



**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
SUMMARY MINUTES  
November 16, 2012 - 12:00 p.m. (NOON)  
Rooms 132 – 133 Rock Hill Operations Center**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Britt Blackwell; W.B. Cook; Doug Echols; Danny Funderburk; Jim Reno; David Bowman; Bill Harris; George Sheppard; Wes Hayes; and Ralph Norman.

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

Jessica Hekter (FHWA) ; Greg Shaw (SCDOT); Kevin Sheppard (SCDOT); Dianne Janicki (SCDOT); Brian Klauk (SCDOT); David Vehaun (CRH); Jimmy Bagley (CRH); Jim Baker (York County); Patrick Hamilton (York County); Susan Britt (Tega Cay); Joe Cronin (Fort Mill); Phil Leazer (York County); Chuck Chorak (CRH); Elizabeth Harris (CIN); Bill Meyer (CRH); Leigh Welch (RFATS); and David Hooper (RFATS)

**CITIZENS/VISITORS PRESENT:** Jim VanBlarcom (CAC); Frank Myers (CAC); Susan Paschal (STV); Larry Huntley (FM Town Council); Theron Pickens (LandDesign); and Erin Pratt (CAMPCO)

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

- A. Welcome** – Vice Chairman Echols called the meeting to order at 12:10 P.M.
- B. Citizen Comment Period** – Vice Chairman Echols invited visitors and/or citizens who had comments to address the Policy Committee at this time. There were no comments.

**2. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Vice Chairman Echols asked if there were any changes, deletions or comments to the minutes of the September 28, 2012 meeting. Hearing no comments, Mr. Funderburk made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Norman seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**3. UPDATES ON CURRENT PROJECTS:**

**A. York County Local Option Sales Tax Program Update** – Mr. Leazer provided members with an update on the Pennies for Progress programs. Specifically, Mr. Leazer noted that the SC 121 / Albright Rd project is a cooperative effort between RFATS, York County, and SCDOT and is currently under construction with an expected completion date at the end of 2013; Hwy 324 / Cameron / Gordon Rd rural roundabout will be complete in 2013; Phase I of the Mt Gallant widening - the section of Mt. Gallant from Celanese to Cherry Rd - is complete; the southern section from Cherry to Anderson is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year; 65% of ROW acquisition has been completed on the McConnells Hwy from Cherry Rd to Eastview; the Tega Cay / Gold Hill Road Connector is currently in the design phase; and the ROW acquisition for the Mt. Gallant from Anderson to

Dave Lyle project is nearly complete. Additionally, ROW plans have been completed for the Ebinport Road project from Cherry to India Hook and the utility relocation required by SCDOT is currently on hold ; the Fort Mill Southern Bypass is moving forward; US 21 & US 51 - public notification has been distributed to citizens and businesses in the area and a public hearing is scheduled in the beginning of 2013; Gold Hill / I-77 project – consultants have been retained, meetings have been held with primary stakeholders and three design concepts for the interchange have been discussed – SPUI (Single Point Urban Interchange), loop system, and the diverging diamond. Mr. Leazer further noted that once the environmental process is complete, the preferred concept will be determined. Mr. Harris inquired about the cost difference between the SPUI and diverging diamond? Mr. Leazer stated that the SPUI is anticipated to be the most expensive due to a large bridge deck while the diverging diamond concept has the probability of being the least expensive.

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

**A. Long Range Transportation Plan Update** – As a follow-up to the October LRTP workshop, Mr. Hooper reviewed the current draft project list of transportation needs and project priorities and asked the Policy Committee if they had any other items they wished to see reflected on the list – as staff prepares to explore the expected impact of different project combinations on the transportation network. With no additional projects mentioned, Mr. Hooper confirmed that staff will move forward with the draft project list as presented, bring back initial data on expected network impacts, and seek final approval of the project list at the January meeting.

Discussion followed regarding the increased focus on the incorporation of bike lanes into road widening projects; specifically, Dr. Blackwell asked a clarifying question regarding the bike / pedestrian improvements indicated as a part of the Ebenezer Road project; and whether, including these types of improvements on road projects is something that other jurisdictions are approaching in a similar manner. In response, Mr. Hooper stated that there is definitely a transition taking place among some MPO's to try to incorporate appropriate bike/ped components on the front end of the planning process – recognizing that in years past, these types of improvements have been largely viewed as additions to road projects; but that, there is indeed an increased emphasis on making these improvements as much a part of the road project as the road itself.

Mr. Norman then asked a clarifying question regarding those projects currently reflected in the financially feasible section of the project list, and what their status is. Mr. Hooper noted that those projects reflect the priority needs that were identified and selected during the last update to the Long Range Transportation Plan; essentially, where we stand now. Mr. Hooper then went on to note that as we continue the current LRTP update, these projects, along with the newly identified priorities discussed at the workshop, are all being evaluated for possible inclusion in this section of the LRTP going forward.

**B. New Urbanized Areas** – Mr. Hooper reviewed the proposed boundary adjustment and provided information related to the next steps in moving forward with the incorporation of the urbanized areas in Lancaster County and the small portion of the Gaston Urbanized Area that has crossed the Stateline north of Clover. Mr. Hooper then requested preliminary approval for the proposed boundary adjustment and authorization for staff to make a presentation to the Lancaster County Council requesting a resolution of support for becoming a member of RFATS. Mr. Norman noted that he has the proxy for both Sen. Hayes and Chairman Sheppard and requested a separate vote for each item. There were no objections.

Mr. Hooper then briefly reviewed the different population sets that are referenced as a part of this process; specifically, the urbanized area population and the planning area population within the MPO – noting that there are variations among MPO’s (particularly MPO’s of different size and complexity) in addressing membership and the number of votes assigned to different jurisdictions – especially in MPO’s where there are relatively large differences in population among the jurisdictions. Dr. Blackwell then requested that staff provide some feedback on how other MPO’s are approaching these questions. With this in mind, Mr. Norman then requested a workshop to further discuss these items. Mr. Hooper stated that staff will email members with a list of possible dates in December.

Mr. Funderburk then made a motion to grant preliminary approval of the proposed boundary adjustment. Mr. Harris seconded. The motion passed on a vote of 9-1 with Mr. Reno dissenting.

Mr. Norman made a motion to authorize staff to make a presentation to the Lancaster County Council regarding the proposed boundary adjustment. Mr. Bowman seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**C. TIP Amendment** – Mr. Hooper presented a request for final approval to amend the FY 2013 – 18 TIP to add \$200,000 in supplemental funding on an 80/20 basis for the Mt Gallant / Celanese Road Intersection Improvement project; no public comments were received. Mr. Reno made a motion to amend the FY 2013-18 TIP to add \$200,000 in supplemental funding to the Mt Gallant / Celanese Road Intersection Improvement project. Mr. Funderburk seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**D. 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) & FY 2013-18 TIP Amendment** – Mr. Leazer presented summary information regarding the Cel-River Widening Project – its identification and prioritization through both the Pennies Program and RFATS’ Long Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Leazer noted that although phase I of the project has committed Pennies funding close to \$6.0 million dollars, recent adjustments to the cost estimates have resulted in a need for supplemental funding. Mr. Hooper then provided additional background information regarding a unique economic development opportunity in the area and its relationship to the planned improvements to Cel-River Road.

Mr. Hooper stated that two prospective employers representing approximately 600 jobs are interested in relocating to the area, but do want to make sure that committee funds are in place in support the expected improvements to Cel-River Road, based on the latest cost estimates. With this in mind, Mr. Hooper stated that the Cel-River Widening project is an established transportation need and is reflected in our current Long Range Transportation Plan.

Specifically, Mr. Hooper noted that this project is a multi-phase improvement effort to improve the functionality between two principal arterials with the RFATS Area – Cherry Road and Dave Lyle Boulevard. Both of these arterials intersect I-77 and are major entrances to Rock Hill and serve the interstate development corridor. With this in mind, Mr. Hooper confirmed that a 30-day public comment period was completed; no comments were submitted. Mr. Hooper then presented a request to amend the 2035 LRTP and FY 2013-18 TIP to add \$6.0 million in Guideshare funds to supplement the existing Cel-River Widening Project (Phase I).

Dr. Blackwell made a motion to amend the 2035 LRTP and FY 2013-18 TIP to add \$6,000,000 in Guideshare funds for the Cel-River Road Widening Project (Phase I). Mr. Harris seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**E. 2013 Policy Committee Meeting Schedule** – Mr. Hooper reviewed a proposed meeting schedule for 2013 and noted that two additional meetings are indicated (i.e., February and April) due to the Long Range Transportation Plan update. Mr. Hooper then noted that the regularly scheduled meeting in May has been set for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday due to the Memorial Day Weekend. Lastly, Mr. Hooper confirmed that the November meeting will take place on the fourth Friday of the month, November 22<sup>nd</sup> – with Thanksgiving slated for the following Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup>

Being no discussion, Mr. Norman made a motion to approve the 2013 Policy Committee meeting schedule. Mr. Funderburk seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

## **5. OTHER BUSINESS:**

**A. Administrative Report** – Mr. Hooper very briefly referenced the items contained in the Administrative Report; particularly, the completion of a Federal Certification Review.

**B. 1997 Ozone Designation** – Mr. Hooper informed members that the RFATS Area has been re-designated from nonattainment to a maintenance area based on the 1997 Standard for Ground Level Ozone; however, he did note that RFATS continues to be classified as a nonattainment area (marginal), based on the 2008 Ozone Standard. As a point of reference, Mr. Hooper did note that a re-consideration request has been filed with EPA and is under evaluation.

**C. Members thanked Mr. Bowman for his service to RFATS.**

**D. Next regular meeting** – January 25, 2013

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 P.M.