



**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
SUMMARY MINUTES
September 28, 2018 – 12:00 p.m. (NOON)
Rock Hill Operations Center**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Brian Carnes; David O’Neal; Britt Blackwell; Jim Reno; Michael Johnson (proxy); Wes Climer; Bill Harris (proxy); Gary Simrill (proxy); and Chris Moody.

ADMINISTRATIVE / TECHNICAL / MANAGEMENT STAFF PRESENT:

Berry Mattox (SCDOT); Cliff Goolsby (City of Rock Hill); Patrick Hamilton (York County); Mike Sullivan (SCDOT); Susan Britt (City of Tega Cay); Christopher Stephens (York County); Bill Meyer (City of Rock Hill); Vic Edwards (SCDOT); Chris Pettit (Town of Fort Mill); David Hudspeth (York County); Terrence Nealy (City of Rock Hill); Melissa Jackson (SCDOT); Tony Edwards (SCDOT); Penelope Karagounis (Lancaster County); Steve Willis (Lancaster County); Jeremy Winkler (City of Rock Hill); David Harmon (York County); Rick Wyatt (SCDOT); Jason Johnston (SCDOT); Rob Ruth (City of Rock Hill); Matt Gallman (CRCOG); Josh Meetze (SCDOT); Jessica Hekter (FHWA); Chris Herrmann (RFATS); and David Hooper (RFATS).

CITIZENS / VISITORS PRESENT: Larry Huntley (Fort Mill Town Council); Bill Jordan (AECOM); Jim Van Blarcom (CAC); Frank Myers (CAC); Amy Massey (Kimley-Horn); Theresa Thomas (Office of Senator Lindsey Graham); Mike Fry (Campco); Theron Pickens (P2 Ops); Joe Wilson (Kimley-Horn); Waylon Wilson (resident of Lancaster County); and Scot Sibert (WSP).

1. CALL TO ORDER:

a. Welcome – Chairman Carnes called the meeting to order at 12:10 P.M. and welcomed all in attendance.

b. Citizen Comment Period – Mr. Waylon Wilson outlined concerns regarding the site known as PDD 26 in Lancaster County. Specifically, Mr. Wilson referenced the Collector Road Plan and noted the benefits to be realized by incorporating a collector road between Collins Road and US 521. While this action is part of the development review process in Lancaster County, Mr. Wilson noted continued growth in the panhandle and the importance of incorporating collector roads where possible. Lastly, Mr. Wilson requested that the RFATS Policy Committee reinforce this important point. No additional public comments were offered at this time.

2. REVIEW / APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Carnes asked if there were any changes, deletions, or comments to the minutes of the June 22, 2018 meeting. Dr. Blackwell then made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; this was seconded by Mr. Climer 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 that are currently underway:

- US 21 Widening (SC 160 to Springfield Parkway) – negotiation on scope and fee with consultant has begun and design phase is anticipated to begin in January 2019.
- US 21 / Anderson / Cowan Farm Intersection Improvement – bids were received on August 14th and awarded on September 4th.
- SC 160 Widening (Zoar Road to NC State Line) – project is scheduled for letting in winter 2018.
- Gold Hill Road / I-77 Interchange Improvement – project is scheduled for letting in winter 2018, with construction anticipated to start in spring 2019.
- Cherry Road Resurfacing and Pedestrian Improvements – project is scheduled for letting in January 2019.
- Cel-River Road Widening – project is currently open to traffic.
- Poe / Quantz Railroad Crossing – construction is anticipated for completion in October 2018.
- McConnell’s Hwy – construction is anticipated for completion in Spring 2019.
- Hwy 274 / Pole Branch Road – utility relocation is currently underway.
- Pennies 4 Resurfacing Group 1 (Eastern York County) – projects are currently underway.
- Pennies 4 Resurfacing Group 2 (Western York County) – projects are anticipated to begin in the coming months.
- Pennies 4 Resurfacing Group 3 (Western York County) – projects are scheduled for a December 2018 letting.

4. REPORTS:

a. Congestion Monitoring Network – Mr. Herrmann provided an overview of the Congestion Monitoring Network, and noted that an annual evaluation of project activity as well as an assessment of shifts in operating conditions is completed each year on those principal arterial roadways carrying the highest demand volume. As a point of reference, Mr. Herrmann noted that this information is provided from the National Performance Management Research Data Set, and is collected through bluetooth technology and tracks travel patterns from both passenger and freight vehicles on the National Highway System. Mr. Herrmann highlighted that this data allows an examination of travel times along the major corridors in the RFATS Area as recently as the previous month.

Mr. Herrmann then reviewed the latest data for targeted segments within the planning area – including I-77; Gold Hill Road, SC 160, Cherry Road, US 521, Dave Lyld Blvd, US 21 and Celanese Road. Discussion then followed regarding planned improvements on I-77. Specifically, Mr. Climer asked about the expected improvements to be realized by the projects contained in the SIB application. Mr. Hooper noted that the application contains a series of interchange improvements from Carowinds Blvd down to Celanese / Cherry Roads, which would significantly improve operational efficiency during both the morning and evening peak periods through the incorporation of interchange reconfigurations much more conducive to processing high turning movement demand levels; which of course, is a daily reality within the planning area.

Mr. Climer then asked about available options for improving the backups that occur along the interstate during the evening peak period? As a point of reference, Mr. Edwards noted that the storage capacity at Exit 82 was extended in 2002 to address this very issue; and that, SCDOT has made efforts at all interchanges to improve overall safety and efficient operation. That said, Mr. Edwards noted that it should be acknowledged that driver behavior also influences the efficiency with which traffic can exit the interstate – when drivers prefer to wait for a clearance in the travel stream in order to access the left most lane as they move away from the interstate. Ms. Hekter then highlighted that an increased emphasis on access control improvements is generally an appropriate technique to be applied under these circumstances.

Mr. Hooper then summarized the amount of funding that has been committed to improvements on the interstate by RFATS, even though historically interstate improvements are undertaken by the State DOT. That said, Mr. Hooper acknowledged that SCDOT does continue to focus its resources on making improvements, but that overall funding levels have not kept pace with high growth levels and sharp increases in demand on the interstate. Therefore, RFATS has had to direct a significant portion of MPO funding to strengthening the operating capacity on the state system – in addition, to the considerable resources generated by York Count through the Pennies for Progress Program – a significant amount of which also is employed on the state system. Discussion then followed regarding the beneficial role that a rapid transit alternative could play in further strengthening overall system efficiency. Lastly, it was noted that this information will be presented to the Policy Committee on an annual basis.

5. PROPOSED POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS:

a. Transportation Conformity Amendment – Mr. Hooper briefly outlined a lawsuit by the South Coast Air Quality Management District against the EPA regarding the continued application of a prior air quality standard. Mr. Hooper noted that a new transportation conformity determination reflecting the prior standard is needed. Mr. Hooper then requested approval for this conformity amendment contingent upon any comments received during a 30-day public comment period. Mr. Climer then made a motion for approval; seconded by Mr. Reno and the motion was unanimously approved.

b. 2045 LRTP Amendment – Mr. Hooper briefly reviewed the amendment to the LRTP reflecting the inclusion of the Dam Road Sidewalk Project, which is required due to the allocation of Guideshare funding to this project. Mr. Hooper stated that a 30-day public comment period has been completed and no comments were received. Mr. Hooper then requested final approval of this LRTP Amendment. Mr. O’Neal then made a motion for approval; seconded by Mr. Reno and the motion was unanimously approved.

c. TIP Amendment – Mr. Hooper summarized the TIP Amendment reflecting the adoption of Safety Performance Targets, noting that the TIP document must be amended to highlight how project prioritization will accommodate the transition to Performance Based Planning. Mr. Hooper then requested approval of this TIP Amendment, contingent upon any comments received during the 30-day public comment period. Mr. Reno then made a motion for approval; seconded by Dr. Blackwell and the motion was unanimously approved.

d. TIP Amendment – Mr. Herrmann briefly summarized the TIP Amendment for the York County Disability and Special Needs Board to receive \$55,000 in FTA Section 5310 funding and the City of Rock Hill to receive \$1,012,000 in FTA Section 5307 funding for the Express Bus Route, York County Access, and the Fixed Route Transit Service. Mr. Herrmann noted that a 21-day public comment period has been completed and no comments were received. Mr. Herrmann then requested final approval and authorization for staff to forward to SCDOT for processing. Dr. Blackwell then made a motion for approval; seconded by Mr. Reno and the motion was unanimously approved.

e. CAC Appointment – Mr. Herrmann briefly reviewed the role of the Citizens Advisory Committee and then requested consideration to reappoint Mr. Luther Dasher for an additional 3-year term. A motion to grant approval was made by Mr. Climer; seconded by Dr. Blackwell and the motion was unanimously approved.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Admin Report – Mr. Hooper briefly noted that the Phase III meeting for the Regional Transit Engagement Series is scheduled for October 11, 2018 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Mr. Hooper explained that this will be a follow-up from the previous two meetings, as well as the Regional Transit Summit where the development of a scope of work for a Regional Transit Plan was endorsed.

b. Next meeting – Mr. Carnes noted that the next Policy Committee meeting will be held on November 16, 2018.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. O’Neal and seconded by Dr. Blackwell; the motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 P.M.