

RFATS

Rock Hill-Fort Mill Area Transportation Study

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES

Friday, June 26, 2009 - 12:00 p.m. (NOON)
Manchester Meadows Conference Room

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Doug Echols; Sen. Wes Hayes; Jim Reno; Danny Funderburk; Donald Rodgers; Paul Lindemann; Sarah Nuckles; and Buddy Motz

ADMINISTRATIVE/TECHNICAL/MANAGEMENT STAFF PRESENT:

Phil Leazer (York County); Allison Love (York County); Elizabeth Harris (CIN); Carey Smith (CRH); Shane Belcher (FHWA); Stan Bland (SCDOT); Brian Klauk (SCDOT); Kevin Sheppard (SCDOT); Dianne Janicki (SCDOT); Greg Shaw (SCDOT); Jim Baker (York County); Susan Britt (York County); Stephen Allen (York County); David Hudspeth (Fort Mill); Frances Thomas (CRH); David Hooper (CRH) and Leigh Welch (CRH).

CITIZENS/VISITORS PRESENT: Denise Williams (CIN); Amy Massey (Kimley-Horn); Theron Pickens (LandDesign); Jim Van Blarcom (CAC Chairman), Barre Mitchell (CAC)

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- A. **Welcome** – Chairman Echols called the meeting to order at 12:20 P.M and asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves.
- B. **Citizen Comment Period** – Chairman Echols invited visitors and/or citizens who had comments to address the Policy Committee at this time; there were no comments.

2. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Echols asked if there were any changes, deletions or comments to the minutes of the May 22, 2009 meeting. Hearing no comments, Mr. Funderburk made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Motz seconded and the minutes were then unanimously approved.

3. UPDATE ON CURRENT PROJECTS:

- A. **York County Sales Tax Projects** – Mr. Leazer provided an update on the 1997 and 2003 One Cent Sales Tax projects. Specifically, Mr. Leazer noted the SC 901 at Hwy 72 project is 33% complete with the Gateway project at 901 / 72 /Albright / Saluda scheduled for completion by August 31, 2009; Hwy 72 is currently under ROW acquisition; and final plans are complete and under review by SCDOT for the Cherry Road project with an anticipated bid date of July, 2009. Mr. Leazer then noted the Mt. Gallant project from Anderson Road to

Celanese By-Pass is currently 90 % complete with final plans under review by SCDOT and anticipated bid date of late 2009 or early 2010.

- B. 82X Bus Service** – Mr. Hooper presented the CATS 82 X Commuter Bus Service ridership report for the second quarter of 2009 noting a decline of 8% from the previous year's quarter with a 2% overall increase relative to last year and a daily ridership average of 190 passengers over the last six months. Mr. Hooper also noted all six regional express services were down more than 20% in ridership for May 2009 due to the economy. Commissioner Nuckles asked if there was a correlation with the decrease in gas prices. Mr. Hooper responded this was more of a secondary factor to the economic slowdown.
- C. TEP and CMAQ Projects** – Mr. Hooper briefly reviewed the quarterly project status of all projects funded under the Transportation Enhancement (TEP) and Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement Programs (CMAQ). Specifically, Mr. Hooper stated that of the 8 TEP Projects, 3 were up for withdrawal and reallocation; 1 is under construction; 1 has a project scoping change and 3 are pending Local Public Agency (LPA) clearance from SCDOT. Mr. Hooper then stated that of the 20 CMAQ Projects, 3 from FY 05-07 were active; 3 from FY 07-08 were active and the remaining projects were pending LPA clearance from SCDOT.

Commissioner Nuckles commented on the LPA process. Mr. Hooper stated the LPA project management and qualifications are much more involved and thorough than project management in previous years.

4. POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS:

- A. FY 09-15 TIP Amendment – US 21 Bridge Enhancements:** Ms. Thomas stated RFATS directly received \$836, 210 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) which were approved by the Committee in April for use on the 1997 Pennies for Progress S. Cherry Road project. However, this project no longer meets the project readiness criteria and another project needs to be identified to apply the ARRA funds. With that said, staff recommended the funds be applied to the US 21 Bridge Enhancement project, which includes additional enhancement features (a bridge railing system and pedestrian lighting) totaling \$715,500, not covered by SCDOT funds.

Mr. Smith inquired as to the difference in the cost versus the funds received. Ms. Thomas recommended the difference should be kept for the bridge enhancements costs overruns and any additional funds remaining be applied to the bridge replacement. Mr. Sheppard inquired if the \$100,000 already paid by the City of Rock Hill to SCDOT is included in the \$715,500. Ms. Thomas stated yes, this amount is included.

Staff discussion followed with a recommendation to approve the FY 09-15 TIP amendment to reallocate \$836,210 in ARRA funds to the US 21 bridge enhancements contingent on a 30-day public comment period. Mr. Hayes made a motion to approve. Mr. Motz seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

- B. FY 09-15 TIP Amendment – Vehicle Acquisition, Transit Operating Assistance and New Commuter Bus Service:** Ms. Thomas briefly reviewed sections of the TIP and information related to additional Federal Transit Administration stimulus funds that have been allocated to the City of Rock Hill for capital purchases. Previously, RFATS staff identified projects

that dealt with capital acquisition such as vehicle purchases, transit facilities, and park and ride lots associated with the new express bus service scheduled to begin operating in FY 09-10.

Ms. Thomas then noted additional direction has been received in regards to the use of the funds for operating assistance and is requesting preliminary approval to amend the TIP to reallocate \$724,411 in FTA-ARRA funds from preliminary transit capital projects to vehicle acquisitions (City of Rock Hill Trolley Town Tourist Loop vehicles) in the amount of \$623,000 ; \$101,411 (10% of funds) for transit operating assistance for the Express Bus Service, Demand Response and new Celanese Corridor Express Bus Service; and authorization of a 30-day public comment period. Mr. Motz made a motion to approve. Mr. Reno seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

C. CMAQ Program: Mr. Leazer reviewed the previous allocation of \$723, 331 of the FY 07-08 CMAQ funds to York County for an ethanol pump and the Heckle Blvd sidewalk project and then noted the Heckle Blvd project has been selected by SCDOT for ARRA funding. Mr. Leazer stated York County is submitting the following requests:

1. Amend FY 09-10 project application to include \$315, 500 to the Springhill Farm Road intersection improvements and instruct project sponsor to incorporate revised project activity into the required Air Quality Benefit Analysis.
2. Provide preliminary approval to add \$250,000 to the FY 07-08 SC 160 / Gold Hill Road project and instruct project sponsor to coordinate with SCDOT to address any project scoping changes and / or Air Quality Benefit Analysis.

Mr. Hayes made a motion to amend the project application to include the \$315,000; provide preliminary approval to add \$250,000 and instruct project sponsors accordingly. Commissioner Nuckles seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. It was noted that these projects would come back to the Committee in September for final review and approval.

D. FY 09-15 TIP Amendment – Princeton / Springsteen /Anderson Rd: Ms. Thomas briefly reviewed the status of the FY 07-08 Princeton / Springsteen and Anderson Road intersection project and the 20% funding match which was not available previously. Given the new guidelines approved by the SCDOT Commission, this project qualifies for 100% funding. Ms. Thomas stated with the reallocation of the FY 07-08 CMAQ funds requested by York County, this leaves a balance of \$158,331 which could be applied to the Princeton / Springsteen project and allow this project to be funded at 100%.

Ms. Thomas then requested approval to amend the FY 09-15 TIP to add \$158,331 in FY 07-08 CMAQ funds to the FY 08-09 Princeton / Springsteen and Anderson Road intersection improvements contingent on a 30-day public comment period. Mr. Motz made a motion to approve. Mr. Reno seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

E. FY 09-15 TIP Amendment – US 21 / SC 160 Intersection Improvement Project: Mr. Hooper reviewed the 100% CMAQ funding option and the qualification of the US 21 / SC 160 Intersection Improvement project for 100% funding.

Mr. Hooper then requested approval to amend the TIP to add \$80,000 in FY 07-08 CMAQ funds to the FY 07-08 SC 160 / US 21 Intersection Improvement project contingent on a 30-

day public comment period. Mr. Funderburk made a motion to approve. Commissioner Nuckles seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

F. Congestion Management Process Update: Mr. Hooper noted the FHWA / FTA certification review results indicated the Congestion Management Process should be updated. At this time, RFATS is operating under the 2004 Congestion Management Study and should work to develop a process to gather data and create a performance monitoring system to help prioritize projects for the LRTP and TIP funding consideration. Mr. Hooper then stated a draft RFP to identify consultants to assist with the process is in place and would like to request authorization to proceed.

Mr. Motz made a motion to endorse the process to address the RFATS certification finding regarding Congestion Management Process planning and compliance. Mr. Lindemann seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Other Business:

Ms. Thomas stated copies of the 2035 LRTP and FY 09-15 TIP have been distributed to the Policy Committee. RFATS has received approval from FHWA and FTA for the LRTP and Air Quality Conformity Report. Currently, the draft documents are available on the RFATS webpages of the City of Rock Hill website and the final documents will be made available in the next couple of weeks

Next regular meeting – September 25, 2009

6. Adjournment:

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 P.M.