



**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
SUMMARY MINUTES  
November 20, 2020 – 12:00 p.m.  
Rock Hill City Hall – Council Chambers**

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

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

Berry Mattox (SCDOT); Yolanda Morris (FHWA); Patrick Hamilton (York County); Vic Edwards (SCDOT); Penelope Karagounis (Town of Fort Mill); Diane Lackey (SCDOT); Cliff Goolsby (City of Rock Hill); Josh Meetze (SCDOT); Diane Dil (York County) Bill Meyer (City of Rock Hill); Allison Love (SCDOT); Leah Youngblood (City of Rock Hill); Erin Porter (SCDOT); Christopher Stephens (York County); Kara Drane (CRCOG); Dean Hendrix (York County); Rob Ruth (City of Rock Hill); Chris Herrmann (RFATS); and David Hooper (RFATS).

**CITIZENS / VISITORS PRESENT:** Liz Duda (Bike Ped Coalition of York County); Scot Sibert (WSP); Frank Myers (CAC); Luther Dasher (CAC); Cleopatra Allen (CAC); Carol Jones (Mead Hunt); Michael Dennis (Ramey Kemp); John Fargher (ESP Associates); Ed Evans (Mattern & Craig); Brandon Murr (Kimley-Horn); Colleen Dick (York County Chamber); Dave Kerns (HDR); James Dowdy (HDR); John Marks (The Herald); Marie Sugar; and Matthew Kreh (WRHI).

**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** – No comments were made at this time.

**2. REVIEW / APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Savage asked if there were any changes, deletions, or comments to the minutes of the September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting. Mr. Carnes then made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; this was seconded by Mr. O’Neal and the motion was unanimously approved.

**3. REPORTS:**

- a. **SCDOT Project Status Report** – Mr. Mattox provided a brief update on the following projects:
  - Clebourne / N White Street Intersection Improvement – construction is currently underway with completion anticipated by the end of 2020.
  - US 521 / Marvin Road Intersection Improvement – ROW Acquisition is currently underway and construction is anticipated to begin in 2021.
  - Celanese / India Hook Road Intersection Improvement – ROW Acquisition is currently underway, utility coordination is being finalized, and construction is anticipated to begin in 2021.

Ms. Pender then asked for an update on the ROW Acquisition process. Mr. Mattox noted that SCDOT is progressing through the acquisition of the few outstanding properties that remain. Mr. Mattox then noted that the utility relocation involved with the project may deter the schedule more than ROW Acquisition. Mr. Mattox explained that upon further review, SCDOT has found that an asbestos cement water line is

located under the roadway and is required to be replaced; the City of Rock Hill is currently in the design process of this aspect of the project.

- Carowinds / Pleasant Intersection Improvement – ROW Acquisition is currently underway; initiation of construction is dependent upon the completion of the Gold Hill Road Interchange Improvement. Mr. Mattox noted that an increase to construction funding has been identified and a request for additional CMAQ funding is anticipated from York County.
- SC 160 Phase 2 Widening Project – construction is currently underway and is anticipated for completion by the end of 2020.

Mr. Carnes then inquired as to the certainty of reaching completion by the end of 2020. Mr. Mattox noted that the project has experienced delays but construction activities should be completed by the end of the year. Mr. Mattox then noted that the new traffic signal installed at Rosemont / McMillan is not yet operational and may not be until after the start of 2021.

- SC 160 Adaptive Signals Project – all equipment has been installed and the system is currently operational. Mr. Hooper noted that this project should see progress reached at extracting further efficiency from the system during the mid-day, making the flow of traffic more functional during the lunch hour.
- SC 160 / I-77 Interchange Reconfiguration – preliminary design and environmental permitting is currently underway. ROW Acquisition is anticipated to begin in FY 2021. Construction obligation is anticipated to begin in FY 2022.
- Exit 82 Interchange Reconfiguration – while there are related variables that remain active, project activity has not been initiated. Mr. Hooper noted that while the SIB award has provided funding in the amount of \$38.5M; it is safe to assume that the total cost for this project will be higher than that and thus require a commitment of Guideshare funding in addition to the SIB award. Mr. Hooper then noted that the Policy Committee will undertake review of the design alternatives for Exit 82 in 2021.

Mr. Mattox then gave brief updates on Area Federal Aid Bridge Projects including: US 21 BUS over Steele Creek, S-654 over Burgis Creek, SC 72 over Stony Fork, S-50 over Manchester Creek, S-1069 over Manchester Creek, S-103 over Fishing Creek, S-560 over Stony Fork, and S-55 over Twelve Mile Creek.

Mr. Mattox then summarized project coordination regarding projects impacting the I-77 Corridor including Carowinds / Pleasant, SC 160 Widening, Gold Hill / I-77 Interchange Improvement, US 21 Widening through Pennies for Progress, and the SC 160 / I-77 Interchange. Mr. Mattox noted that the SC 160 / I-77 Interchange project is anticipated to have minimal impact to daily traffic as the construction of the directional interchange will mostly be focused on the two new bridge components. Mr. Mattox also explained that the Exit 81 Interchange should not impede daily traffic as the majority of work will involve new construction.

**b. Congestion Management Process: Annual Evaluation Report** – Mr. Herrmann briefly reviewed the purpose of the Congestion Management Process 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 the reliability 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 reliability in the morning and evening peak periods along target segments within the planning area – including I-77, US 521, SC 160, US 21, Celanese Road, and Dave Lyle Blvd. Mr. Herrmann also highlighted the impact that COVID-19 has had on reliability levels throughout the region over the past year.

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

**a. Conformity Amendment** – Mr. Hooper briefly summarized the LRTP & Conformity Amendment reflecting the planned 5-lane widening of Mt Gallant Road from Anderson Road to John Ross Parkway. As a point of reference, this is associated with the planned interchange at Exit 81 and the new connecting roadways to Mt Gallant on the west and to Paragon Way on the east. Mr. Hooper then noted that this has been reflected in the modeling process and has passed the conformity analysis. Mr. Hooper also noted that a 30-day public comment period has been completed and no comments were received. Mr. Gettys then made a motion for approval; seconded by Mr. Carnes and the motion was unanimously approved.

**b. 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Update** – Mr. Hooper briefly reviewed the Draft Project List for the 2050 LRTP Update which was reviewed during the October Workshop. This list includes road widenings, new alignments, intersection improvements, bicycle / pedestrian improvements, and public transit services. As a point of reference, Mr. Hooper noted that the Policy Committee had previously requested that the unfunded road and intersection improvement sections be condensed to a more focused list of projects likely to be funded by either RFATS or Pennies during the next 5 to 7 years – rather than a more comprehensive listing of likely unfunded needs that would extend beyond this time period. With this in mind, Mr. Hooper then reviewed relevant changes and project specific emphasis points across the transportation network.

Ms. Pender then asked whether these projects were prioritized or ranked? Mr. Hooper responded that the only ranked projects were those listed in the Cost Constrained Section as those are the only projects where the Policy Committee has made a budgetary commitment. All other projects are listed in no specific order or ranking at this time, but updated project ranking will be completed prior to finalization of the LRTP Update. Discussion then followed on the best way to portray to the public that this list of projects is not ranked or prioritized. Mr. Hooper then noted that a short reference on the project list can be included addressing this point. All those in attendance agreed that this would be sufficient.

Mr. Hooper then requested that the Policy Committee grant approval and endorsement of the Draft Project List for the 2050 LRTP Update. Mr. Carnes then made a motion for approval; seconded by Ms. Pender and the motion was unanimously approved.

**c. TIP Amendment (FTA Funding Awards)** – Mr. Herrmann briefly reviewed the TIP Amendment reflecting the FY 20-21 FTA funding allocations, as well as recently awarded CARES Act Funding. Mr. Herrmann noted that no RFATS funding was associated with this TIP Amendment but it is federal funding that must be reflected in the TIP. Mr. Herrmann then explained that a 21-day public comment period has been completed and no comments were received. Mr. Reno then made a motion for approval; seconded by Mr. Gettys and the motion was unanimously approved.

**d. 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 then requested preliminary approval of the PPP Update and authorization to initiate a 45-day public comment period. Mr. Carnes then made a motion for approval; seconded by Mr. Reno and the motion was unanimously approved.

**e. 2021 Policy Committee Meeting Schedule** – Mr. Hooper briefly reviewed the proposed meeting schedule for 2021 and then requested consideration of its approval. Mr. O’Neal then made a motion for approval; seconded by Mr. Carnes and the motion was unanimously approved.

**5. OTHER BUSINESS:**

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

**b. Recognition of Dr. Blackwell** – Mr. Hooper presented a plaque recognizing Dr. Blackwell for his 10 years of service. Dr. Blackwell then thanked all associated with this process and noted the importance of the work that RFATS carries out.

**c. Next Meeting** – Ms. Savage noted that the next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2021.

**6. ADJOURNMENT:**

The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. O’Neal and seconded by Ms. Pender; the motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 1:13 P.M.