



POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

SUMMARY MINUTES

April 23, 2021 – 12:00 p.m.

Rock Hill City Hall – Council Chambers / Zoom

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

ADMINISTRATIVE / TECHNICAL / MANAGEMENT STAFF PRESENT:

Berry Mattox (SCDOT); Mark Pleasant (FHWA); Patrick Hamilton (York County); Penelope Karagounis (Town of Fort Mill); Diane Lackey (SCDOT); Susan Britt (City of Tega Cay); Christopher Stephens (York County); Rob Ruth (City of Rock Hill); Dean Hendrix (York County); Vic Edwards (SCDOT); David Hudspeth (York County); Allison Love (SCDOT); Jonathan Buono (York County); Erin Porter (SCDOT); Steve Allen (Catawba COG); Josh Meetze (SCDOT); Chris Herrmann (RFATS); and David Hooper (RFATS).

CITIZENS / VISITORS PRESENT: Scot Sibert (WSP); Jim Van Blarcom (CAC); Luther Dasher (CAC); Cleopatra Allen (CAC); Brandon Murr (Kimley-Horn); Hisham Abdelaziz (CDM Smith); Phil Leazer (KCI); John Fargher (ESP Associates); Ed Evans (Mattern & Craig); Dave Kerns (HDR); Rae’l Jackson (CN2 News); John Marks (The Herald); Matthew Kreh (WRHI); Liz Duda; Vivian Weinberg; and Bill Jordan (AECOM).

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- a. **Welcome** – Chair O’Neal 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

Mr. O’Neal asked if there were any changes, deletions, or comments to the minutes of the March 26th, 2021 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. REPORTS:

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

- SC 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 that project completion is still anticipated for 2021.
- Galleria Blvd Extension – project has been bid, construction is anticipated to begin in the coming months.
- Fort Mill Parkway / Spratt Street Intersection – project has been bid, construction has been delayed so as to coordinate with rehab work by SCDOT on the I-77 Bridge and associated detours scheduled for May. Construction for the intersection is anticipated to take 12-15 months once initiated.

- Hubert Graham Way Extension – design plans are being finalized. Project is anticipated to be bid in summer 2021 with construction anticipated to begin in 2022.
- SC 160 East Widening – project is anticipated to be bid out in fall 2021.
- US 21 / SC 51 Widening – ROW acquisition is being finalized, project is anticipated to be bid out late in 2021.
- SC 27 Widening – ROW Acquisition and design plans are being finalized, project is anticipated to be bid out late in 2021.
- Riverview Road Widening – ROW Acquisition and design plans are being finalized, project is anticipated to be bid out late in 2021.
- Sutton Road Intersection Improvements (New Gray Rock Road & Harris Road) – ROW Acquisition is currently underway.
- SC 49 / 274 / 557 Intersection Improvement – design plans are being finalized, ROW Acquisition is anticipated to begin in summer 2021.
- Celanese / Cherry Intersection Improvement – design plans are being finalized, ROW Acquisition is anticipated to begin in summer 2021.
- Flint Hill Street Community Drainage Project – ROW Acquisition is anticipated to begin in summer 2021.
- Mt Gallant Road Widening (Celanese Road to Twin Lakes Road) – ROW Acquisition is anticipated to begin in fall 2021.
- Cel River Road Widening Phase II – ROW Acquisition is anticipated to begin in fall 2021.

4. PROPOSED POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS:

a. 2050 LRTP Update – Mr. Hooper provided a brief summary of the LRTP update process. Mr. Hooper then reviewed key milestones and initiatives that are highlighted within the 2050 LRTP Update. These include significant progress at multiple interchange locations, the planned new interstate access at Exit 81, the planned Corridor Study of US 521, the initiation of the MyRide Fixed Route Service, the completion of the Hwy 49 Corridor Study, and the adoption of a Complete Streets Policy by SCDOT. Mr. Hooper then summarized public involvement noting virtual public meetings conducted in October 2020, social media and website outreach, advertisements to local newspapers, and a virtual public hearing held on April 23rd prior to the Policy Committee meeting.

Mr. Sibert then explained the federal requirements of performance-based planning summarizing performance goals reflected in the LRTP Update for Safety, Infrastructure Condition, Congestion Reduction, System Reliability, Freight Movement & Economic Vitality, Environmental Sustainability, and Reduced Project Delivery Delays. Mr. Sibert then continued and summarized the policy recommendations outlined in the individual chapters of the LRTP Update. Mr. Sibert highlighted that based on discussion from the previous meeting, RFATS is committing \$10M of Guideshare funding towards bicycle and pedestrian facilities as a part of the 2050 LRTP Update.

Mr. Hooper briefly summarized the current financial outlook and expected funding availability over the 2050 LRTP planning period. Specifically, Mr. Hooper noted the project estimates in “year of expenditure” or YOE dollars for the key transportation improvements included in the cost constrained section of the plan:

- Exit 82 / I-77 Interchange Reconfiguration – Current Cost Estimate: \$79.5M
- Exit 77 Interchange Reconfiguration – Current Cost Estimate: \$6.1M
- SC 160 East Road Widening – Current Cost Estimate: \$33.8M
- Exit 85 Interchange Reconfiguration – Current Cost Estimate: \$27.1M
- Bicycle / Pedestrian Infrastructure – Current Cost Estimate: \$10M

Mr. Hooper then outlined a few contingency elements contained in the funding projections through 2050; in particular, that while approximately \$22.8M is currently classified as unprogrammed, it is important to note that this funding is not currently available but will accumulate over 29 years. Additionally, Mr. Hooper noted that with three active interchange projects expected over the next 6 to 8 years, it would not be unexpected that one or more may need supplemental funding during this period – therefore, it is prudent to maintain a reasonable unprogrammed budgetary component during this time. As a point of reference, it was also noted that the funding currently programmed on Cel-River Road (Phase II) should be viewed in the same manner until the final interchange configuration is selected at the Celanese / I-77 location.

Mr. Audette then asked if the funding projections reflect any potential changes that may come from the release of the 2020 Census Data? Mr. Hooper responded that reasonable assumptions for this have been made and are reflected. Mr. Audette then asked if these funding projections reflect any impact from recommendations for public transit made from the Connect Beyond Initiative? Mr. Hooper responded that the current assumption is that any funding allocation would be reflected beyond the Guideshare allocations outlined for this LRTP Update. As a point of reference, Mr. Hooper noted that it is expected that the Connect Beyond Initiative will recommend a multi-jurisdictional transit tax to be utilized to fund the public transit recommendations formed in the study.

Mr. Hooper then reviewed the public comments provided as part of the Public Hearing, highlighting support for allocating Guideshare funding for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. Mr. Hooper noted that multiple comments recognized the importance of multimodal improvements to the regional transportation network. Ms. Savage then inquired as to the level of public participation that was received as a part of the LRTP Update process. Mr. Hooper responded by reviewing the individual comments provided, noting that a number of advocacy groups and businesses provided comments through one person on their behalf. Mr. Hooper also explained that due to circumstances involved with COVID-19, considerable social media and website outreach was completed as a part of the process. Mr. Herrmann noted that social media ads reached over 25,000 people throughout the RFATS region.

Mr. Hooper then requested final approval and adoption of the 2050 LRTP Update and Air Quality Conformity Determination as well as reaffirmation of the FY 21-27 TIP. Discussion then followed regarding the allocation of \$10M of Guideshare funding for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. Mr. Gettys then emphasized the importance of acting with expediency in regard to improving the multimodal network as they can be completed on a more short term basis. Mr. Gettys then made a motion for approval and adoption with the stipulation that RFATS make an allocation decision on the \$10M in Guideshare funding within two years from date of adoption. Mayor Savage agreed and seconded this motion. Mr. Reno then asked if it would be beneficial to allocate \$8M in Guideshare funding within two years due to growth being experienced throughout the region and ongoing project needs? Mr. Gettys noted that he would like for staff to evaluate a potential retainer and provide further information for the Policy Committee to discuss at a future meeting. The motion then passed unanimously.

b. FY 21-23 UPWP – Mr. Hooper briefly summarized principal work activities outlined in the FY 21-23 UPWP, as well as ongoing administration of grant programs and support of the regional travel demand model. Mr. Hooper then requested final approval of the Draft UPWP contingent upon completion of the 30-day public comment period. Mr. Carnes then made a motion for approval; seconded by Chief Harris and the motion was unanimously approved.

c. Title VI Plan – Mr. Herrmann briefly summarized the update to the Title VI Plan; highlighting recommended changes. Mr. Herrmann then requested that the Policy Committee grant final approval contingent upon completion of the 21-day public comment period. Ms. Savage then made a motion for approval; seconded by Chief Harris and the motion was unanimously approved.

5. OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Next Meeting – Mr. O’Neal noted that the next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2021.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. O’Neal and seconded by Ms. Savage; the motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 P.M.