



**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
SUMMARY MINUTES  
August 31, 2012 - 12:00 p.m. (NOON)  
Manchester Meadows Conference Room**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Danny Funderburk; Jim Reno; David Bowman; Bill Harris; George Sheppard; Wes Hayes; and Doug Echols.

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

Jessica Hekter (FHWA) ; Greg Shaw (SCDOT); John McCarter (SCDOT); Mark Lester (SCDOT); Elizabeth Harris (CIN); David Vehaun (CRH); Jimmy Bagley (CRH); Jim Baker (York County); Susan Britt (Tega Cay); Phil Leazer (York County); Patrick Hamilton (York County); Allison Love (York County); Wendy Bell (CRCOG); and David Hooper (REATS)

**CITIZENS/VISITORS PRESENT:** Don Worthington (The Herald)

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

- A. **Welcome** – Chairman Sheppard called the meeting to order at 12:05 P.M.
- B. **Citizen Comment Period** – Chairman Sheppard 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:**

Chairman Sheppard asked if there were any changes, deletions or comments to the minutes of the June 22, 2012 meeting. Hearing no comments, Mr. Funderburk made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Sen. Hayes seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**3. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

A. **New Federal Transportation Bill** – Mr. Hooper began the discussion by briefly reviewing the SCDOT proposed funding plan for FY 2013; in particular, Mr. Hooper highlighted a recommended 7% reduction in MPO Guideshare funding as well as a new mandatory requirement that MPO's spend 20% of their Guideshare allocation on road resurfacing projects on the state system. Mr. Hooper then presented an overview of the new transportation bill (known as MAP-21), which re-authorizes the federal aid highway program for two years through September 2014.

Mr. Hooper then displayed a chart reflecting the proposed FY 2013 Funding Plan and asked Mr. Lester to highlight some of the more notable changes. Mr. Lester discussed the significant amount of program consolidation within MAP-21 and then broke down the federal allocation for each program. Specifically, Mr. Lester noted that the Federal Match program was reduced from \$37m to \$24m; Pavement and Construction reduced by \$4m; CMAQ program reduced by \$2m; and Safety funds reduced by \$1m.

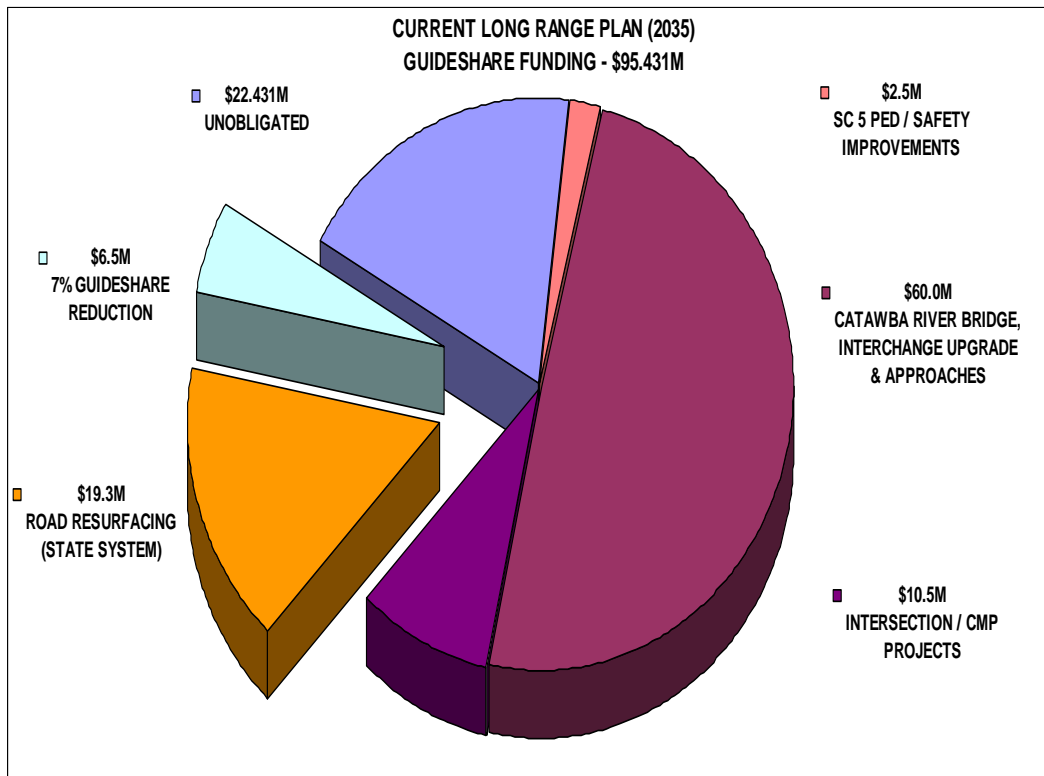
Mr. Hooper then resumed his presentation by identifying the two proposed cuts to the MPO's funding in more detail. Specifically, Mr. Hooper described the impact in 2013 as well as possible longer term implications, should the reduction be extended beyond this fiscal year. The Guideshare Scenario Summary below indicates a loss of \$296,639 for RFATS.

| GUIDESHARE SCENARIO SUMMARY              |                     |                                   |                      |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| BASED ON PROPOSED FUNDING: \$138,000,000 |                     |                                   |                      |
| <b>MPOs</b>                              |                     |                                   |                      |
| SCENARIO                                 | CURRENT *           | GAIN (LOSS)                       |                      |
| ANATS                                    | \$2,540,761         | \$2,724,875                       | (\$184,113)          |
| ARTS                                     | \$3,393,387         | \$3,839,285                       | (\$245,898)          |
| CHATS                                    | \$15,807,877        | \$16,953,376                      | (\$1,145,498)        |
| COATS                                    | \$16,725,999        | \$17,938,028                      | (\$1,212,029)        |
| FLATS                                    | \$2,486,886         | \$2,868,880                       | (\$180,195)          |
| GPATS                                    | \$14,835,044        | \$15,910,047                      | (\$1,075,003)        |
| GSATS                                    | \$6,333,478         | \$6,792,427                       | (\$458,948)          |
| RFATS                                    | \$4,063,813         | \$4,390,252                       | (\$326,439)          |
| SPATS                                    | \$6,246,238         | \$6,898,865                       | (\$652,626)          |
| SUATS                                    | \$2,285,237         | \$2,450,834                       | (\$165,597)          |
| <b>TOTAL URBAN GS:</b>                   | <b>\$74,748,323</b> | <b>\$80,164,871</b>               | <b>\$(5,416,548)</b> |
|  | 54.17%              | 54.17%                            |                      |
| <b>RURAL COGS</b>                        |                     |                                   |                      |
| SCENARIO                                 | CURRENT *           | GAIN (LOSS)                       |                      |
| APPALACHIAN                              | \$9,245,453         | \$9,915,413                       | (\$669,960)          |
| BCD                                      | \$4,543,388         | \$4,872,619                       | (\$329,231)          |
| CATAWBA                                  | \$5,913,946         | \$6,342,493                       | (\$428,547)          |
| CENTRAL MIDLANDS                         | \$4,167,334         | \$4,489,315                       | (\$301,981)          |
| LOWCOUNTRY                               | \$8,153,516         | \$8,744,361                       | (\$590,845)          |
| LOWER SAVANNAH                           | \$7,446,890         | \$7,986,520                       | (\$539,630)          |
| PEE DEE                                  | \$8,709,131         | \$9,340,228                       | (\$631,096)          |
| SANTEE-LYNCHES                           | \$4,070,832         | \$5,331,037                       | (\$1,260,205)        |
| UPPER SAVANNAH                           | \$6,601,670         | \$7,080,051                       | (\$478,381)          |
| WACCAMAW                                 | \$3,499,517         | \$3,753,105                       | (\$253,588)          |
| <b>TOTAL RURAL GS:</b>                   | <b>\$63,251,677</b> | <b>\$67,835,131</b>               | <b>\$(4,583,455)</b> |
|  | 45.83%              | 45.83%                            |                      |
| ENTER TOTAL SYSTEM UPGRADE FUNDS:        |                     |                                   |                      |
| <b>\$138,000,000</b>                     |                     |                                   |                      |
| MPO Population Share (57.70%)            |                     | MPO VMT Study Area Share (50.63%) |                      |
| COG Population Share (42.30%)            |                     | COG VMT Share (49.37%)            |                      |
| BASED ON FOLLOWING WEIGHT FACTORS:       |                     |                                   |                      |
| POPULATION                               | 50%                 |                                   |                      |
| VMT                                      | 50%                 |                                   |                      |
|  | 100%                |                                   |                      |

Mr. Hooper then noted that in addition to MPOs, COGs will also be adversely impacted. Sen. Hayes inquired if the total federal allocation to South Carolina had increased or decreased? Mr. Lester responded that the allocation has declined over the last few years from \$651m in 2010; 633m in 2012; to \$608m in 2013; that said, Mr. Lester then indicated that he believed that this amount is expected to increase in FY 2014. He also added that the SCDOT has been operating on assumptions related to the extensions of SAFETEA-LU. Sen. Hayes also inquired about gas tax revenue.

Mr. Hooper then spoke about the 20% road resurfacing requirement and presented a map of the federal aid eligible roads currently on the SCDOT District Office list of priorities. Mr. McCarter explained that the highlighted sections of roads are eligible for the Federal Aid Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program based on the pavement quality index threshold - meaning that the pavement is in fair condition or worse. He added that these roads are to be considered for the road resurfacing requirement and can be chosen locally.

Mr. Hooper then reviewed more specific information about the financial impact of the 20% resurfacing requirement. In particular, Mr. Hooper stated that based on our Guideshare allocation, that approximately \$878,000 would be the annual amount. Looking out through the end of our current long range plan, this would amount to roughly \$19,000,000. Mr. Hooper then presented a graph of the current 2035 Long Range Plan Guideshare Funding allocation, with proposed changes:



Mr. Hooper then noted that MPOs and COGs held a meeting to discuss the proposed changes and shared the consensus of that group with the Committee. Specifically, Mr. Hooper noted questions such as how would the proposed changes affect the MPO/COGs' ability to rely on funding assumptions for LRTP & TIP planning; would SCDOT consider a phased implementation of the road resurfacing requirement; how do these decisions affect MPOs in debt service (i.e., is the 20% requirement off of total or net available Guideshare); and will these changes affect the areas with a local sales tax program and if so, would SCDOT consider a credit for those funds that have already been expended on state system roads?

Mr. Hooper then stated that SCDOT is currently accepting public comments on the 7% reduction in Guideshare funding on or before September 4, 2012; however, Mr. Hooper noted that the 20% road resurfacing requirement is not subject to a public comment period. It was also noted that next steps could include outreach to the District Commissioner or consideration of a resolution from the Policy Committee to be submitted to SCDOT. Additionally, an MPO presentation on the impacts of these proposed changes will be presented to the SCDOT Commission at their next meeting. Sen. Hayes inquired if the proposed cuts in federal funding to MPO's was largely passed down from the Commission's cut in federal funding? Mr. Hooper responded that that does appear to be the case, but also added that many MPO's / COG's felt that the expected return of earmark funds (approximately \$10,000,000), should have been considered to bridge the funding gap in FY 2013 as an alternative to pursuing a 7% reduction in Guideshare funds.

Ms. Bell then reviewed the impact on the Catawba Regional COG and noted a reduction in annual Guideshare funds of \$428, 527. Ms. Bell also noted that the CRCOG will have to meet the 20% road resurfacing requirement while facing future funding reductions due to new MPO boundaries and the creation of the Hilton Head MPO – and further stated that the true impact of these proposed changes is unknown to the COGs at this time. Mr. Leazer commented on the funding of the 20% road resurfacing requirement and then stated that road resurfacing is done as a part of Pennies for Progress projects and raised the question about the

possibility of a credit issued for this work. Ms. Hekter urged RFATS to take advantage of the public comment period.

Mr. Hooper then called for comments from the Committee. Mr. Funderburk and Mr. Baker agreed with the suggestion that RFATS seek a credit for Pennies work already completed on the state system. Chairman Sheppard inquired about moving forward with a statement from RFATS. Mr. Hooper stated a letter would be drafted noting the concerns which would then be submitted electronically to SCDOT. Mr. Echols suggested Chairman Sheppard sign the letter on behalf of the Policy Committee members and include a list of the members as part of the correspondence. That said, Mr. Echols made a motion for staff to draft a letter, in coordination with Chairman Sheppard, to include the items / concerns discussed at the meeting. Sen. Hayes seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**4. OTHER BUSINESS:**

- A. Next regular meeting – September 28, 2012.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:50 P.M.