



**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
SUMMARY MINUTES
January 25, 2019 – 12:00 p.m. (NOON)
Rock Hill Operations Center**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Britt Blackwell; Brian Carnes; David O’Neal (proxy); Jim Reno; Guynn Savage; Michael Johnson; Kathy Pender; Wes Climer; Gary Simrill; Bill Harris; and Gene Branham.

ADMINISTRATIVE / TECHNICAL / MANAGEMENT STAFF PRESENT:

Berry Mattox (SCDOT); Chris Pettit (Town of Fort Mill); Joshua Meetze (SCDOT); Yolanda Morris (FHWA); Patrick Hamilton (York County); Rick Wyatt (SCDOT); Robby Moody (CRCOG); Vic Edwards (SCDOT); Clifton Goolsby (City of Rock Hill); Diane Dil (York County); Kenny Larimore (SCDOT); David Harmon (York County); Jason Johnston (SCDOT); Jimmy Bagley (City of Rock Hill); David Gamble (SCDOT); David Vehaun (City of Rock Hill); Dean Hendrix (York County); Susan Britt (City of Tega Cay); Penelope Karagounis (Lancaster County); Ivan McCorkle (City of Rock Hill); Chris Stephens (York County); Chris Herrmann (RFATS); and David Hooper (RFATS).

CITIZENS / VISITORS PRESENT: Larry Huntley (Fort Mill Town Council); Kenneth Johnson (AECOM); Jim Van Blarcom (CAC); Frank Myers (CAC); Cleopatra Allen (CAC); Luther Dasher (CAC); Theresa Thomas (Office of Senator Lindsey Graham); Theron Pickens (York County Regional Chamber); John Marks (The Herald); Scot Sibert (WSP); David Kerns (HDR, Inc.); and Scott Woodward (Clear Springs).

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- a. **Welcome** – Chairman Carnes called the meeting to order at 12:03 P.M. and welcomed all in attendance.
- b. **Citizen Comment Period** – No comments were made at this time.

2. REVIEW / APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Carnes asked if there were any changes, deletions, or comments to the minutes of the November 16, 2018 meeting. Mr. Gettys then made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; this was seconded by Ms. Savage and the motion was unanimously approved.

3. UPDATE ON CURRENT PROJECTS:

a. **Pennies for Progress Project Status Report** – Mr. Hamilton provided a brief update on the following projects:

- SC 160 West Widening (Springfield Parkway to York County line) – bids were opened on January 16th, 2019; construction is anticipated to begin in March 2019.
- Gold Hill Road / I-77 Interchange Improvement – project is scheduled for letting in May 2019.
- Cherry Road Resurfacing and Pedestrian Improvement – bids were opened on January 8th, 2019.
- US 21 South Turn Lanes (Catawba Area) – construction is anticipated to begin in 2019.

- US 21 Widening (SC 160 to Springfield Parkway) – negotiation on scope and fee with consultant is active; contact approval is anticipated for February 2019.
- McConnells Hwy – construction is anticipated for completion in Spring 2019.
- Hwy 274 / Pole Branch Road – weather has caused delays in setting up the detour with this project; utility relocation is currently underway.
- US 21 / Anderson / Cowan Farm Intersection Improvement – construction is anticipated for completion in 2019.
- SC 160 East Widening (Zoar Road to NC State Line) – final ROW plans are being submitted to SCDOT.
- Riverview Road – final ROW plans are currently being reviewed by SCDOT; a stakeholder’s meeting has been scheduled for March 5th, 2019. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2020.
- SC 72 – final ROW plans are currently being reviewed by SCDOT.
- Pennies 4 Resurfacing Group 1 (Eastern York County) – projects are currently underway and are anticipated for completion in 2019.
- Pennies 4 Resurfacing Group 2 (Western York County) – projects are anticipated for completion in 2019.
- Pennies 4 Resurfacing Group 3 (Western York County) – bids were opened on January 8th, 2019.

Mr. Gettys asked for an update regarding Cel-River Road Widening Phase II? Mr. Hamilton responded conceptual plans have been submitted to SCDOT, once approved the Preliminary Design Phase will begin. Mr. Gettys then asked for an approximation of when construction may begin on this project? Mr. Hamilton responded that construction may begin in 2023 depending on the completion of the ROW acquisition phase. Mr. Hamilton also noted that the extension of Galleria Blvd is being treated as a separate project and is anticipated to be complete before the completion of Cel-River Road.

4. REPORTS:

a. I-77 Corridor Analysis – Mr. Hooper provided an overview of the I-77 Corridor Analysis; specifically, the range of corridor improvement strategies on a short, intermediate, and long term basis. These included operational and capacity improvements as well as supporting planning policies that should be applied during the development review and approval process. An important point of the discussion also included the increasing role of innovative (versus traditional) improvement strategies given the existing built environment, current and projected demand levels on key corridors, and the cost implications associated with this shift in improvement planning and implementation.

Discussion then followed regarding some of the specific types of improvements discussed including unique intersection designs (i.e., fully displaced left turns, restricted crossing u-turns, superstreets, grade separation, etc.), targeted road widenings, adaptive traffic control systems, access management, as well as different interchange configurations. Mr. Hooper highlighted that SCDOT is currently working on access management improvements to SC 160, restricting left-hand turns into Kingsley and to Baxter Village which will improve both operational efficiency and safety. Mr. Johnson then asked what the timeline is regarding these improvements? Mr. Johnston then responded that a study has been completed for these improvements and meetings are being scheduled with relevant / impacted property and business owners to review these improvement plans. Mr. Edwards then specifically noted that these improvements are being presented as interim proposals that can be completed in a matter of weeks; highlighting that these should be considered as very short-term and temporary improvements to be in place while working toward a more concrete long-term solution.

Mr. Johnson then inquired whether the approval of the York County SIB application for accelerating a series of interchange improvements would effectively free-up enough funding to implement additional recommended priorities? Mr. Hooper responded that if there were meaningful movement on the SIB

application, particularly regarding the planned improvements at Exit 85 and Exit 82, this would provide the Policy Committee much greater latitude to undertake an expanded range of needed operational improvements.

Speaking more broadly, Mr. Hooper then highlighted the importance of planning for a future Rapid Transit alternative as a critical component to extracting the full operational efficiency from the transportation network for all users of the system. As a point of reference, Mr. Hooper then provided the latest information regarding the Regional Transit Engagement Series; and specifically, the development of a Regional Level Transit Plan with adjacent planning partners in North Carolina. Mr. Gettys then noted that the City of Rock Hill would be willing to discuss the planning of transit initiatives at any time. Ms. Savage agreed that such a meeting does need to occur. Mr. Johnson noted that York County would be glad to host such a meeting.

Mr. Hooper then reviewed the Collector Road Plan; specifically noting the importance of structuring developments and enhancing connectivity throughout the region as a method of managing congestion levels on major arterial roadways. Mr. Gettys then suggested that representatives of the City of Rock Hill meet with representatives of York County to initiate a joint-planning agreement regarding developments and the enhancement of connectivity within the region. Ms. Savage noted that representatives of the Town of Fort Mill will join. Mr. Johnson responded that York County will host this meeting.

b. INFRA Grant Announcement – Mr. Hooper reviewed the grant opportunity from the Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects Program that is available to eligible recipients. Discussion then followed regarding opportunities to identify potential projects where non-federal resources would naturally follow and/or complement any grant award through this program. Potential project areas discussed included the US 21 / Springdale Road area leading to I-77, and the US 21 Corridor as a parallel facility to the interstate. Mr. Hamilton then briefly summarized the Pennies for Progress intersection improvement effort focused on US 21 / Springdale Road as well as the widening projects for US 21. Policy Committee members were in support of staff doing so and asked for this to be reviewed at the February Policy Committee meeting.

5. PROPOSED POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS:

a. TIP Amendment – Mr. Herrmann briefly reviewed the TIP Amendment for the programming of \$100,000 in Recreational Trail funding from SCPRT for the City of Rock Hill's Catawba River Trail Extension Phase III Project. Mr. Herrmann then asked the Policy Committee to grant approval of this TIP Amendment and authorize staff to initiate a 21-day public comment period. A motion to grant approval was made by Mr. Gettys; seconded by Mr. Reno and the motion was unanimously approved.

b. TIP Amendment – Mr. Larimore briefly reviewed the Rural Interstate Corridor Improvements Program for SCDOT which has identified five segments of the interstate where SCDOT wishes to initiate feasibility studies. Ranking fifth among these projects is a segment of I-77 from SC 9 (Exit 65) to US 21 (Exit 77). Mr. Larimore then summarized a TIP Amendment reflecting \$1,000,000 in federal funds from SCDOT's rural interstate project program to initiate a feasibility study assessing improvement options and important variables on this 12-mile segment of I-77. Mr. Larimore noted that currently there is no funding secured for any improvements that would be identified in this feasibility study and that SCDOT would request additional funding for these improvements from the state legislature. Mr. Simrill then raised a concern about studying improvements at this location without funding identified, or without having analyzed whether recent safety improvements from the Rural Road Safety Program have or might influence the overall ranking results. Mr. Simrill then asked if Mr. Larimore could provide further information and data to the Policy Committee explaining the need for this feasibility study at the February meeting? Mr. Larimore affirmed this. Ms. Savage then made a motion to defer this agenda item until the February meeting; seconded by Mr. Simrill and the motion was unanimously approved.

c. 2019 Policy Committee Meeting Schedule – Mr. Herrmann briefly reviewed the proposed meeting schedule for 2019 and then requested consideration of its approval. Mr. Johnson then made a motion to grant approval; seconded by Ms. Pender and the motion was unanimously approved.

d. 2019 Election of Officers – Mr. Hooper noted that according to the Policy Committee rotation schedule, York County is slated for consideration as Chair, and the Town of Fort Mill as Vice-Chair. A motion to consider Dr. Blackwell as Chair and Ms. Savage as Vice-Chair was then made by Mr. Johnson; seconded by Mr. Reno and the motion was unanimously approved.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Admin Report – Mr. Hooper briefly reviewed the Administrative Report.

b. Next meeting – Mr. Carnes noted that the next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2019.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

The motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Savage and seconded by Mr. Reno; the motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 1:57 P.M.