



**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
SUMMARY MINUTES
June 28, 2013 - 12:00 p.m. (NOON)
Manchester Meadows Conference Room**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Harris; Danny Funderburk; George Sheppard; Ralph Norman; Brian Carnes; Michael Johnson; Kathy Pender; Britt Blackwell

ADMINISTRATIVE/TECHNICAL/MANAGEMENT STAFF PRESENT:

John McCarter (SCDOT); Greg Shaw (SCDOT); Allison Love (York County); Jessica Hekter (FHWA); Cole McKinney (CRCOG); Kevin Bronson (Rock Hill); Penelope Karagounis (Lancaster County); Joy Shealy (SCDOT); Julie Barker (SCDOT); Susan Britt (Tega Cay); Joe Cronin (Fort Mill); Chuck Chorak (Rock Hill); Ryan Blancke (York County); Jessica Hekter (FHWA); Cliff Goolsby (SCDOT); Elizabeth Harris (CIN); William Long (RFATS); and David Hooper (RFATS)

CITIZENS/VISITORS PRESENT: Luther Dasher (CAC); Scot Sibert (STV, Inc.); Tom Harris (Tega Cay)

1. CALL TO ORDER:

a. Welcome – Vice Chairman Blackwell called the meeting to order at 12:15 P.M. and welcomed all in attendance.

b. Citizen Comment Period – Mr. Blackwell asked for any citizen comments. Mr. T. Harris expressed an interest in speaking about the Tega Cay Gold Hill Connector Project. Mr. Harris shared his concerns that the current structure / alignment may not produce the desired effect; and that, further evaluation should be considered. As a part of this discussion, Mr. Harris noted that he has sent a letter to the York County Council Chairman as well as the two Fort Mill representatives, and has not received a response.

As Chairman of the York County Council, Mr. Blackman noted that he has not received a letter regarding these concerns, and asked Mr. Harris if he would please resend this letter so that he may have an opportunity to respond. Additionally, Mr. Sheppard stated that he has not received a letter, and would equally like the opportunity to respond – as this project has “been on the books,” since 2000 and has been discussed / evaluated on many occasions.

2. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Blackwell asked if there were any changes, deletions, or comments to the minutes of the May 31, 2013 meeting. Hearing no comments, Mr. G. Sheppard made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Funderburk seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

3. UPDATE ON CURRENT PROJECTS:

a. York County One Cent Sales Tax Program Update – Mr. Hooper said that Mr. Leazer will not be able to be with us today; and that, a report update is envisioned at the September meeting.

b. SCDOT Report – Ms. Shealy provided a status update on projects administered by SCDOT.

- US 21 Bridge is finishing remaining items
- SC 5 Bridge is open to traffic. The old bridges are being demolished and the final 5% of roadwork is being finished. The project will be complete by the end of September.
- Springhill Farm Road has completed curb and gutter work; grading and asphalt is still in progress. The project will be complete by the end of August.
- SC 160 / US 21 Intersection will be complete by the end of November.
- Mt. Gallant Road / Celanese Road was in the June letting. There is utility relocation to be done that will start by the end of fall. Once initiated, the project is expected to be completed in 12 to 18 months.

4. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

a. Federal Certification Review – Presentation of Final Report – Ms. Hekter presented the Federal Certification Review process and findings. Specifically, Ms. Hekter noted that the certification review took place on November 7 and 8, 2012. Ms. Hekter stated that the RFATS planning process meets or exceeds the applicable requirements and has been re-certified. As a result, RFATS will continue to receive federal funding to carry out the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process. As a point of reference -- Ms. Hekter noted that the RFATS UPWP and CMP are two of the best in the state; and that, the Limited English Proficiency tool that is utilized by RFATS, has been implemented by four other agencies after being recognized on the RFATS website.

Ms. Hekter then re-emphasized the importance of ensuring that the STIP and TIP remain consistent at all times. That said, Ms. Hekter noted that this is a challenge statewide. As a point of reference, Mr. Hooper noted that in the few cases where the STIP and TIP were not in alignment – that this was principally due to SCDOT completing their quarterly project review prior to RFATS amending its TIP. (i.e., occurring between meetings over the summer). As a result, the two documents were not consistent for a very brief period. Again, Ms. Hekter noted that this is a challenge statewide.

Ms. Hekter then briefly summarized some recommendations put forth in the report. Specifically, it was noted that there is a discrepancy between the demographic breakdown in the RFATS Study Area and the make-up of the Policy Committee. That said, it was noted that membership on the Policy Committee is a function of the electoral process; and that, representation is a function of each jurisdiction selecting their representative(s) from their respective governing boards. Ms. Hekter also noted that it is recommended that additional clarity and / or language may be helpful in addressing unique and / or special needs passengers on area transit services. As a point of reference, Mr. Hooper noted that the definition of a “common wheelchair” has been revised, and that there are times when a transit provider may be expected to transport individuals above 600 lbs. – if vehicles with a higher threshold are reasonably available.

5. PROPOSED POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS:

a. FY 13-14 Transportation Alternatives Program and TIP Amendment – Mr. Hooper noted that there was one submitted application for TAP funding this year. With this in mind, Mr. Hooper said that it is being recommended that the FY 13-14 allocation of \$107,000 be programmed to the White Street Pedestrian Safety Project. Additionally, Mr. Hooper stated that it is recommended that \$32,000 previously programmed to the Oakland Avenue Bike Lanes Study be re-allocated to the project as well. As a point of reference, Mr. Hooper noted that the Oakland Avenue Study will be pursued through another funding source. Mr. Blackwell asked for a motion. Mr. Norman made a motion. Ms. Pender seconded and preliminary endorsement of the amendment and authorization of a 15-day public comment period were unanimously approved.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

- a. Administrative Report** – Mr. Hooper briefly reviewed prior discussions regarding the change in CMAQ funding announced by SCDOT last fall. Specifically, that the 100% federal funding provision for qualifying projects originally contained in the Energy Independence and Security Act – were not carried forward with the passage and implementation of MAP-21 as of October 1, 2012. That said, Mr. Hooper then mentioned that one potential option that SCDOT has been considering for addressing the shortfall created by the change (i.e., the Soft Toll Credit Option), is something that SCDOT believes would not be an appropriate response to the removal of the supporting provision. Against this backdrop, Ms. Pender noted that RFATS should try to finish existing projects before taking on new project applications.
- b. Quarterly Transit Report** – Mr. Hooper briefly summarized the most recent ridership information on the CATS 82X route. Specifically, it was mentioned that this service continues to reflect a stable ridership pattern with an upward bias. As a point of reference, Mr. Hooper noted that ridership in May reached the highest point in four years.
- c. Next Regular Meeting** – Mr. Blackwell announced that the next regular meeting will be held on Friday, September 27, 2013 at the Manchester Meadows Conference Room.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 P.M.