



**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
SUMMARY MINUTES
January 29, 2016 - 12:00 p.m. (NOON)
Manchester Meadows Conference Room**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: George Sheppard; Kathy Pender; Doug Echols; Ralph Norman; Britt Blackwell; Guynn Savage; and Wes Hayes.

ADMINISTRATIVE / TECHNICAL / MANAGEMENT STAFF PRESENT:

Greg Shaw (SCDOT); Penelope Karagounis (Lancaster County); Vic Edwards (SCDOT); Bill Meyer (City of Rock Hill); Kati Price (SCDOT); Joe Cronin (Town of Fort Mill); Bill Jordan (SCDOT); Audra Miller (York County); Jimmy Bagley (City of Rock Hill); Yolanda Morris (FHWA); Bill Shanahan (York County); Darlene Broughton (SCDOT); Jeremy Winkler (City of Rock Hill); Patrick Hamilton (York County); Roger Sears (SCDOT); David Harmon (York County); Robby Moody (CRCOG); Allison Love (York County); Chris Herrmann (RFATS); and David Hooper (RFATS).

CITIZENS / VISITORS PRESENT: Frank Myers (CAC); Jim Van Blarcom (CAC); Luther Dasher (CAC); Frieda Price (CAC); Scot Sibert (Parsons-Brinckerhoff); Marie Sugar (STV, Inc.); Michael Fry (Campco); Billy Hagner (York County); David Duncan (York County); Paul Anderko (York County); Jennifer Stalford (Tega Cay City Council); Larry Huntley (Fort Mill Town Council); Barbara Bugg (SCSHL); Patricia Keller (SCSHL); Linda Moskalski (SCSHL); Marie Smith (SCSHL); Phil Leazer (KCI); Renee O'Neil (CN2); Hisham Abdelaziz (HDR); and Amy Massey (Kimley-Horn)

1. CALL TO ORDER:

a. Welcome – Vice-Chairman Sheppard called the meeting to order at 12:18 P.M. and welcomed all in attendance.

b. Citizen Comment Period – No comments were made at this time.

2. REVIEW / APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Sheppard asked if there were any changes, deletions, or comments to the minutes of the November 20, 2015 meeting. Mr. Sheppard asked for a motion. Mr. Echols made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Mr. Blackwell seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

3. UPDATE ON CURRENT PROJECTS:

a. York County Local Option Sales Tax Program – Mr. Hamilton presented an update on the following projects:

- Fort Mill Parkway / Spratt Street Intersection Improvements –30% plans have been submitted to SCDOT and construction bids currently estimated for October 2016.
- Fort Mill Southern Bypass Phase II – project is currently under construction with opening for traffic currently scheduled for 2016.

- Gold Hill Road / I-77 – 70% Design comments have been received from SCDOT and a bid date is expected in late 2016.
- Tega Cay / Gold Hill Road Connector– project is currently under construction with the round-a-bout at Stonecrest expected to be completed in spring of 2016 and the project as a whole is anticipated for completion in spring 2017.
- McConnell’s Highway (Heckle Blvd to Falls Road) – project has received final approval from SCDOT and the project is ready to be bid with construction anticipated for completion in 2018.
- Mt. Gallant Road (Dave Lyle Blvd. to Anderson Road) – ROW acquisition is being completed and 70% plans have been received from SCDOT.
- SC Highway 160 West (Zoar Road to NC State Line) – the project is nearing 70% design with ROW Design in progress, a bid date is estimated for 2016.
- US 21 / SC Highway 51 (Springfield Parkway to State Line) – preliminary design for this project is underway, nearing 70% plans.

Mr. Hamilton then noted that the Pennies 4 Commission is meeting regularly to discuss potential projects for the Pennies 4 Referendum scheduled for November of 2017; also noting that an RFQ is out to advertise for consultants to develop potential project cost estimates for the Pennies 4 Referendum. Mr. Hamilton stated that RFATS will have an opportunity to make a presentation to the commission regarding specific projects and areas of concern.

4. Reports:

- a. **Ebinport Road Project: Current Status and Next Steps** – Mr. Shanahan reviewed the 2003 Pennies 2 Referendum that included 25 projects with an estimated total cost of \$173,000,000; Ebinport Road was listed as project number 14 with an approved budget of \$6,283,773. Mr. Shanahan then stated that the planned project included widening the two-lane road to three lanes, adding curb and gutter, drainage, as well as adding bicycle lanes and sidewalks. Mr. Shanahan then noted that in 2009 project cost estimates were updated reflecting a total increase of approximately \$149,000,000, with the Ebinport Road project increasing to roughly \$15,526,375.

As a point of reference, Mr. Shanahan explained that \$117,953,775 has been spent so far on the top 14 projects from the Pennies 2 Referendum and the expected cost to complete these projects is \$184,117,858, assuming there are no unexpected developments that materialize adversely affecting project cost estimates. Mr. Shanahan then stated that there are 8 projects under construction or approaching bid dates, and once these projects are closer to completion, staff will be in a better position to know whether sufficient funding will be available to complete Ebinport Road as intended. Mr. Shanahan then noted that in 2015 SCDOT completed a partial re-paving project of Ebinport Road and found that the road was not wide enough for three lanes.

Group discussion then followed regarding the original proposed scope of the project in the Pennies 2 Referendum. Mr. Hamilton then added that this project is only on-hold due to funding constraints in the Pennies Program; and that the project is still planned to include the addition of the turning lane. Mr. Shanahan then stated that if the funds are not available in Pennies 2 to complete the project, then the City of Rock Hill or other interested organizations should seek for this project to be reflected in the Pennies 4 Referendum.

As a follow-up to earlier discussion regarding project ranking in the Pennies 2 Referendum; with Ebinport Road at project #14 and projects #15 through #25 having

been shifted to the Pennies 3 Referendum, Ms. Pender noted that the law does not appear to permit funds to be spent on lower ranked projects – which is what would have effectively occurred with any funding spent on projects #15 through #25? With this in mind, Ms. Pender asked whether any funding spent on those Pennies 2 projects that were moved to Pennies 3, could be transferred back to Pennies 2 to complete Ebinport Road; and if not, that the Policy Committee request a written legal opinion on whether the transfer of funding spent on projects moved from Pennies 2 to Pennies 3 is legally permissible? Mr. Shanahan stated that he had spoken with legal counsel as well as other supporting staff (i.e., Project Engineers, Treasurer, etc.), and that although this would appear to make sense, that such a transfer cannot be undertaken. Mr. Shanahan then noted that he would “re-ask” this question and follow-up with a written response.

Mr. Norman then asked if additional ROW would be needed in order to widen the road and include the turning lane? Mr. Shanahan explained that additional ROW would be needed and that the additional costs are reflected in the updated 2009 project estimate. Mr. Hayes then asked if the resurfacing performed by SCDOT in 2015 would diminish the overall cost of the project? Mr. Hamilton responded that this very well could provide some cost savings. Ms. Pender then asked if any Pennies funding was spent on the update of the driveways to Ebinport Elementary in 2011? Mr. Shanahan responded that he was uncertain, but would provide feedback in writing on this matter to the Policy Committee.

Ms. Pender then asked how best to approach moving forward with this project on a dual track – both continuing it under Pennies 2 should funding become available and seek to have this project included on the Pennies 4 Referendum. Mr. Hayes then made a motion that RFATS should recommend to the Sales Tax Commission that Ebinport Road be included on the Pennies 4 Referendum. Ms. Pender seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

5. Proposed Policy Committee Action Items:

- a. Amendment to Transportation Conformity Report** – Mr. Hooper briefly noted that the 2013 Transportation Conformity Report is being amended to reflect updated horizon year classifications for six Pennies projects. Mr. Hooper then stated that the Policy Committee granted preliminary approval at the November meeting and that a 30-day public comment period has been completed; no comments were received. With this in mind, Mr. Hooper requested final approval of the amendment. A motion was made by Mr. Blackwell and seconded by Mr. Hayes; the motion was then unanimously approved.
- b. TIP Amendment** – Mr. Herrmann briefly reviewed the project funding requests for the FY 15-16 funding cycle; specifically, \$800,000 on the Carowinds / Pleasant Road Intersection Improvement Project and \$1,200,000 on the India Hook / Celanese Intersection Improvement Project. Mr. Herrmann then noted that preliminary approval has been granted and a 15-day public comment period has been completed; no comments were received. Mr. Herrmann then requested that the Policy Committee grant final approval and authorize staff to forward this action to SCDOT for processing. A motion to grant final approval was made by Mr. Norman; seconded by Mr. Echols and the motion was unanimously approved.
- c. Transportation Alternatives Program** – Mr. Herrmann reviewed the proposed schedule and application process for the FY 16-17 TAP funding cycle. Mr. Herrmann then stated that the anticipated funding allocation will be at or slightly above the current level of \$108,666. Mr. Herrmann then requested that the Policy Committee grant approval of the

FY 16-17 TAP application process and timeline, and consider re-appointment of the evaluation sub-committee, with the addition of Ms. Savage. A motion to grant approval was made by Ms. Savage; seconded by Ms. Pender. The motion was unanimously approved.

- d. **Consider Resolution of Support recognizing the City of Charlotte as the designated recipient for FTA 5310 & 5339 funds** – Mr. Hooper briefly reviewed the different funding programs associated with the overlap of the Charlotte Urbanized Area into South Carolina. Mr. Hooper then noted that although RFATS has been named the direct recipient for 5307 funding (which is the principal source of federal transit funding), that there are two smaller programs that do not allow the original recipient (i.e., the City of Charlotte) to name another agency to administer the FTA 5310 & 5339 programs. With this in mind, Mr. Hooper then requested that the Policy Committee pass a resolution of support recognizing the City of Charlotte (i.e., the original recipient) to serve in this role.

Mr. Hayes then asked about the amounts available under these programs? In response, Mr. Hooper noted that 5310 funding is approximately \$17,000 to \$25,000 and 5339 is roughly \$8,000 annually. As a point of reference, Mr. Hooper noted that the allocation available under the 5307 program is closer to \$1M annually. Lastly, Mr. Hooper noted that transit providers within the RFATS area will still be able to apply for this funding support as appropriate, but that the program administration function would be carried out by the City of Charlotte versus RFATS. A motion to grant approval was then made by Ms. Pender; seconded by Mr. Echols and the motion was unanimously approved.

- e. **Election of 2016 Officers** – Mr. Hooper noted that according to the Policy Committee Officer rotation, Mayor Sheppard is slated for consideration as Chair, and Mayor Echols as Vice-Chair. A motion to grant approval was made by Ms. Savage; seconded by Ms. Pender and the motion was unanimously approved.

6. **Other Business:**

- a. **Administrative Report** – Mr. Hooper briefly highlighted that the Environmental Protection Agency has taken final action on the 2008 Ozone Redesignation Request – formally reclassifying RFATS from non-attainment to maintenance area status. Although this reclassification is certainly a welcome development, Mr. Hooper did note that the transportation conformity process will continue to apply to project planning in an effort to monitor our continued progress in this area.
- b. **York County SIB Application** – Mr. Echols asked for an update on the status of the draft SIB application. Mr. Shanahan then noted that the draft application is currently under review and that a follow-up meeting to further its progress is expected sometime next week. Mr. Echols then asked whether it included all the major I-77 interchanges? Mr. Shanahan noted that it did. Mr. Blackwell then mentioned that it may include an extra one as well, though that would raise the application request higher than originally envisioned.
- c. **CATS 82X Express Bus Service** – Mr. Norman expressed his gratitude to Mr. Hooper for his assistance in establishing the park-n-ride lot along Cabela's Drive. Mr. Norman then asked about the declining ridership levels experienced over the last quarter. Mr. Hooper then noted the impact that markedly lower fuel prices have had on demand levels for area transit services. As a point of reference, Mr. Hooper noted that although the CATS 82X was down approximately 10%, that on a relative basis that the Union County Express was down roughly 21%.

Mr. Echols then expressed his assessment regarding the traffic levels in and around the I-77 Corridor and that the elevated demand and congestion levels are unlikely to diminish in the years ahead. With this in mind, Mr. Echols stated the importance of our continuing efforts to identify and incorporate alternative modes of transportation to improve the mobility and efficiency within the RFATS region. Mr. Blackwell then noted the development activity at the Kingsley site and Knights Stadium, and asked about practical options for incorporating a workable transit option in this dynamic, high growth area. In response, Mr. Hooper briefly reviewed the past analysis of a rapid transit option that might run along US 21 and some of the practical operational and funding aspects of such an approach. Mr. Hooper then transitioned to a brief review of potential route options such as a focused route to the Kingsley area directly from uptown Charlotte, but that this would involve further analysis. Ms. Pender then noted that anything that can be done to establish a connection into uptown Charlotte would be beneficial and would be supported by the entire area.

- d. Next regular meeting** – Mr. Sheppard stated that the next scheduled Policy Committee meeting will take place on February 26, 2016 at Manchester Meadows Conference Room.

7. Adjournment

With no further business, the motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Savage and seconded by Mr. Blackwell; the motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 P.M.