



**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
SUMMARY MINUTES**

**January 23, 2026 – 12:00 p.m.
Rock Hill Operations Center – Room 132**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: John Gettys; Tom Audette; Jose Luis; Michael Johnson; Carmen Miller, Watts Huckabee; Derrick Lindsay; Brian Carnes; Christi Cox (P); Guynn Savage (P); Ben Hudgins; and Sarah Vining.

ADMINISTRATIVE / TECHNICAL / MANAGEMENT STAFF PRESENT:

Patrick Hamilton (York County); Penelope Karagounis (Town of Fort Mill); Christopher Stevens (York County); Chris Herrman (City of Rock Hill); Diane Dil (York County); Terrence Nealy (City of Rock Hill); Stephen Allen (CRCOG); Jason Vance (City of Rock Hill); Jonathan Buono (York County); Nick Cauthen (City of Tega Cay); Rob Ruth (City of Rock Hill); and David Hooper (RFATS).

CITIZENS / VISITORS PRESENT: Tyler Cupp (WRHI); Cleopatra Allen (CAC); Scot Sibert (STV, Inc); Jim Van Blarcom (CAC); Dr. David Keely (CAC); David Kerns (HDR); Stephen Comer; Scott Woodward; and Scott Couchenour.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

a. Welcome – Chair Gettys called the meeting to order at 12:00 P.M. and welcomed all in attendance.

b. Citizen Comment Period – Mr. Couchenour highlighted the Walk for Peace event as well as safety and locational variables associated with Fort Mill Schools.

2. REVIEW / APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Gettys asked if there were any changes, deletions, or comments to the minutes of the November 23, 2025 meeting. Mr. Carnes then made a motion to approve; this was seconded by Mr. Hudgins and unanimously approved.

3. REPORTS:

a. Pennies For Progress Report – Mr. Hamilton provided an overview of existing project priorities and upcoming next steps in project implementation at each location. Brief discussion then followed regarding construction inflation, and the latest “trend line” estimates.

b. Collector Road Plan Update – Mr. Hooper briefly noted the Policy Committee’s October Workshop; and the resulting prioritization for completing an update to our existing Collector Road Plan. Mr. Hooper then provided a brief overview of initial steps taken to date as well as upcoming next steps. Discussion then followed regarding current utilization levels of collector road planning at the jurisdictional level, and how best to extract the highest degree of operational efficiency, safety, and system reliability as we continue emphasizing the importance of a more fully developed collector street network as additional development occurs across the planning area.

4 PROPOSED POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS

- a. Federal Certification Review (FHWA)** – Mr. Hooper provided an overview of the Federal Highway Administration’s periodic evaluation of Metropolitan Planning Organizations. In short, Mr. Hooper emphasized that this process is designed to evaluate and ensure that all applicable federal requirements are being properly satisfied consistent with congressional intent.

Mr. Hooper then reviewed the results of the most recent certification review completed for RFATS, and stated that a full re-certification was granted with zero findings noted. Mr. Hooper then thanked all members of the Technical, Citizens Advisory and Policy Committees for their assistance, guidance, and direction – all of which contributed to this favorable result. Motion to accept the findings of this report was made by Mr. Gettys; seconded by Mr. Carnes and unanimously approved.

- b. FY 25 - 27 UPWP Amendment** – Mr. Hooper briefly reviewed a request to amend the UPWP to reflect updated FTA funding amounts. Mr. Hooper then requested preliminary approval and initiation of a 21-day public comment period. Mr. Carnes then made a motion to approve; seconded by Mr. Hudgins and was unanimously approved.
- c. FY 24 - 33 TIP Amendment (Dave Lyle Blvd Pedestrian Flyover Bridge)** – Mr. Hooper briefly noted that USDOT conducted a review of previously funded projects through the Reconnecting Communities Grant Program, and stated that the funding award for the Dave Lyle Blvd Pedestrian Flyover Bridge was rescinded due to changes in programmatic / policy guidance. Mr. Gettys then stated the City’s continuing commitment to this project; and that it will be completed at a later point.

As a point of reference, Mr. Hooper then noted that when funding is either approved and/or removed from the TIP – that action must be reflected in our planning documents. Mr. Hooper then requested preliminary approval to remove this project / funding from the TIP; and to initiate a 21-day public comment period. Mr. Gettys then made a motion to approve; seconded by Mr. Audette and was unanimously approved.

- d. CAC Reappointments** – Mr. Hooper briefly noted the contributions that Dr. Ward and Mr. Manns have made to the Citizens Advisory Committee and recommended their reappointment. Mr. Audette then made a motion to approve; seconded by Mr. Huckabee and unanimously approved.

5. OTHER BUSINESS:

- b. Policy Committee Meeting** – Mr. Gettys noted that the next Policy Committee Meeting is slated for Friday, February 27, 2026.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Gettys and seconded by Mr. Carnes; the motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 1:02 P.M.