



**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
SUMMARY MINUTES**

**February 25, 2022 – 12:00 p.m.**

**Rock Hill City Hall – Council Chambers / Zoom**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** John Gettys; Gynn Savage; Tom Audette; Brian Carnes  
Kathy Pender; Bill Harris; Jim Reno; and Wes Climer.

**ADMINISTRATIVE / TECHNICAL / MANAGEMENT STAFF PRESENT:**

Berry Mattox (SCDOT); Patrick Hamilton (York County); Yolanda Morris (FHWA); Leah Youngblood (City of Rock Hill); Vic Edwards (SCDOT); Rob Ruth (City of Rock Hill); Penelope Karagounis (Town of Fort Mill); Steve Allen (CRCOG); Susan Britt (City of Tega Cay); David Vehaun (City of Rock Hill); Christina Lewis (SCDOT); Diane Dil (York County); Cindy Howard (City of Rock Hill); Erin Porter (SCDOT); Jimmy Bagley (City of Rock Hill); Diane Lackey (SCDOT); Chris Herrmann (City of Rock Hill); Josh Meetze (SCDOT); Amy Britz (City of Rock Hill); Mark Pleasant (FHWA); and David Hooper (RFATS).

**CITIZENS / VISITORS PRESENT:** John Marks (Herald); Hisham Abdelziz (CDMSmith); Jorge Luna (HDR); Cleopatra Allen (CAC); Carl Manns (CAC); Scot Sibert (WSP); Phil Conrad (Mobility Solutions); David Keely (CAC); Chris Wolfe (Fort Mill Town Council); John Delfausse (citizen); Melvin Stroble (citizen); Liz Duda (citizen); James Dowdy (citizen); and Ed Evans (citizen).

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

**a. Welcome** – Chair Gettys called the meeting to order at 12:02 P.M. and welcomed all in attendance.

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

**2. REVIEW / APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Gettys asked if there were any changes, deletions, or comments to the minutes of the January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022 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. REPORTS:**

**a. Federal Certification Review (Final Report)** – Mr. Pleasant provided a brief overview of the certification review process; specifically, its principal objectives; evaluation areas; as well as commendations and recommendations. Mr. Pleasant then confirmed that RFATS has been fully recertified for meeting applicable federal and state statutes governing the Metropolitan Planning Process. Lastly, Mr. Pleasant thanked RFATS and all who participated in the review process for their contribution.

**b. Sub-Committee Formation (Requested Follow-up)** – Mr. Hooper briefly noted the Policy Committee's request that staff make a recommendation regarding the establishment of a standing sub-committee to support associated planning needs (i.e., land use / transit connection; collector roads; access management practices, etc.), that are principally addressed at the local level, but nonetheless have a relationship to project specific and broader planning efforts conducted at the MPO level. Mr. Hooper then reviewed recommended membership; meeting frequency; and initial focus areas. The Policy

Committee then offered a consensus opinion that the recommended sub-committee formation should proceed as outlined.

#### **4. PROPOSED POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS:**

**a. CONNECT Beyond** – Mr. Hooper provided a summary overview of this work effort with a principal focus on the review of the Draft Final Report that was presented during the September 2021 meeting. As a point of reference – it was noted that during that discussion, the Policy Committee emphasized the critical importance of local control and independent authority, among many other important considerations.

Mr. Hooper then stated that RFATS did submit a thorough list of comments reflecting the sentiment of the Policy Committee as well as all jurisdictional and agency members. Mr. Hooper then noted that while some of these comments were incorporated into the Final Report – that he was told that many others were not because they were unique to the RFATS area (i.e., a small geographic area at the southern most tip of work effort); and it is understood that RFATS would be only applying those elements determined appropriate in South Carolina to achieve broad operational compatibility with adjacent planning agencies – consistent with the direction of the Policy Committee.

Mr. Hooper then mentioned that at a recent MPO coordination meeting – a draft MPO support proposal was developed by Centralina and CATS for undertaking initial implementation activities; and that, it was written as though the Catawba Regional Council of Governments didn't exist, which was quite interesting for its consistency with how prior work documents have been written, as well as the central importance that RFATS stressed in its written comments regarding the integral role that CRCOG serves in South Carolina. As a point of reference – Mr. Hooper briefly noted that this omission of CRCOG was also consistent with the practice of not inviting CRCOG to participate in this meeting. Regrettably, Mr. Hooper noted that this appears to reflect a pattern of intent given its consistency (i.e., it is not an aberrant experience).

Discussion then followed with observations and concerns about all comments not being included in the final report document (notwithstanding the feedback offered as to why this was done). Mr. Audette specifically raised a concern about the nature of what is envisioned in the urban core of Charlotte; and that, that is not what he believes should be developed in the South Carolina. Specifically, Mr. Audette noted that while some may want to create Atlanta here – it is important to note that many do not want that at all. Mr. Reno then noted concerns about local control focused principally on land use oriented variables and how they must remain a locally managed and directed action.

Similar cautionary notes were raised by other members as well. Senator Climer then noted his concern about proceeding at this time, and asked what the range of potential next steps might be. Mr. Hooper outlined a range of options from an acknowledgment of report completion and advancement of initial implementation activities, to voting to defer taking any action at all. Discussion then briefly followed, with Senator Climer making a motion that the Policy Committee should table and/or defer taking any action; the motion was seconded by Mr. Audette and passed unanimously.

**b. 2050 LRTP Amendment** – Mr. Hooper briefly summarized the amendment to the LRTP which reflects the adoption of State Safety Targets for 2022. As a point of reference, Mr. Hooper summarized Transportation Performance Management; noting that Congress developed national goals and USDOT has established performance measures in each goal area that must be used to develop appropriate performance targets by state DOTs, MPOs, and COGs. Mr. Hooper then requested approval for the amendment (contingent on any comments being received) to the LRTP to reflect adoption of the State Safety Targets and authorization of a 30-day public comment period. Mr. Gettys then made a motion for approval; seconded by Mr. Carnes and the motion was unanimously approved.

**c. FY 21-27 TIP Amendment (Bicycle / Pedestrian Funding)** – Mr. Hooper provided an overview of the recommended project priorities; particular points of discussion included project specific assumptions; potential right-of-way and utility variables as well as summary information regarding coordination between each jurisdiction; SCDOT; Pennies for Progress and consultant assistance. Mr. Hooper then requested final approval (contingent on any additional comments being submitted during the last few days of the public comment period) to amend the FY 21-27 TIP and authorize submittal to SCDOT for programming. Mr. Gettys then made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Savage and the motion was unanimously approved.

**d. FY 22-23 TAP & CMAQ Programs** – Mr. Hooper briefly reviewed the proposed schedule and application process for the FY 22-23 TAP & CMAQ funding cycle. Mr. Hooper then outlined projected funding levels (pending finalization given IJA passage). Mr. Hooper then requested that the Policy Committee grant approval of the FY 22-23 TAP & CMAQ application process and schedule. Mr. Gettys then made a motion for approval; seconded by Mr. Audette and the motion was unanimously approved.

**5. OTHER BUSINESS:**

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

**b. Next Meeting** – Mr. Gettys noted that the next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2022.

**6. ADJOURNMENT:**

The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Gettys and seconded by Ms. Savage; the motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 1:21 P.M.