



**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
SUMMARY MINUTES
September 27, 2019 – 12:00 p.m.
Rock Hill Operations Center**

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

ADMINISTRATIVE / TECHNICAL / MANAGEMENT STAFF PRESENT:

Berry Mattox (SCDOT); Patrick Hamilton (York County); Kenny Larimore (SCDOT); Clifton Goolsby (City of Rock Hill); Penelope Karagounis (Fort Mill); Jason Johnston (SCDOT); Amy Blinson (SCDOT); Steve Willis (Lancaster County); Machael Peterson (SCDOT); Andy Merriman (York County); Tommy Feemster (SCDOT); Dean Hendrix (York County); David Burgess (SCDOT); Robby Moody (CRCOG); Leah Drummeter (City of Rock Hill); Bill Meyer (City of Rock Hill); Doug Frate (SCDOT); Rob Ruth (City of Rock Hill); Jeremy Winkler (City of Rock Hill); Josh Meetze (SCDOT); Christopher Stephens (York County); Jessica Hekter (FHWA); Chris Herrmann (RFATS); and David Hooper (RFATS)

CITIZENS / VISITORS PRESENT: Larry Huntley (Fort Mill Town Council); Frank Myers (CAC); Cleopatra Allen (CAC); Dr. David Keely (CAC); Michael Dennis (Ramey Kemp); David Kerns (HDR); Jorge Luna (HDR); Marie Sugar (Kimley-Horn); Steve Yaffe (Bike / Ped Coalition of York County); Al Rogat; John Marks (Fort Mill Times); Rachel Richardson (CN2); Matthew Kreh (WRHI); and Scot Sibert (WSP).

1. CALL TO ORDER:

a. Welcome – Chairman Blackwell called the meeting to order at 12:05 P.M. and welcomed all in attendance.

b. Citizen Comment Period – Mr. Yaffe offered comments emphasizing the role of transit and bicycle / pedestrian options as important components of a multi-modal transportation system.

2. REVIEW / APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Blackwell asked if there were any changes, deletions, or comments to the minutes of the June 28, 2019 meeting. Mr. Gettys then made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; this was seconded by Ms. Savage 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:

- McConnells Hwy – construction is substantially complete.
- SC 160 West (Zoar Road to NC State Line) – construction is currently underway. Completion is anticipated for 2020. Mr. Hamilton noted that NC 160 is scheduled for a capacity improvement with construction anticipated to begin in 2024.
- Hwy 274 / Pole Branch Road – construction is currently underway, a six-month detour will begin on October 11th between Fewell Road and SC 274.

- US 21 / Anderson / Cowan Farm Intersection Improvement – construction is currently underway.
- Cherry Road Resurfacing and Pedestrian Improvement – construction is currently underway and completion is anticipated for November 2019.
- Gold Hill Road / I-77 Interchange Improvement – contract has been awarded, majority of work will be undertaken at night, with completion being anticipated for June 2021.
- SC 557 – ROW acquisition is currently underway.
- US 21 / SC 51 – ROW acquisition is currently underway; construction is anticipated to begin in late 2020.
- SC 160 West Widening (Springfield Parkway to York County line) – ROW acquisition is currently underway.
- Riverview Road – ROW acquisition has begun; construction is anticipated to begin in 2020.
- SC 72 – ROW acquisition is currently underway.

Mr. Hamilton then provided a brief update on the York County SIB Application, noting that the revised application was submitted on September 3rd, 2019. The request for funding reflected 3 interchanges: Exit 85, Exit 90, and Exits 82A, B, & C. The total amount of funding requested is \$125.5M. Mr. Hamilton noted that York County is anticipating a notification in early 2020.

Mr. Gettys then asked whether ROW has been acquired for the widening of Mt Gallant Road from Anderson Road to Dave Lyle Blvd? Mr. Hamilton confirmed this. Mr. Gettys then asked if additional ROW could be acquired now that the Panthers facility will be adjacent to Mt Gallant Road? Mr. Hamilton noted that he is coordinating with the developer, however if additional ROW is needed for the project then the project timeline could be delayed. Mr. Gettys then inquired as to the coordination process involved with the new interchange improvement? Mr. Hooper stated that technical staff are examining the operational impact of the new interchange. Mr. Hooper then noted that if a decision is made to increase the capacity of the improvement slated for Mt Gallant Road, then this change would need to be reflected in the modeling analysis as well as relevant planning documents.

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 travel times along the major corridors in the RFATS Area as recently as the previous month.

Mr. Herrmann then reviewed the latest data for the morning and evening peak periods along targeted segments within the planning area – including I-77; SC 160, Cherry Road, US 521, US 21, and Celanese Road. Mr. Hooper then noted that what this data emphasizes is the change in overall reliability across the transportation network. Discussion then followed regarding how the NPMRDS data set is collected and summarized; and that, it tends to understate the typical driver experience by covering the full number of lanes along a corridor as well as the complete time period during the morning and evening commute – which tends to “average out” the typical driver experience; rather than highlight the intensity of congestion during key periods of demand during the morning and evening peak driving periods.

Mr. Climer then asked if it was possible to focus in and summarize the relevant data during those periods when congestion is most pronounced? Mr. Hooper responded that such a targeted summary will be prepared to augment and highlight these periods in addition to the broader operational picture that the full data set is intended to reflect.

c. Rapid Transit Planning: RFQ Development to update Major Investment Study – Mr. Hooper reviewed principal components of the Major Investment Study from 2007 which resulted in the US 21 corridor (supported by BRT), being identified as the locally preferred alternative. As a point of reference, Mr. Hooper noted that a Bus Rapid Transit route had an estimated cost of \$500 M, and a Light Rail option connecting to the Station in Pineville had a cost estimate of \$1.2 B back in 2007. Mr. Hooper then highlighted the current initiative being led by the Charlotte Area Transit System and the Centralina COG focused on the development of a Regional Transit Plan that would explore regional level rapid transit options across the broader Metrolina Region.

Following a request from the June meeting, Mr. Hooper then reviewed guidance from FTA, noting that in order for any federal funding to be spent for rapid transit improvements in the RFATS region, aspects of this 2007 study will need to be updated. Particularly the key planning assumptions related to socio-economic data, alternatives analysis and cost estimates. Mr. Hooper then asked the Policy Committee for their guidance on proceeding with the update process. Discussion then followed regarding prior work efforts on coordination of land uses, cost to service per passenger estimates, and appropriate zoning changes that would be transit supportive. Mr. Carnes then made a motion to grant approval to update the MIS; seconded by Ms. Savage and the motion was unanimously approved.

4. PROPOSED POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS:

a. 2045 LRTP & Conformity Amendment – Mr. Hooper briefly reviewed the location of a new interchange between Exit 82 and Exit 79, as well as the planned collector facilities that will connect the interchange to Mt Gallant Road to the west and Paragon Way to the east. As a point of reference, Mr. Hooper noted that RFATS is the only Maintenance Area in the state in terms of air quality; this means that any projects adding capacity have to be tested for air quality compliance and have to be reflected in the Metrolina Model. Mr. Hooper then stated that this has been completed and now the projects need to be reflected in the appropriate planning documents.

Mr. Hooper then asked for preliminary approval for an amendment to the 2045 LRTP and Conformity Report, and authorization to initiate a 30-day public comment period. Mr. Carnes then made a motion to grant approval; seconded by Ms. Pender and the motion was unanimously approved.

b. TIP Amendment – Mr. Herrmann briefly reviewed the TIP Amendment reflecting the FY 19-20 FTA funding allocations. Mr. Herrmann then noted that a 21-day public comment period had been completed and no comments were received. Mr. Herrmann then requested final approval of this TIP Amendment. Mr. Gettys then made a motion to grant approval; seconded by Ms. Pender and the motion was unanimously approved.

c. TIP Amendment – Mr. Herrmann briefly reviewed the TIP Amendment reflecting the removal of \$60,000 in CMAQ funding for the Heckle Blvd Sidewalk Project. Mr. Herrmann then requested preliminary approval for this TIP Amendment, and initiation of a 21-day public comment period. Mr. Gettys then made a motion for approval; seconded by Ms. Savage and the motion was unanimously approved.

d. Public Participation Plan Update – Mr. Herrmann briefly reviewed the update to the Public Participation Plan. Mr. Herrmann noted that a 45-day public comment period was completed and no comments were received. Mr. Herrmann then requested final approval of the PPP Update. Ms. Savage then made a motion for approval; seconded by Mr. Gettys and the motion was unanimously approved.

e. CAC Appointments – Mr. Herrmann briefly reviewed the role of the Citizens Advisory Committee and then requested consideration to reappoint Mr. David Ward and Mr. Carl Manns for additional 3-year

terms. Mr. Carnes then made a motion to grant approval; seconded by Ms. Savage and the motion was unanimously approved.

f. Resolution of Support – Mr. Hooper briefly summarized the planned rescission of \$7.6 billion of Federal-aid contract authority from the FAST Act – and the adverse consequences that would result to the stability of transportation funding as well as implementation of existing infrastructure priorities within the planning area. As a point of reference, Mr. Hooper noted that this action is also being opposed by MPOs and State DOTs across the country. Mr. Hooper then asked for the Policy Committee to approve a resolution supporting the repeal of the rescission. Ms. Savage then made a motion to grant approval; seconded by Mr. Carnes and the motion was unanimously approved.

5. OTHER BUSINESS:

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

b. Next meeting – Dr. Blackwell noted that the next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for November 22, 2019.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Reno and seconded by Ms. Savage; the motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 P.M.