



**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
SUMMARY MINUTES**

**September 24, 2021 – 12:00 p.m.
Rock Hill City Hall – Council Chambers / Zoom**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: David O’Neal; John Gettys; Guynn Savage; Tom Audette (Zoom); Kathy Pender (Proxy); Joel Hamilton; Jim Reno; Gary Simrill; and Brian Carnes.

ADMINISTRATIVE / TECHNICAL / MANAGEMENT STAFF PRESENT:

Berry Mattox (SCDOT); Patrick Hamilton (York County); Doug Frate (SCDOT); Penelope Karagounis (Town of Fort Mill); Diane Lackey (SCDOT); Susan Britt (City of Tega Cay); Jerome Pearson (SCDOT); Rob Ruth (City of Rock Hill); Josh Meetze (SCDOT); Steve Allen (Catawba COG); Leah Youngblood (City of Rock Hill); Amy Blinson (SCDOT); Diane Dil (York County); Jeremy Winkler (City of Rock Hill); (RFATS). Chris Herrmann (RFATS); and David Hooper

CITIZENS / VISITORS PRESENT: Bill Jordan (AECOM); Hisham Abdelaziz (CDMSmith); John Marks (Herald); Ed Evans (Mattern & Craig); Teresa Thomas (Office of Senator L. Graham); Dave Kerns (HDR); V. Carol Jones (Mead & Hunt); David Beaty (Stantec); Phil Conrad (Mobility Solutions); Jason Jorge Luna (HDR); Jason Lawrence (CATS); Cleopatra Allen (CAC); Liz Duda; Al Rogat; Steve Yaffe; Bret Baronak (Carolina Thread Trail); Jane Love (Carolina Thread Trail); Denise Bryson; and Michael Bywaletz.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- a. **Welcome** – Chair O’Neal called the meeting to order at 12:03 P.M. and welcomed all in attendance.
- b. **Citizen Comment Period** – No comments were made at this time.

2. REVIEW / APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. O’Neal asked if there were any changes, deletions, or comments to the minutes of the May 25st, 2021 meeting. Mr. O’Neal 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. **Pennies for Progress Report** – Mr. Hamilton provided an overview of targeted projects across the transportation network; specifically, the status of the widening on Pole Branch Road; the recently opened reconfigured interchange at Gold Hill Road / I-77; Galleria Blvd; Spratt Street / Fort Mill Parkway; as well as the latest on active resurfacing projects. Lastly, Mr. Hamilton noted that the revenue results during the last quarter were very favorable on a year over year basis.

b. **CONNECT Beyond: Review of Draft Recommendations** – Mr. Hooper provided an overview of the CONNECT Beyond Initiative as well as progress completed over the summer. Mr. Hooper then reviewed the overall objective of this work effort, to improve and support transit supportive development and a range of operating services to meet current as well as evolving demand levels expected in the years ahead. Particular points of emphasis included mobility friendly places; different types of mobility choices; mobility hubs; rural to urban connections as well as funding variables.

Discussion then followed regarding various recommendations and expectations. In reviewing the number of recommendations associated with land use considerations and approval actions, Mr. Reno noted the importance of local control; particularly in the area of planning software and the approach to data gathering, recognizing differences in jurisdictional and agency practices. Mr. Hooper briefly noted that he had raised a similar concern, and did receive confirmation that there are many suggested actions in the area of land use; and that, each area will indeed utilize the approach that works best as the principal objective is broad capability in data outputs, not uniformity.

Mr. Audette then made an observation about area safety in and around transit development and operations. Mr. Lawrence then outlined a number of tools currently in use for appropriately monitoring and follow-up with law enforcement as appropriate. Mr. Audette then reiterated the importance of safety and giving due weight to it as recommended actions are undertaken.

Mr. Gettys then offered his thoughts on the critical role that local control / authority when it comes to land use decisions; coordination among adjacent communities within RFATS and how best to arrive at improved operational connectivity of all system uses. Mr. Simrill then talked about the use of different transit options and how they relate to effective regional coordination versus regionalism. Indeed, Mr. Simrill noted that some have a vision of regionalism more as one region attempting to tell another region what to do and/or decisions to make.

Mr. Hooper then asked members to submit any remaining comments and/or observations they would like to submit to him when ready. As a point of reference, Mr. Hooper noted that staff from the respective jurisdictions and agencies have already substantially completed their more technical feedback as well as expected support agency involvement in South Carolina.

c. **Bicycle / Pedestrian Guideshare Allocation** – Mr. Hooper outlined a range of options for evaluating and selecting emphasis points in making bicycle / pedestrian improvements on the regional priority network. Mr. Hooper then reviewed a specific list of recommended projects from the Technical Committee; discussion then followed with the understanding that a follow-up presentation would be made at the November meeting to set and establish the appropriate sequencing of project priorities consistent with funding availability expected over the next 3 to 5 years.

4. PROPOSED POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS:

a. **RFATS – CRTPO MOU** – Mr. Hooper briefly reviewed an MOU with CRTPO covering administrative and applicable formula for FTA funds allocated to the Charlotte SC/NC UZA. The Policy Committee unanimously approved this item.

b. **Citizens Advisory Committee** – Mr. Hooper 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. O’Neal; seconded by Mr. Reno and the motion was unanimously approved.

5. OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Administrative Report

b. **Next Meeting** – Mr. O’Neal noted that the next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2021.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. O'Neal and seconded by Mr. Reno; the motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 P.M.