



**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
SUMMARY MINUTES
February 28, 2020 – 12:00 p.m.
Rock Hill Operations Center**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Guynn Savage; David O’Neal; Dr. Britt Blackwell; Michael Johnson (proxy); Kathy Pender (proxy); Jim Reno (proxy); John Gettys; Bill Harris; and Brian Carnes.

ADMINISTRATIVE / TECHNICAL / MANAGEMENT STAFF PRESENT:

Josh Meetze (SCDOT); Patrick Hamilton (York County); Clifton Goolsby (City of Rock Hill); Alex Moore (Town of Fort Mill); David Gamble (SCDOT); Diane Dil (York County); Jimmy Bagley (City of Rock Hill); Bill Meyer (City of Rock Hill); Andy Merriman (York County); Rob Ruth (City of Rock Hill); Christopher Stephens (York County); Robby Moody (Catawba COG); Susan Britt (City of Tega Cay); Jonathan Buono (York County); Steve Allen (Catawba COG); Chris Herrmann (RFATS); and David Hooper (RFATS).

CITIZENS / VISITORS PRESENT: Frank Myers (CAC); Cleopatra Allen (CAC); Liz Duda (Eat Smart Move More York County); Steve Yaffe (Bike Ped Coalition of York County); Hisham Abdelaziz (CDM Smith); Ed Evans (Mattern & Craig); Phil Conrad (Mobility Solutions); John Marks (Fort Mill Times); Camden Moody; Debi Cloninger; Rachel Richardson (CN2 News); and Scot Sibert (WSP).

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- a. **Welcome** – Chair Savage called the meeting to order at 12:05 P.M. and welcomed all in attendance.
- b. **Citizen Comment Period** – Mr. Yaffe offered comments emphasizing the role of bicycle / pedestrian options as important components of a multi-modal transportation system; specifically noting the importance of providing safe pedestrian / bicycle infrastructure in the RFATS Area.

Ms. Duda offered comments emphasizing the role of bicycle / pedestrian options as important components of a multi-modal transportation system; specifically noting the importance of providing safe pedestrian / bicycle infrastructure near schools and parks.

As a point of reference, Mr. Hooper then noted the MPO wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity Plan that was completed in 2016. This plan identifies a preferred regional network to enhance safety, connectivity, and linked non-vehicular options for all users of the transportation system. Operationally this is in addition to individual jurisdictional actions. Mr. Hooper also cited that the Policy Committee has approved a resolution of support regarding the importance of bicycle and pedestrian facilities at all new school locations across the planning area that should be evaluated by SCDOT and the relevant school district during initial site selection and construction activities.

2. REVIEW / APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Savage asked if there were any changes, deletions, or comments to the minutes of the January 24, 2020 meeting. Mr. Gettys then made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; this was seconded by Mr. O’Neal and the motion was unanimously approved.

3. UPDATE ON CURRENT PROJECTS:

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

- E White Street / Firetower Road Intersection Improvement – Construction is ongoing. Mr. Mattox noted that rain and cold weather have prevented the contractor from completing work, thus the contract has been extended to April 1, 2020.
- Celanese Road / Riverview Road / Riverchase Blvd Intersection Improvement – Construction is ongoing. Mr. Mattox noted that rain and cold weather have prevented the contractor from completing work, however all work on Celanese Road has been completed and the project is fully operational. Contract has been extended to March 20, 2020 so that final surface work on the side roads can be completed.
- Clebourne Street / N White Street Intersection Improvement – bids received in the fall were outside the award criteria; project will be re-let in March.

Ms. Savage then asked if the project schedule has been impacted due to the re-letting. Mr. Mattox responded that re-letting the project has only slightly impacted the schedule because construction will still be initiated in FY 2020 as originally anticipated. Ms. Savage also asked if the project construction will be scheduled so as to avoid impacting the Strawberry Festival events in the downtown Fort Mill area? Mr. Mattox affirmed this.

- US 521 / Marvin Road Intersection Improvement – ROW plans are complete and construction obligation is anticipated for June 2020. Mr. Mattox noted an increase in construction funding was identified and would be reviewed later by Mr. Hooper.
- Celanese Road / India Hook Road Intersection Improvement – Project scope has been finalized and ROW Acquisition is underway. Mr. Mattox noted that challenges in acquiring ROW have the potential to impact the project schedule. Currently, construction is anticipated to begin in FY 2020.
- Pleasant Road / Carowinds Blvd Intersection Improvement – ROW plans are being finalized. Initiation of construction is dependent upon completion of the Gold Hill Interchange. Mr. Mattox noted that an increase to construction funding has been identified.

As a point of reference, Mr. Hooper noted that the operational dynamics have changed significantly at this location since the project was originally conceptualized; adding that this has impacted the design and overall cost of the project. Dr. Blackwell inquired as to the extent of the increase to the construction estimate? Mr. Mattox responded that an increase of \$1M has been identified.

- SC 160 Widening Phase 2 Project – Construction is ongoing. Mr. Mattox noted that rain and cold weather, as well as utility delays early on in the construction phase have impacted the project schedule, thus the contract has been extended to December 7, 2020.
- River Road Pedestrian Improvement – construction is complete.
- Dam Road Pedestrian Improvement – construction is ongoing with anticipated completion on March 31, 2020.
- SC 160 / I-77 Interchange Reconfiguration – Mr. Mattox briefly summarized the public outreach meeting that was held on January 30th, 2020; noting overwhelming support for the project, concerns for inclusion of bicycle / pedestrian improvements in the project, and majority support for the Directional Interchange. Public comments that were submitted are being included in the environmental documents; that process is anticipated to be finalized in May. Mr. Mattox noted that ROW acquisition is anticipated to begin in late 2020.
- Exit 82 Interchange Reconfiguration – while there are related variables that remain active (York County SIB, etc.); project activity has not been initiated.

Mr. Mattox then gave brief updates on Area Federal Aid Bridge Projects including: S-655 over Fishing Creek, US 21 BUS over Steele Creek, S-654 over Burgis Creek, SC 72 over Stony Fork, S-1069 over Manchester Creek, S-55 over Twelve Mile Creek, S-560 over Stony Fork, and S-103 over Stony Fork.

Mr. Mattox then summarized project coordination regarding projects impacting the I-77 Corridor including Carowinds / Pleasant, SC 160 Widening, Gold Hill / I-77 Interchange Improvement, US 21 Widening through Pennies for Progress, and the SC 160 / I-77 Interchange Improvement.

Mr. Bagley then made an inquiry regarding the willingness of SCDOT to maintain sidewalks once they are implemented through the development process with local jurisdictions. Mr. Gamble explained that SCDOT District 4 Office is analyzing permits for sidewalks in the SCDOT ROW on a case by case basis. Noting that there are circumstances where local ordinances will require a developer to implement a sidewalk that does not connect to any existing infrastructure. In these cases, SCDOT District 4 Office is asking the local jurisdictions to take ownership of the sidewalk and therefore responsibility of maintenance and liability. Discussion then followed regarding this practice and the need for improved coordination in this permitting process.

4. PROPOSED POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS:

a. 2050 LRTP Update – Mr. Hooper briefly summarized that as a Maintenance Area for ground level ozone, it is required that RFATS update the Long Range Transportation Plan every four years. Mr. Hooper then briefly reviewed the anticipated work schedule for the LRTP Update; highlighting public outreach activities, research and data collection, travel demand modeling, review of project priorities, and financial planning. Mr. Hooper then requested endorsement of the LRTP Update schedule and public participation activities. Mr. Gettys then made a motion for approval; seconded by Mr. Carnes and the motion was unanimously approved.

b. LRTP Amendment – Mr. Hooper briefly summarized the 2020 Statewide Safety Targets, noting that the RFATS Area is well below the statewide trends. Mr. Hooper then requested final approval of the amendment to the 2045 LRTP to reflect these changes, contingent upon completion of the 30-day public comment period. Mr. Gettys then made a motion to grant approval; seconded by Mr. O’Neal and the motion was unanimously approved.

c. TIP Amendment – Mr. Hooper briefly reviewed a TIP amendment reflecting new construction funding in the amount of \$2.28M for the US 521 / Marvin Road intersection improvement project. As a point of reference, Mr. Hooper noted that initial project funding was made as part of a prior SCDOT requirement; and that, the construction component would be requested at a later point. Mr. Hooper then requested preliminary approval and authorization to initiate a 21-day public comment period. Mr. Gettys then made a motion for approval; seconded by Mr. Carnes and the motion was unanimously approved.

d. Transportation Alternatives Program – Mr. Herrmann briefly reviewed the proposed schedule and application process for the FY 20-21 TAP funding cycle. Mr. Herrmann then stated that the confirmed federal allocation for the RFATS Area is \$112,987. Mr. Herrmann then requested that the Policy Committee grant approval of the FY 20-21 TAP application process and schedule, and consider re-appointment of the evaluation sub-committee. Mr. Carnes then made a motion for approval; seconded by Mr. Gettys and the motion was unanimously approved.

e. TIP Amendment – Mr. Herrmann briefly reviewed a TIP amendment reflecting an FTA LoNo Grant Award to the City of Rock Hill totaling \$2,245,935 in federal funds in support of the My Ride Transit Service. Mr. Herrmann noted that a 21-day public comment period was completed and no comments were received. As a point of reference, Mr. Herrmann stated that although no RFATS funding is involved

with this change, all federal funding is required to be reflected in the TIP. Mr. Herrmann then requested final approval for this TIP Amendment and authorization for staff to send this to SCDOT for processing. Mr. Gettys then made a motion for approval; seconded by Mr. O'Neal and the motion was unanimously approved.

f. TIP Amendment – Mr. Herrmann briefly reviewed a TIP amendment reflecting the removal of \$108,666 in TAP funding from the City of Rock Hill's Poe / Quantz Connector Trail Project. Mr. Herrmann noted that a 21-day public comment period was completed and no comments were received. Mr. Herrmann then requested final approval for this TIP Amendment and authorization for staff to send this to SCDOT for processing. Mr. Gettys then made a motion for approval; seconded by Mr. Carnes and the motion was unanimously approved.

g. TIP Amendment – Mr. Herrmann briefly reviewed a TIP amendment reflecting \$830,458 in FTA 5339 funding awarded to the City of Rock Hill in support of the My Ride Transit Service. Mr. Herrmann noted that although no RFATS funding is involved with this change, all federal funding is required to be reflected in the TIP. Mr. Herrmann then requested preliminary approval for this TIP Amendment and authorization of a 21-day public comment period. Mr. Carnes then made a motion for approval. Seconded by Mr. Gettys and the motion was unanimously approved.

5. OTHER BUSINESS:

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

b. Next meeting – Ms. Savage noted that the next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2020.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. O'Neal and seconded by Mr. Harris; the motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 P.M.