



**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
SUMMARY MINUTES**

**January 22, 2021 – 12:00 p.m.  
Rock Hill City Hall – Council Chambers**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Guynn Savage; David O’Neal; Kathy Pender; Jim Reno; John Gettys (proxy); Bill Harris; Tom Audette; and Brian Carnes.

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

Berry Mattox (SCDOT); Mark Pleasant (FHWA); Patrick Hamilton (York County); Jason Johnston (SCDOT); Penelope Karagounis (Town of Fort Mill); Diane Lackey (SCDOT); Cliff Goolsby (City of Rock Hill); Diane Dil (York County) Allison Love (SCDOT); Dean Hendrix (York County); Jason Vance (City of Rock Hill); Jerome Pearson (SCDOT); Chris Herrmann (RFATS); and David Hooper (RFATS).

**CITIZENS / VISITORS PRESENT:** Scot Sibert (WSP); Frank Myers (CAC); David Keely (CAC); Cleopatra Allen (CAC); Carol Jones (Mead Hunt); Bill Jordan (AECOMM); John Fargher (ESP Associates); Ed Evans (Mattern & Craig); Dave Kerns (HDR); James Dowdy (HDR); John Marks (The Herald); Earl Capps (Lancaster County CTC); Larry Schindel; Amy Boulris; and Phil Conrad (MBL Solutions).

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

**a. Welcome** – Chair Savage called the meeting to order at 12:01 P.M. and welcomed all in attendance.

**b. Citizen Comment Period** – Mr. Hooper summarized comments provided by Ms. Amy Boulris of Fort Mill regarding gaps in the sidewalk network along Whites Road between Catawba Ridge High School and Forest Creek Middle school. Mr. Hooper noted that a petition has been circulated gathering over 800 signatures calling for safety improvements to be made to fill in the gaps in the sidewalk network so that students can safely walk to and from school. Ms. Savage noted that this group has contacted the Town of Fort Mill and York County regarding the safety concern at this location; adding that half of the area is within the Fort Mill Town limits and half is in York County. Mr. Hooper noted that this is a potential project for which the local jurisdictions could jointly sponsor and apply for funding support under the Transportation Alternatives Program in the coming months.

**2. REVIEW / APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Savage asked if there were any changes, deletions, or comments to the minutes of the November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting. Ms. Pender then made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; this was seconded by Mr. Carnes and the motion was unanimously approved.

**3. REPORTS:**

**a. Pennies for Progress** – Mr. Hamilton provided a brief update on the following projects:

- SC 160 West (Zoar Road to NC State Line) – project is substantially complete. Mr. Hamilton noted that the final project cost is estimated to be over \$1M under budget.

Mr. Audette then inquired as to how the remaining funding is allowed to be used according to the Pennies referendum? Mr. Hamilton responded that the referendum did list Neely’s Road as a lone potential

project to be completed only if there was funding remaining once all other projects from Pennies 3 and Pennies 4 were completed.

- Hwy 274 / Pole Branch Road – construction is currently underway. Bridge replacements have been initiated.
- Gold Hill / I-77 Interchange – construction is currently underway. Mr. Hamilton noted an extension to the project contract was needed due to winter weather, but project completion is still anticipated for 2021.
- Galleria Blvd Extension – project is currently advertised for bid, with construction anticipated to begin in spring 2021.
- Fort Mill Parkway / Spratt Street Intersection – project is expected to be advertised for bid in February 2021, with construction anticipated to begin in late spring 2021. Construction is anticipated to take 12-15 months and minimal impact to existing traffic is expected.
- Hubert Graham Way Extension – right of way plans and design are being finalized. Project is expected to be advertised for bid in late spring 2021 - with construction anticipated to begin in 2022.

Mr. Hamilton then explained that an internal financial analysis has indicated that while revenue between February through April was down by roughly 4.2% for the same period last year; May through July revenue was actually up 12.4% compared to the same time of the prior year -- resulting in no adverse impact to any project at this point.

Mr. Hooper then took a moment to highlight the cost savings Mr. Hamilton mentioned earlier on the SC 160 West project. As a point of reference, Mr. Hooper noted that York County made a decision to devote considerable attention to developing very thorough cost estimates during budget development for the Pennies 4 Referendum, and it certainly appears to be paying off this cycle -- providing both good project specific results as well as overall program strength and reliability.

**b. Catawba Crossings Feasibility Study** – Mr. Hooper provided an overview of the Catawba Crossings Feasibility Study which has been initiated by our planning partner in Gaston County, NC. As a point of reference, Mr. Hooper noted that this work effort is designed to assess the expected benefits and trade offs associated with a potential new bridge crossing from S. New Hope Road over to I-485 just south of Charlotte-Douglas International Airport.

Mr. Hooper then summarized prior investments made through the Pennies Program over the years (i.e., Hwy 274 Road Widening; Hwy 49 / 274 / 557 Intersection Improvement Project; Pole Branch Road Widening, etc.), and expected shifts in operating demand levels in the greater Lake Wylie Area - both current conditions as well as the projected intermediate and longer term impact considering projected growth rates over the next decade and a half.

Lastly, Mr. Hooper then briefly reviewed the study schedule, which is expected to be brought to completion by the end of 2021. Important milestones include the virtual public outreach that is currently underway and a public meeting that is anticipated to take place in summer 2021. Mr. Hooper then added that more information will be shared with the Policy Committee as things continue to proceed.

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

**a. FY 21-27 TIP Update** – Mr. Hooper briefly summarized the update to the FY 21-27 TIP reflecting changes to the Air Quality Conformity Report and other supporting documentation. Mr. Hooper then requested approval of this amendment, contingent upon the completion of the required 30-day public

comment period. Mr. Carnes then made a motion for approval; seconded by Mr. Reno and the motion was unanimously approved.

**b. FY 21-27 TIP Amendment** – Mr. Herrmann briefly summarized the TIP Amendment reflecting three new federal aid bridge replacement projects in the RFATS Area. Mr. Herrmann noted that \$2.4M is being allocated to the project on Skyline Road over Stony Fork Creek; \$2.075M is being allocated to the project on Mockingbird Lane over Stony Fork Creek; and \$2.97M is being allocated to the project on Zinker Road over Fishing Creek. Mr. Herrmann then explained that no RFATS funding is involved with these projects, however all federal funding is required to be reflected in the TIP. Mr. Herrmann then requested preliminary approval and authorization for staff to initiate the 21-day required public comment period. Mr. O’Neal then made a motion for approval; seconded by Mr. Harris and the motion was unanimously approved.

**c. Public Participation Plan** – Mr. Herrmann briefly reviewed the update to the RFATS Public Participation Plan, outlining changes regarding the use of Virtual Meetings as an alternative meeting format. Mr. Herrmann noted that a 45-day public comment period has been completed and no comments were received. Mr. Herrmann then requested final approval of the update to the PPP. Mr. Reno then made a motion for approval; seconded by Ms. Pender and the motion was unanimously approved.

**d. 2021 Annual Election of Officers** – Mr. Hooper noted that it is that time again to complete the annual election of officers for 2021. As a point of reference, Mr. Hooper noted that the Policy Committee rotation schedule indicates that Mayor O’Neal is slated to serve as Chair and Mayor Gettys as Vice Chair. Ms. Pender then made a motion to consider Mr. O’Neal as Chair and Mr. Gettys as Vice-Chair; seconded by Mr. Carnes and the motion was unanimously approved.

## **5. OTHER BUSINESS:**

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

**COVID Relief and Recovery Act** – Mr. Hooper briefly mentioned that he just received notification that under the COVID Relief and Recovery Act, that RFATS is estimated to receive an additional \$613,000 in Guideshare funding. Lastly, Mr. Hooper noted that additional information is expected to be received from SCDOT fairly shortly, and he will certainly provide an update to the Policy Committee once this is received.

**b. Next Meeting** – Ms. Savage noted that the next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2021.

## **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 1:05 P.M.