



**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
SUMMARY MINUTES  
March 25, 2022 – 12:00 p.m.  
Rock Hill Operations Center – Room 132 / Zoom**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** John Gettys; Guynn Savage; Jim Reno (P); Tom Audette; Brian Carnes; Kathy Pender; Bill Harris; and Gary Simrill (P).

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

Berry Mattox (SCDOT); Patrick Hamilton (York County); Yolanda Morris (FHWA); Leah Youngblood (City of Rock Hill); David Gamble (SCDOT); Rob Ruth (City of Rock Hill); Steve Allen (CRCOG); Christopher Stevens (York County); Adam Humphries (SCDOT); Susan Britt (City of Tega Cay); Cliff Goolsby (City of Rock Hill); Diane Dil (York County); Dennis Marstall (Lancaster County); Jimmy Bagley (City of Rock Hill); Diane Lackey (SCDOT); Chris Herrmann (City of Rock Hill); Josh Meetze (SCDOT); Amy Britz (City of Rock Hill); and David Hooper (RFATS).

**CITIZENS / VISITORS PRESENT:** John Marks (Herald); Bill Jordan (AECOM); Jonathan Guy (Kimley-Horn); Dan Mummey (ClearSprings); Cleopatra Allen (CAC); Jim Van Blarcom (CAC); Denise Williams; Martin Wheeler; Phil Conrad (Mobility Solutions); David Keely (CAC); Steve Yaffe (citizen); John Delfausse (citizen); Steven Stone (citizen); Liz Duda (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 February 25<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. **SCDOT Project Status Report** – Mr. Mattox provided a brief overview of the development of the SC 160 / I-77 Interchange Project; and the periodic cost shifts that typically occur with refinements to a project's scope and related activities (i.e., PE; ROW; etc) during implementation. Mr. Mattox then reviewed the most recent construction engineer's estimate of probable cost, and a \$27.4 M upward revision was noted – due largely to the broader inflationary environment that is apparent across the economy.

Against this backdrop, SCDOT has updated the cost range (including a significant reserve) so that this can be proactively addressed at one time, rather than on multiple occasions. Mr. Mattox then noted that it is important to stress that should market conditions substantially revert to a more normal environment, the potential for the project cost estimate to come in roughly \$8 to \$10.0 M lower is certainly possible. Discussion then followed among the Policy Committee recognizing that this is reflective of the broader economic environment impact all projects; and is not specific to this location.

Mr. Mattox then transitioned to the Celanese / I-77 Interchange Evaluation Study that is now beginning and reviewed some of the key planning variables and assumptions. Additionally, Mr. Mattox shared some of the initial thoughts of the consultant team; and then shifted to a review of the working schedule. Discussion then followed regarding different configuration types; applicable benefits and drawbacks as well as right-of-way implications. Lastly, Mr. Mattox noted that an initial coordination meeting occurred this morning at the staff level to ensure that all are thinking comprehensively as this process is initiated.

**b. US 521 Corridor Evaluation** – Mr. Hooper briefly referenced the prioritization of the US 521 Corridor during the most recent LRTP Update, along with the recognition that this corridor is critical to the broader transportation network; and of course, is the central transmission belt for movement within Lancaster County. Mr. Hooper then reviewed current and projected growth characteristics and the need to develop a thorough understanding of potential configurations for widening and/or adding capacity in the most beneficial manner. Mr. Hooper then stated that this work effort has been structured to coincide with Lancaster County’s Comprehensive Plan Update that will also occur this year.

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

**a. 2050 LRTP Amendment** – Mr. Hooper briefly summarized that with the initiation of the Celanese / I-77 Interchange Evaluation Study and the cost escalation noted by Mr. Mattox, that it is advisable to reallocate funding from the Cel-River Road Widening Project (Phase II), which was selected for the Pennies IV referendum and reprogram this funding to the Celanese / Cherry Road / I-77 Interchange Improvement Project. Mr. Hooper then requested approval for this LRTP amendment and initiate a 30-day public comment period. Mr. Gettys then made a motion for approval; seconded by Ms. Savage and the motion was unanimously approved.

**b. Transit Pilot Project** – Mr. Hooper reviewed existing transit service availability as well as those few areas without service options beyond the commuter express service (CATS 82X); specifically, Fort Mill, Tega Cay and the Lake Wylie Area. Mr. Hooper then discussed the importance of achieving and strengthening connectivity across the RFATS Planning Area. With this in mind, Mr. Hooper requested approval to undertake a pilot project initiating demand response service over the next few years to meet area needs as well as develop a solid understanding of the demand level while utilizing CMAQ and/or other appropriate funds designed to support this type of initiative.

Discussion then followed with a consensus opinion among Policy Committee members that we should proceed on a two-tiered approach; specifically, that staff should proceed with funding and contractual matters for a demand response service; and that, updating relevant data, operating needs and budgetary estimates for the establishment of a corridor circulator with trip origination and destination entirely contained within the RFATS Planning Area should be scheduled as well. Mr. Audette then reemphasized that the focus for the corridor circulator will only be further explored within York County as the next incremental step in augmenting transit service availability at this time. Lastly, Mr. Hooper stated that he would reach out to the appropriate federal and state agencies with this understanding.

**c. CAC Reappointments** – Mr. Hooper briefly reviewed the role of the Citizens Advisory Committee and then requested consideration to reappoint Ms. Cleopatra Allen and Ms. Frieda Price for an additional 3-year term. A motion to grant approval was made by Mr. Gettys and seconded by Mr. Carnes 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 April 22, 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 1:28 P.M.