



**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
SUMMARY MINUTES
March 22, 2019 – 12:00 p.m. (NOON)
Manchester Meadows Conference Room**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Britt Blackwell; Brian Carnes; David O'Neal; Michael Johnson (proxy); Kathy Pender; John Gettys (proxy); Bill Harris; Gary Simrill; and Chris Moody.

ADMINISTRATIVE / TECHNICAL / MANAGEMENT STAFF PRESENT:

Berry Mattox (SCDOT); Patrick Hamilton (York County); Clifton Goolsby (City of Rock Hill); Penelope Karagounis (Fort Mill); Joshua Meetze (SCDOT); Diane Dil (York County); Ivan McCorkle (City of Rock Hill); Susan Britt (Tega Cay); Steve Willis (Lancaster County); Vic Edwards (SCDOT); David Harmon (York County); Jimmy Bagley (City of Rock Hill); Kenny Larimore (SCDOT); Andy Merriman (York County); David Hudspeth (York County); Robby Moody (CRCOG); Leah Drummeter (City of Rock Hill); Jonathan Buono (York County); Rob Ruth (City of Rock Hill); Christopher Stephens (York County); Alison Alexander (Lancaster County); Dean Hendrix (York County); Chris Herrmann (RFATS); and David Hooper (RFATS).

CITIZENS / VISITORS PRESENT: Kenneth Johnson (AECOM); Jim Van Blarcom (CAC); Frank Myers (CAC); Cleopatra Allen (CAC); Frieda Price (CAC); Luther Dasher (CAC); Dr. David Keely (CAC); Theresa Thomas (Office of Senator Lindsey Graham); David Swenson (York County Economic Development); John Marks (The Herald); Matthew Kreh (WRHI); Scot Sibert (WSP); James Dowdy (HDR, Inc.); Harry Reed; and Amy Massey (Kimley-Horn).

1. CALL TO ORDER:

a. Welcome – Chairman Blackwell called the meeting to order at 12:05 P.M. and welcomed all in attendance.

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

2. REVIEW / APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Blackwell asked if there were any changes, deletions, or comments to the minutes of the February 22, 2019 meeting. Mr. Carnes then made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; this was seconded by Ms. Pender and the motion was unanimously approved.

3. UPDATE ON CURRENT PROJECTS:

a. Congestion Management Process – Mr. Hooper provided an overview of the Congestion Management Process, noting its purpose and function as part of the larger MPO Planning Process. Mr. Hooper then reviewed the Congestion Monitoring Network – which is a reflection of the planning area's principal and/or operationally significant corridors across the road network. With this in mind, Mr. Hooper noted that the CMP is slated for a full update this year, which will involve updating all relevant reference points such as road widenings, newly emerged points of congestion, areas with potential safety concerns, as well as a newly developed list of priority projects. Lastly, Mr. Hooper noted that this update is slated to be completed in the fall.

b. Connected & Autonomous Vehicles – Mr. Herrmann reviewed information regarding Connected and Autonomous Vehicles and the evolution of this technology. Mr. Herrmann then summarized potential benefits and impacts of these types of vehicles to the physical environment, land use planning, as well as transportation planning. Potential benefits include: assisting in managing labor shortages (freight industry), safety improvements (less accidents), and enhanced mobility (older populations, younger populations, and the disabled). Potential impacts include: increases in vehicle miles traveled, less need for parking and/or the conversion of parking garages, possible drop off lanes at activity and employment centers, as well as the need for increased data management and security.

Mr. Herrmann then noted that with the private sector driving the process and evolution of this technology, it is very difficult to gauge when autonomous and connected vehicles will saturate the markets; some experts predict this will occur in the 2020's and some argue that it will not happen until 2050 or after. Mr. Herrmann then stressed the importance of remaining current on the status of this technology because preparing for it as it evolves will most likely come with less hurdles than waiting until autonomous cars are saturating the markets. Mr. Hooper then stated that as this technology continues to evolve MPOs such as RFATS are being asked to make intermediate and longer term investment decisions concurrently with the evolution of this technology. This presents a challenging dynamic because this technology has very specific infrastructure needs which will most likely have significant budgetary impacts beyond those currently known.

Mr. Herrmann then reviewed examples of autonomous vehicles being tested on targeted roadways; highlighting autonomous semi-trucks on the Triangle Expressway in North Carolina, autonomous transit shuttles in Las Vegas, and autonomous grocery delivery shuttles being used in Arizona. Mr. Herrmann then stated that staff will continue keeping the Policy Committee abreast of the evolution of this technology as it progresses.

4. PROPOSED POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS:

a. LRTP Amendment – Mr. Hooper briefly reviewed the Transit Asset Management Targets, which are part of the larger Transportation Performance Management requirements that have been reviewed with the Policy Committee over the last 18 months (i.e., Safety, Travel Time Reliability, Pavement & Bridges, etc). Mr. Hooper then summarized the LRTP Amendment reflecting the adoption of the Transit Asset Management Targets and requested approval of this amendment, along with a 30-day public comment period.

Mr. Simrill then asked whether the bylaws allow for a designee to have a carrying vote on the Policy Committee or if that is reserved for proxy votes? Mr. Hooper responded that the bylaws permit the designation of a proxy for a specific meeting with the assumption that this will typically be an existing member of the Policy Committee. As a point of reference, Mr. Hooper then noted that there have been occasions in the past where an individual member was simply unable to attend and designated another member of their board to attend on their behalf. While these occasions have generally been infrequent, that jurisdiction has been permitted to have their designee as the proxy for that meeting.

Mr. Simrill then outlined potential challenges faced if the Policy Committee were to come to a tie-vote and there is no specific reference of a designee as opposed to a proxy in the bylaws. Dr. Blackwell then requested that staff bring a recommendation for clarifying this point in the bylaws at a future meeting.

Mr. Carnes then made a motion to grant approval of the LRTP Amendment; seconded by Ms. Pender and the motion was unanimously approved.

b. TIP Amendment – Mr. Hooper briefly reviewed a TIP Amendment reflecting \$573,914 in FTA 5339 federal funds to be utilized on the City of Rock Hill's new Fixed Route Service. As a point of reference,

Mr. Hooper noted that 5339 funds are a targeted funding source supporting vehicle acquisition related expenses; as such, SCDOT contacted the City of Rock Hill regarding their availability to support the new service slated to begin operations later this year. Mr. Hooper then requested approval of the TIP Amendment and also asked permission for staff to initiate a 21-day public comment period. Ms. Pender then made a motion to grant approval; seconded by Mr. O'Neal and the motion as unanimously approved.

c. TIP Amendment – Mr. Herrmann briefly reviewed the TIP Amendment reflecting the programming of \$1.0 M in SCDOT PL funds as part of the State Rural Interstate Corridor Improvements Program for a feasibility study on I-77 from SC-9 to US 21. Mr. Herrmann highlighted that this feasibility study has no RFATS funding associated with it, but that because it is federal funding it must nonetheless be reflected in the TIP. Mr. Herrmann then requested final approval contingent upon the completion of the 21-day public comment period. Mr. Carnes then made a motion to grant approval; seconded by Mr. Harris and the motion was unanimously approved.

d. CAC Appointment – Mr. Herrmann briefly reviewed the role of the Citizens Advisory Committee and then requested consideration to appoint Mr. Philbrook Rimar for a 3-year term. Ms. Pender then asked whether candidates for the CAC are required to live within the RFATS Study Area? Mr. Herrmann confirmed this. Ms. Pender then made a motion for approval; seconded by Mr. Carnes and the motion was unanimously approved.

5. OTHER BUSINESS:

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

b. Next meeting – Dr. Blackwell noted that the next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2019.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Carnes and seconded by Mr. Harris; the motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 1:12 P.M.