



POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES

**Friday, January 28, 2011 - 12:00 p.m. (NOON)
Manchester Meadows Conference Room**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Danny Funderburk; George Sheppard; David Bowman; Britt Blackwell; Wes Hayes; Doug Echols; Sarah Nuckles; Kathy Pender; and Jim Reno

ADMINISTRATIVE/TECHNICAL/MANAGEMENT STAFF PRESENT:
Phil Leazer (York County); Allison Love (York County); Susan Britt (Tega Cay); Joe Cronin (Fort Mill); Dianne Janicki (SCDOT); Kevin Sheppard (SCDOT); Yolanda Morris (FHWA); Jessica Hekter (FHWA); John McCarter (SCDOT); Greg Shaw (SCDOT); Brian Klauk (SCDOT); Joy Shealy (SCDOT); Randy Imler (CRCOG); Wendy Bell (CRCOG); Gerry Schapiro (CRH); Bill Meyer (CRH); Frances Thomas (CRH); David Hooper (CRH); and Leigh Welch (CRH).

CITIZENS/VISITORS PRESENT: Buddy Motz (Past RFATS Committee Member); Amy Massey (Kimley-Horn); Benjamin Taylor (Kimley-Horn); Theron Pickens (LandDesign); Debbie Hayworth (CAC); Frank Myers (CAC); Jim VanBlarcom (CAC); Mike Fry (CAMPCO); Paul Anderko (Citizen); Huey Unal (Citizen) and Charles Lee Williams III (Citizen)

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A. Welcome – Chairman Funderburk called the meeting to order at 12:15 P.M. and asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves. Chairman Funderburk, on behalf of the RFATS communities, presented Mr. Motz with a plaque in appreciation for his service to RFATS. Commissioner Nuckles also thanked Mr. Motz on his work with the Pennies for Progress program. Chairman Funderburk then introduced Mr. Bowman (York County) and Mr. Blackwell (York County) as two new members of the Policy Committee.

B. Citizen Comment Period – Chairman Funderburk invited visitors and/or citizens who had comments to address the Policy Committee at this time.

Mr. Anderko addressed the Committee with concerns regarding the implementation of the Mt. Gallant / SC 161 intersection improvement project; specifically, Mr. Anderko briefly summarized the ongoing congestion problems at this intersection and re-emphasized the importance of moving this project forward given that this project was originally allocated during the FY 2008-09 funding cycle.

2. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Funderburk asked if there were any changes, deletions or comments to the minutes of the October 22, 2010 meeting. Hearing no comments, Mr. Reno made a motion to approve

the minutes as presented. Ms. Pender seconded and the minutes were then unanimously approved.

3. UPDATE ON CURRENT PROJECTS:

- A. York County Sales Tax Projects** – Mr. Leazer provided an update on the Pennies for Progress projects and noted key points on some projects in and around the RFATS area. Specifically, Mr. Leazer noted Hwy 274 and Hwy 901 are now open to traffic; the Cherry Rd project is 40% complete; SC Hwy 161 to SC 5 West is 32% complete; the final utility coordination for the Hwy 72 / Albright Road project is nearly complete with bidding anticipated in Spring 2011; and the Mt Gallant Rd project is at 12% completion and currently under a construction hold due to utility conflicts. Additionally, Mr. Leazer stated the Fort Mill Southern Bypass project Phase I is 60% complete; Phase II bridge and roadway to Doby's Bridge is expected to begin Fall 2011; and Phase III roadway from Doby's Bridge to SC 160 to begin Summer 2012.

Mr. Leazer noted the Tega Cay Connector project is awaiting an air quality ruling and the Hwy 274 intersection corridor is approximately 20% complete with estimated completion in November 2011.

Ms. Pender inquired about the schedule of the Ebinport Road widening project. Mr. Leazer stated the project is moving forward with ROW acquisitions beginning in late 2011 and utilities relocation review is underway.

Commissioner Nuckles thanked Mr. Leazer and York County staff for the work done with the Pennies for Progress program and noted the I-77 bridge repair at Hwy 901, although not in the scope of the Hwy 901 Pennies for Progress project, is out for bid.

- B. Express Bus Service Update** – Mr. Hooper presented an update on the CATS 82X and 78X bus services. Specifically, Mr. Hooper stated that the trend line for 82X is stable and operating data reflects that this route is the second highest performing regional express route in the greater Charlotte area (there are seven total). Mr. Hooper then stated that the 78X route continues to struggle and has not been able to establish a dedicated ridership. That said, Mr. Hooper stated that staff from the City of Rock Hill, Fort Mill and York County, along with CATS, is evaluating the possible discontinuation or re-routing of the 78X route along the proposed bus rapid transit corridor (US 21).

Commissioner Nuckles then noted the MTC's discussion of increased ridership with the anticipated increase in gas prices and encouraged the continuation of both routes. Mr. Funderburk inquired as to the evaluation period of the 78X route. Mr. Hooper stated the current contract ends on June 30, 2010. A decision to continue the route should be made no later than late spring due to the State Mass Transit Funds and Federal Transit Administration application process / schedule and the confirmation of continued funding support from local municipalities.

Mr. Hooper also stated that changes to routes are only allowed during certain times of the year per CATS (generally, around Feb, June and Oct/Nov). With this in mind, the current evaluation process would need to be completed in time for the June service change option, otherwise the route would not be able to be changed until the fall. Ms. Pender noted that without an exception to the planned service adjustments schedule, the 78X route may not

be able to continue.

- C. Enhancement and CMAQ Project Update** – Mr. Hooper presented information on the TEP and CMAQ projects. Currently, there are 10 TEP projects: 3- pending contract consolidation; 1–pending minor re-scoping; 1- pending reallocation request; 2- under SCDOT management; and 3- under technical review by the SCDOT LPA office.

Mr. Hooper then provided an update on the 13 CMAQ projects: 2- under technical review; 8- active; 2- pending additional evaluation; and 1- pending LPA election / implementation.

Ms. Pender requested a status update on the Mt Gallant / Hwy 161 intersection improvement project. Mr. Klauk noted the project is currently in the preliminary design stage with construction estimated to start in Spring 2012.

- D. SCDOT Update** - Mr. Klauk noted the US 21 Bridge Replacement project is currently under construction with the substructure at 50% completion and on schedule for a completion date of late 2012. The SC 5 Bridge project has been awarded for 17.3 million dollars and construction is scheduled to begin in March 2010 with completion in 2013.

Mr. Echols inquired if the local initiative to improve the design standards for the US 21 bridge are included in the construction of the bridge. Ms. Thomas noted the design standards are built into the contract; Mr. Klauk noted coordination is ongoing with the City of Rock Hill on the implementation of the design.

Commissioner Nuckles noted the addition of a two foot shoulder on the Lancaster County side of the SC 5 Bridge and encouraged the Policy Committee to consider the addition of four foot shoulders on the York County side as part of the Northern Crescent Trail should any future guideshare funds become available.

4. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

- A. Advanced Project Planning Report (APPR) for New Catawba River Crossing**- Ms. Janicki with the SCDOT Planning Office presented a report on the proposed new Catawba River crossing. She stated that the main goal of the report is to establish a thorough purpose and need statement for the potential bridge crossing the Catawba River in addition to gathering early environmental impact information. The study area extended from Mt Gallant/India Hook/ Twin Lakes area to Sutton Road; noting no specific alignment has been determined at this time.

Ms. Janicki went on to note the new bridge crossing was first identified in the RFATS 2025 LRTP (Long Range Transportation Plan) several years ago, and is currently listed as a top priority in the 2035 LRTP, and a further study is funded in the FY 09-15 TIP.

Ms. Janicki noted the APPR identified six major points to support the purpose and need of an additional bridge across the Catawba River. Areas to note are:

- Provide relief for an increasingly congested SC 161 and I-77;
- Provide a connection between two primary corridors in the Rock Hill Northern suburbs;

- Provide an east-west corridor to accommodate traffic traveling to and from the rapidly growing areas of Fort Mill, Northeastern York County, and Charlotte
- Support the efforts of regional emergency management planning and options
- Provide congestion relief and serve as an evacuation route in an emergency management situation
- Promote travel safety and alternative routes during emergency situations on I-77.

Ms. Janicki also stated the APPR provides basic information about possible design criteria for a new bridge connection; estimated costs for the project and feasibility study; traffic and crash data; and socioeconomic, economic and cultural considerations. Specifically, the projected cost for the feasibility study; preliminary engineering; environmental and right of way is \$10.5 million. Additionally, the estimated cost of construction of the entire two mile project area is \$32 million. Ms. Janicki also noted the need for re-evaluation of project costs once a potential alignment is identified.

Sen. Hayes inquired if the cost estimates include the widening of the roads leading to and from the bridge. Ms. Thomas stated the cost reflected the bridge portion only. Sen. Hayes went on to inquire about the effect of possible SIB (State Infrastructure Bank) funding with the prioritization of this project in the LRTP. Ms. Janicki noted this project is top priority in the cost constrained portion of the LRTP and RFATS' guideshare funding; the Dave Lyle Blvd Extension project is in the LRTP currently as an unfunded need. Ms. Thomas provided additional information. Specifically, Ms. Thomas noted the bridge crossing project has been identified since 2000 as a top priority and was advanced to the TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) to conduct a feasibility study once guideshare funding became available. Ms. Thomas went on to state both projects are significant and important to the RFATS area. It has been established that RFATS, through guideshare funding, would focus on the new bridge crossing and work with the SIB and other sources to secure funding for the Dave Lyle extension project.

Commissioner Nuckles sought clarification on the traffic study data. Ms. Janicki explained the projections for both with and without the bridge are based on the Metrolina Regional Travel Demand Model. Mr. Leazer noted the project data shows the new bridge crossing would relieve congestion at Hwy 161 and I-77.

5. PROPOSED POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS:

A. TIP Amendment – Mr. Hooper presented a request for final approval of a FY 09-15 TIP amendment to re-allocate \$300,000 in FY 06-07 CMAQ funds from Rock Hill's Rawlinson Road trail project to Rock Hill's traffic signalization upgrade project. Mr. Hooper noted no public comments were received.

Mr. Reno made a motion for final approval to re-allocate \$300,000 in FY 06-07 CMAQ funds. Ms. Pender seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

B. FY 10-11 CMAQ Projects – Mr. Hooper presented a request for preliminary approval to add \$1,642,000 in federal funds for the following FY 10-11 CMAQ projects:

- 1) City of Rock Hill – Dave Lyle Blvd / 177 SB Exit Ramp / Chamberside Dr (Phase II) - \$500,000.00
- 2) City of Rock Hill – Riverview / Riverchase Intersection Area (Phase II) - \$400,000.00
- 3) City of Rock Hill - Traffic Signal System Upgrades (Phase III) - \$742,000.00

and authorize a 15-day public comment period. Mr. Hooper noted all three projects qualify for 100% funding.

Mr. Reno made a motion for preliminary approval to add \$1,642,000 in federal funds for the FY 10-11 CMAQ funds and authorize a 15-day public comment. Mr. G. Sheppard seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

C. New Catawba River Feasibility Study – Ms. Thomas presented a request for consideration to advance the priority TIP project (Catawba River Bridge) and authorize staff to issue a RFQ for the feasibility study. Ms. Thomas noted the availability of \$2,281,000.00 in guideshare funds for programming.

Sen. Hayes inquired about the use of the available guideshare funds on other projects. Ms. Thomas identified two other projects in the cost constrained plan- Congestion Management Projects (Undefined) which supports projects identified in the congestion management update and Pedestrian Safety Improvements project along SC 5. Ms. Thomas went on to state funds are available to do both the feasibility study and another project.

Mr. Blackwell expressed concerns with the prioritization of the projects and the impact on Dave Lyle Boulevard extension. Ms. Pender stated the traffic issues should be addressed now and requested additional information from staff. Commissioner Nuckles provided additional comments regarding the US 21 bridge and guideshare funding. Mr. Reno inquired about the structure of the Study Team and the issue of prioritization of projects. Ms. Thomas listed the staff and agency representatives of the Study Team and went on to state the Study Team has tracked the new Catawba River Bridge project as part of the Long Range Plan and TIP for several years. Ms. Thomas noted both the Dave Lyle extension and the new Northern bridge crossing projects are important but are funded from different sources. Mr. K. Sheppard further explained the project ranking criteria set by state law and stated the Dave Lyle Blvd Extension project has no identified funding source and will need an updated Environmental Impact Statement. The Catawba River Bridge feasibility study would be more in depth than the APPR to determine the best method to complete the project.

Following further discussion, Mr. Echols made a motion to defer this item and instructed staff to present a comprehensive report on the funding and available options at the next meeting. Mr. Blackwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

D. Citizens Advisory Committee - Ms. Thomas presented a request to consider the appointment of Frank Myers to fill the unexpired at-large term for the City of Rock Hill representative of the CAC.

Mr. Echols made a motion to appoint Mr. Myers as the City of Rock Hill representative – referencing his active involvement in the other planning processes at the City, including the recent update to the City's Comprehensive Plan – to fill the unexpired term beginning January 1, 2011 – January 31, 2013. Ms. Pender seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

E. Election of 2011 Officers - Following the rotation schedule, Mr. Echols made a motion to recommended Mr. Funderburk as Chairman and Mr. G. Sheppard as Vice-chairman. Ms. Nuckles seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

6. Other Business:

- A. Citizens Advisory Committee Annual Report – Mr. Van Blarcom was available to answer any questions regarding the CAC Annual report included in the agenda packet. No questions or comments were received.
- B. Charlotte Regional Alliance for Transportation Executive Committee Meeting – Ms. Thomas stated RFATS will host the annual CRAFT Executive Committee Meeting tentatively scheduled on March 31, 2011, and all members of the Policy Committee are invited to attend. Additional information will be available once the meeting date is confirmed.

Commissioner Nuckles noted an award presented to Sen. Hayes regarding the work he has accomplished as a Senator.

- C. Update on Charlotte Regional Transportation Study – Ms. Thomas stated the Centralina Council of Governments conducted a regional transportation study and the findings released in November, 2010 noted the need for more coordination with MPOs and COGs on regionally significant projects. Ms. Thomas will provide a formal response from RFATS regarding the willingness to be part of the regional coordination efforts.
- D. Next regular meeting – February 25, 2011

7. Adjournment:

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 P.M.