

RFATS

Rock Hill-Fort Mill Area Transportation Study

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES

Friday, May 30, 2008 - 12:00 p.m. (NOON)
City Hall – Room 373

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Bob Runde; Doug Echols; Jim Reno; Buddy Motz; Sarah Nuckles; Kathy Pender and Danny Funderburk.

ADMINISTRATIVE / TECHNICAL / MANAGEMENT STAFF PRESENT: Carey F. Smith (CRH); Dianne Janicki (SCDOT); Phil Leazer (York County); Allison Love (York County); Andy Merriman (FM); Stan Bland (SCDOT); Greg Shaw (SCDOT); Kevin Sheppard (SCDOT); David Burgess (SCDOT); Susan Britt (YC); Carol Rhea (YC); Frances Thomas (CRH); David Hooper (CRH) and Leigh Welch (CRH)

CITIZENS / VISITORS PRESENT:

Jim Van Blarcom (CAC Chairman); Barre Mitchell (CAC); Bayles Mack (Past SCDOT Commissioner); Theron Pickens (LandDesign); Lori Williams Unal (Citizen) and Marie Unal (Citizen).

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A. Welcome – Chairman Runde called the meeting to order at 12:14 PM. Mayor 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 March 28, 2008 meeting. Hearing none, Mr. Funderburk made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Pender seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

3. UPDATE ON CURRENT PROJECTS:

A. York County Capital Projects – Mr. Leazer stated that staff has been given direction by the York County Council to assume management of the 1997 and 2003 Pennies for Progress Programs. Mr. Leazer then asked if there were any questions and/or comments Pennies projects in the RFATS area – hearing none, next item.

B. SCDOT Report – In Ms. Hasting's absence, Chairman Runde advised the Committee that there were no substantive changes from the previous report presented at the March meeting.

4. PROPOSED POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS:

A. TIP Amendment – Ms. Thomas presented a request from the City of Rock Hill for final approval for substitution of the Saluda Gateway Improvement project (Phase I), and to amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to reflect this project. Ms. Thomas then stated that \$86,947 had been previously identified for work on the Saluda Street Revitalization Effort in FY 2005-06, but was not needed for that particular phase of the project. Ms. Thomas stated that the reallocation was approved at the March meeting and the Committee authorized a 30-day public comment period. Ms. Thomas then stated that no public comments were received. A motion to approve the TIP amendment was made by Mr. Motz and seconded by Mr. Reno – the motion was unanimously approved.

B. FY 08-09 Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP) Project Recommendations and TIP Amendment - Mr. Hooper reported that on May 19, 2008, the TEP Sub-committee met to review the project submittals for FY 2008-2009. The Sub-committee is recommending that the Amber Woods Sidewalk Project (City of Tega Cay) receive \$98,995.00 and that the Saluda Street Gateway Project (Phase II) receive \$66,675.00 (City of Rock Hill) for the FY 2008-09 funding cycle. Mr. Hooper then requested that the Policy Committee give preliminary approval to the two projects and authorize a 30-day public comment period. A motion to approve the Sub-committee's recommendation was made by Ms. Pender and seconded by Mr. Reno - this item received unanimous approval.

C. FY 08-09 CMAQ Program Project Recommendations - Mr. Hooper reported that on May 19, 2008 the CMAQ Sub-committee met to review project submittals for FY 2008-09. Mr. Hooper then briefly reviewed a spreadsheet outlining the projects. The Sub-committee recommended that the following projects be given preliminary approval:

1. SCDOT – Princeton / Springsteen - \$617,400.00
2. SCDOT – W White Street / Hwy 72 - \$617,400.00
3. City of Rock Hill – Mt. Gallant / SC 161 - \$452,000.00
4. City of Tega Cay – Alternative Fuel Vehicles – \$232,000.00
5. York County – Dutchman Creek Sidewalk - \$306,560.00

Mr. Hooper then stated that the projects represent a total allocation of \$2,225,360 which is approximately \$200,000 higher than the annual allocation of \$1,990,209. The contingency amount from the previous funding cycle, which totals \$277,352, will make up the difference. If approved, the remaining contingency amount will be \$42,201. Mr. Hooper requested preliminary approval of the Sub-committee's recommendation; authorize a 30-day public comment period; and advise project sponsors to prepare an air quality benefit analysis and submit the results to the CMAQ Coordinator by August 08, 2008.

Commissioner Nuckles then commented that there is a possibility that the CMAQ funding may increase to 2.1 million – but may not automatically be designated to RFATS and that the federal requirements may be changing. Mr. Echols then asked a follow-up question regarding possible changes to the federal requirements; specifically, whether the changes in question were initiated by the Federal Government or the SCDOT Commission. In response, Commissioner Nuckles then referred the question to Mr. Sheppard who stated that the actual CMAQ allocation to the RFATS Area in FY 2007-08 is \$2,107,169 (\$116,960.00 higher than

originally projected). Mr. Sheppard then went on to indicate that, at present no additional information on the amount of funds above the \$1,990,209.00 annual allocation figure is available – SCDOT is however expecting to receive an updated estimate in Fall 2008.

Mr. Sheppard also referred to Commissioner Nuckles' comment regarding the federal requirements and stated the new EPA regulations threshold for ozone is now .075 instead of .08; and with this change, may result in the Greenville/Spartanburg/Anderson and Richland/Lexington/Columbia areas competing for some portion of the CMAQ funds allocated to the State of South Carolina in 2009. Mr. Sheppard then stated that there is also a discussion among SCDOT Commissioners on how to better use the money available to South Carolina under the CMAQ program – it is expected that FHWA will be sending information to SCDOT regarding this question.

Mr. Sheppard then clarified for the committee that the CMAQ contingency amount for the RFATS Area should include the \$42,201.00 already identified as well as the \$116,960.00 in additional funding he just outlined; Mr. Sheppard also confirmed that he will officially notify RFATS staff regarding the revised available funding amount for FY 09 as soon as he receives that information. Mr. Runde asked if there were any other comments or further discussion. Hearing none, Mr. Reno made a motion to approve the Sub-committee's recommendations; Ms. Pender seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

D. 2035 LRTP Update - Mr. Leazer presented the Draft List of Transportation Needs and Projects (Financially Constrained and Unfunded). Mr. Leazer stated that the top 5 projects in the 2030 Plan are included in 2035 Plan. Mr. Leazer noted that one project was omitted from list; specifically, the Fort Mill Northern Bypass to US 21 Carowinds Blvd has been moved to the unfunded needs program as it is a likely candidate for the 2010 Pennies for Progress Program. Mr. Leazer then stated that there is currently \$5,000,000 allocated for the Mt. Gallant to Sutton Road / Catawba River Bridge Project for study / preliminary environmental / engineering work and that by repositioning the US 21 project on the unfunded needs list, additional funding could therefore be made available to meet the actual cost of project construction. Mr. Leazer then requested that the Committee members review the draft list of projects and make any recommendations and / or changes as appropriate; the Policy Committee will be asked to endorse the 2035 draft project list at the June meeting.

Ms. Thomas stated that the consultants are working on the cost estimates for the fiscally constrained section of the draft project list and indicated that it is expected that the cost estimates will change with the incorporation of the new SAFETEA-LU requirement that MPO's utilize year of expenditure budgeting. Ms. Thomas then stated that the current projection in Guidesshare Funding through 2035 is approximately \$55,000,000.00. Ms. Thomas also indicated that the updated estimates for the cost feasible projects will be reviewed and reported to the Policy Committee at the June meeting.

Commissioner Nuckles then asked about the possibility of projects being eliminated from the fiscally constrained list if the updated estimates are higher than currently estimated. In response, Ms. Thomas stated that they would not be eliminated but would have to be re-evaluated and possibly funded from a different source. Mr. Leazer also stated that the projects in the 2030 Plan were prioritized from highest to lowest in terms of funding ability. Therefore, if funds are not available, then the lower projects would probably have to be re-

evaluated. Mr. Echols then questioned the listing of Project I (Dave Lyle Blvd Extension) in the Unfunded Transportation Needs List. Ms. Thomas stated that this listing is in the current 2030 Unfunded Transportation Needs List to separate out the Cel-River project, but that the dollar amount shown is for the entire project from SC 161 to Hwy 521. Ms. Pender then asked if the projects listed in the Unfunded Transportation Needs List were prioritized. Mr. Leazer stated that any project from the Unfunded Transportation column and below on the draft project list is not prioritized.

Ms. Thomas then requested endorsement of the Project Ranking Criteria for the 2035 Plan update. Ms. Thomas stated that in the past, several factors were used for the 2030 Plan. The state wide ranking system, Act 114, Section 57-1-370 has essentially the same ranking criteria that RFATS has used for past LRTP updates. Ms. Britt then requested clarification on the Consistency with Local Land Use Plans as to why that evaluation point was removed from the statewide ranking process and how the amendment to the Comprehensive Planning Act and priorities investment requirement will be affected. Ms. Thomas stated that the Consistency with Local Land Use Plans is part of the state legislation and is included in the ranking criteria. Commissioner Nuckles made a motion to endorse the state ranking criteria for RFATS 2035 LRTP update; seconded by Mr. Reno - the motion was approved unanimously.

E. FY 08-09 UPWP - Ms. Thomas stated that RFATS adopts an annual work plan called the UPWP with the key work activity being the LRTP update and associated work tasks including conformity determination. RFATS' annual allocation is \$189,039 with a carryover amount of \$248,931. Ms. Thomas stated that the draft UPWP for FY 2008-09 is being reviewed by SCDOT and that major changes are not anticipated. Ms. Thomas then requested approval of the UPWP; the planning certification to meet the federal requirements and transportation planning process for RFATS; and to authorize a 30-day public comment period. Ms. Thomas then clarified for Mr. Runde the requested amount of \$405,000. Mr. Funderburk questioned if there was a statute for the money not used in previous years. Ms. Thomas stated she believed there was a 2-3 year limit but deferred the question to SCDOT. Mr. Sheppard stated that the money should be utilized as soon as possible. Mr. Runde stated he calculated approximately \$32,000 remaining. Ms. Thomas stated the budget presented will not fully expend available funds and if needed, the UPWP can be amended if future needs arise. Hearing no additional comments or questions, Mr. Reno made a motion to approve the FY 08-09 UPWP; Ms. Pender provided the seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

F. PL Intergovernmental Agreement - Ms. Thomas presented the intergovernmental agreement between RFATS and SCDOT that outlines their respective roles and responsibilities. RFATS is designated by the Governor to serve as the MPO for the Rock Hill-Fort Mill Urban Area. Ms. Thomas then stated an existing intergovernmental agreement is in place and the revised agreement included in the packet incorporates updated SAFETEA-LU and FHWA requirements. The agreement also states that the City of Rock Hill will act as the Administrative and Fiscal Agent for RFATS Area. Ms. Thomas then requested the Committee approve the PL Agreement and authorize the City Rock Hill to act as Administrative and Fiscal Agent for RFATS. A motion was made by Mr. Echols and seconded by Commissioner Nuckles – the motion was passed unanimously.

5. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Commissioner Nuckles presented a handout concerning hypermiling which is a method used to save gas.

B. Next meeting is scheduled for June 27, 2008.

6. ADJOURN:

Meeting adjourned at 12:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Leigh W. Welch