a motion to approve the amendment; Mr. Runde seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B. TIP Amendment – Mr. Hooper stated that no public comments were received during the 30-day public comment period and requested that the Policy Committee grant final approval to amend the FY 07-12 TIP to add stimulus projects in the amount of \$3,098,000.00 in Federal funds.

Mr. Sheppard then stated that an additional amount of \$1.54 million had been identified for the RFATS Study Area. Mr. Hooper then requested that the Policy Committee grant preliminary approval to amend the FY 07-12 TIP to reflect additional funding in the amount of \$1,540,000 and authorize a 30-day public comment period.

Mr. Motz made a motion to give final approval to amend the FY 07-12 TIP to add the stimulus projects in the amount of \$3,098,000; to grant preliminary approval to amend the FY 0-7-12 TIP to reflect the additional \$1,540,000 million dollars; and to authorize a 30-day public comment period. Mr. Hayes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

C. 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan – Ms. Thomas requested that the Policy Committee review and grant preliminary approval to the Draft 2035 LRTP, Executive Summary and Air Quality Conformity Report; authorize a public hearing and 30-day public comment period. Ms. Thomas also noted that copies of all the draft documents have been sent to all the RFATS communities for posting on their respective websites.

Mr. Motz then initiated a discussion about the Dave Lyle Boulevard Extension and how best to communicate project information in the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) document. Specifically, Mr. Motz suggested that providing an expanded summary of the goals and objectives of this project would be advisable. Discussion followed with the understanding that more information about the Dave Lyle Boulevard Extension would be included in the appropriate section of the LRTP and Executive Summary.

Mr. Reno then asked a clarifying question regarding the public hearing; Ms. Thomas stated that the public hearing is scheduled for 10am on April 24, 2009 in Council Chambers at Rock Hill City Hall. A motion to consider the draft 2035 LRTP Update with a revision to include more information on the Dave Lyle Boulevard Extension project, Executive Summary and Air Quality Conformity Determination report and authorize a 30-day public review period and public hearing was made by Ms. Pender. Mr. Motz seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

D. FY 09-15 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) – Mr. Hooper requested consideration of the draft FY 09-15 TIP and the authorization of a 30-day public comment period. Mr. Hayes made a motion to consider the draft and authorize the 30-day public comment period. Mr. Runde seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

E. FY 09-10 Transportation Enhancement Program – Mr. Hooper requested that the Policy Committee consider approval of the Transportation Enhancement program schedule and project selection criteria for the FY 2009-2010 funding cycle. Mr. Hooper then indicated that the Study Team has reviewed the application format, program criteria and schedule and are requesting the Policy Committee's approval.

Mr. Hooper also requested that the Policy Committee re-appoint the sub-committee members that will complete the initial review of this year's project applications. It should be noted that Mr. Hooper also reviewed the new emphasis that SCDOT is placing on project sponsor compliance with the Local Public Agency (LPA) program administration requirements that are a part of receiving funding under the Transportation Enhancement Program. This item was passed unanimously.

F. FY 09-10 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program – Mr. Hooper requested that the Policy Committee consider approval of the CMAQ program schedule and project selection criteria for the FY 2009-2010 funding cycle. Mr. Hooper then indicated that the Study Team has reviewed the application format, program criteria and schedule and are requesting the Policy Committee's approval.

Mr. Hooper also requested that the Policy Committee re-appoint the sub-committee members that will complete the initial review of this year's project applications. It should be noted that Mr. Hooper also reviewed the new emphasis that SCDOT is placing on project sponsor compliance with the Local Public Agency (LPA) program administration requirements that are a part of receiving funding under the Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement Program. This item was passed unanimously.

G. CMAQ Program Funding Allocation and Impact on RFATS – Mr. Hooper introduced this item by briefly reviewing the current funding formula utilized to allocate CMAQ funds within South Carolina. Mr. Hooper then asked Mr. Sheppard to outline SCDOT's current discussions about the future approach and/or options for allocating CMAQ funds in the years ahead, when it is likely that South Carolina will have multiple non-attainment areas; right now, RFATS is the only MPO to be officially designated by EPA as being in non-attainment for ground level ozone.

Mr. Sheppard stated that SCDOT is still actively evaluating how best to start identifying when and what should be done regarding the distribution of CMAQ funds in future years. Mr. Sheppard then indicated that this discussion is a timely one; especially, given the recent changes outlined by EPA which effectively toughened air quality standards. Mr. Sheppard indicated that SCDOT is planning on how to address, from a funding standpoint, the appropriate way to distribute funding on a statewide basis; Mr. Sheppard then confirmed that RFATS' allocation for FY 2009-2010 has been increased from \$2,200,000 to \$2,597,000.

Mr. Echols then asked a clarifying question regarding the funding formula currently employed versus how a statewide evaluation process would function: Mr. Echols then stated that he believes RFATS would be better served with an allocation system that is based on a set formula rather than opting for a broader ranking system that might result in some non-attainment areas receiving no funding at all. Mr. Runde similarly confirmed that he also believes RFATS is better served by a set formula approach. Mr. Sheppard then responded that it is important to keep in mind that this topic is still under review; and that, it is likely that any revised approach to funding allocation decisions could include a combination of allocation formats and/or strategies.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

- A. The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2009.

7. ADJOURN:

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Leigh W. Welch