



POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES

**Friday, September 23, 2011 - 12:00 p.m. (NOON)
Rock Hill City Hall**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Danny Funderburk; Jim Reno; David Bowman; Wes Hayes; Ralph Norman; Bill Harris; Sarah Nuckles; and Britt Blackwell

ADMINISTRATIVE/TECHNICAL/MANAGEMENT STAFF PRESENT:

Joy Shealy (SCDOT); Brian Klauk (SCDOT); Jessica Hekter (FHWA); John McCarter (SCDOT); Greg Shaw (SCDOT); Dianne Janicki (SCDOT); Randall Young (SCDOT); Kevin Sheppard (SCDOT); Joe Cronin (Fort Mill); Elizabeth Harris (CIN); David Vebaun (CRH); Jimmy Bagley (CRH); Bill Meyer (CRH); Chuck Chorak (CRH); Wendy Bell (CRCOG); Tobe Holmes (York County); Phil Leazer (York County); David Hooper (CRH); and Leigh Welch (CRH).

CITIZENS/VISITORS PRESENT: Jim VanBlarcom (CAC); Frank Myers (CAC); Denise Williams (CAC); Larry Huntley (FM Town Council); Amy Massey (Kimley-Horn); John Hauenstein (citizen); and Hisham Abdelaziz (HDR)

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A. Welcome – Chairman Funderburk called the meeting to order at 12:15 P.M.

B. Citizen Comment Period – Chairman Funderburk 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 Funderburk asked if there were any changes, deletions or comments to the minutes of the August 12, 2011 meeting. Hearing no comments, Mr. Reno made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dr. Blackwell seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

3. UPDATE ON CURRENT PROJECTS:

A. York County One Cents Sales Tax Program Update – Mr. Leazer reviewed the funding and status of the 1997 and 2003 Pennies for Progress projects noting a total project cost of \$500 million for both programs. Specifically, 12 of the 1997 projects are complete; one is currently under construction (Hwy 5 Bypass); and one is scheduled for bidding at the end of 2011 (Hwy 72). The 2003 program consists of 38 projects with 12 complete; 7 under construction; and 9 under project design, permitting or ROW acquisition. Mr. Leazer also noted that 7 of the 2003 projects have been carried over to the 2011 Pennies for Progress program which consists of 26 projects (15 located within the RFATS area) with an estimated total cost of \$161 million.

Mr. Norman and Commissioner Nuckles inquired about the cost of utility relocation. Mr. Leazer stated that York County is participating with all utility companies to assist with the relocation costs for existing utility equipment- no upgrades – in the 2011 Pennies for Progress program.

B. Express Bus Service Update – Mr. Hooper presented the quarterly report for the CATS 82X Express Bus Service. Specifically, Mr. Hooper noted an average of 164 riders per day for the quarter which represents an approximate 1% increase from the average quarterly ridership in FY 2010-11. Mr. Hooper then noted that the trend line for 82X is stable with a moderately upward bias. Mr. Hooper also briefly summarized the ridership data for the other five regional express routes and noted that notwithstanding the broader economic challenges, that the Rock Hill Express is operating second only to the Concord Mills route.

- C. SCDOT Report** - Mr. Klauk presented an update on current TEP and CMAQ projects. Specifically, Mr. Klauk stated the Springhill Farm Rd. project is in the process of ROW acquisition; Mt. Gallant / SC 161 is on schedule for ROW acquisition; the SC 5 bridge project is on schedule; and the US 21 bridge is on schedule and due for completion in 2013.

Commissioner Nuckles inquired if the ROW acquisition on the Mt. Gallant / SC161 project could be expedited. In response, Mr. Klauk cited the Uniform Act and stated this process is dependent upon the negotiation process.

4. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

- A. Presentation on Grant Program Coordination** – Mr. Hooper presented information regarding the requirements and processes associated with grant programs supported with federal funds. Specifically, Mr. Hooper reviewed the annual application process for both the Transportation Enhancement and Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement Program(s). Mr. Klauk then briefly summarized SCDOT's project development process. Specifically, Mr. Klauk reviewed preconstruction activities such as preliminary engineering; environmental documentation and permitting as well as ROW acquisition and concluded by noting that this process is typically completed in 2-3 years. Additionally, Mr. Klauk briefly reviewed a number of the laws / procedural requirements that are applicable to project development and implementation activities.

Mr. Norman, Mr. Bowman and Commissioner Nuckles offered comments on the RFQ process as a general matter and related federal funding requirements. Mr. Hooper and Mr. Klauk then addressed additional comments regarding the important role that the Local Public Agency (LPA) election has on the length of a project's implementation.

Following this discussion, Mr. Hooper outlined a few opportunities for improving the time associated with prioritizing, funding, and implementing TEP & CMAQ projects. In particular, Mr. Hooper suggested initiating the annual application process in January versus March would be a logical place to start. Mr. Hooper went on to state that incorporating a requirement for front-end coordination with SCDOT during the application development phase; specifically, reaching general agreement on a project's scope and cost estimate, should aid in reducing the amount of time devoted to the administrative aspect of project implementation.

Mr. Reno then made a recommendation to form a subcommittee or study group to review the current governing laws of the grant programs in an additional effort to identify other areas that could make the process more efficient as well. Chairman Funderburk requested staff to

follow up at the next meeting with the best strategy to identify and review inefficiencies in the current laws.

5. PROPOSED POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS:

- A. FY 11-12 CMAQ Projects** – Mr. Hooper presented a request for consideration of the air quality benefit analysis and final approval / submission of the following CMAQ projects totaling \$1,006,555.00 in federal funds to SCDOT and FHWA:

- 1) Springfield Pkwy Area Improvements – Town of Fort Mill
- 2) Traffic Signal Controller Upgrades (Ph IV) – City of Rock Hill
- 3) Electric Vehicles & Recharging Infrastructure – Town of Fort Mill
- 4) Heckle Blvd Sidewalk Improvement – York County

Sen. Hayes made a motion to grant final approval and authorize submission of the CMAQ projects totaling \$1,006,555 to SCDOT and FHWA. Mr. Norman seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

- B. TIP Amendment** – Commissioner Nuckles inquired about the \$550,000 increase in the cost estimate for the 2007 CMAQ project - SC 160/ US 21 Intersection Improvement. Mr. Klauk identified changes in the scope of the project as a factor in the increased cost. Additionally, Mr. Hooper noted SCDOT placed the project on hold while an evaluation of the LPA implementation process was completed, and cited fluctuating material costs as additional factors in the increased cost. Mr. Hooper also noted that this project was identified as a priority project in the 2004 Congestion Management Study. Following discussion, Mr. Hooper then presented a request for final approval to amend the FY 09-15 TIP to add \$550,000 in CMAQ funds to the SC 160 / US 21 Intersection Improvement project and for authorization of a 15-day public comment period.

Sen. Hayes made a motion for final approval to amend the FY 09-15 TIP to add \$550,000 in CMAQ funds to the SC 160 / US 21 Intersection Improvement project and authorize a 15-day public comment period. Mr. Bowman seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

- C. 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Amendment** – Mr. Hooper presented a request for final approval to amend the 2035 LRTP to reflect an identified funding source for Phase II of the Celriver Road widening project. Mr. Hooper noted that no public comments have been received. Commissioner Nuckles made a motion to grant final approval to amend the 2035 LRTP; Mr. Reno seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

- A.** Mr. Hooper presented information on the completed evaluation of the Public Participation Plan. Commissioner Nuckles requested the addition of the local chapter of the NAACP to the email distribution list for public participation activities and notices. Mr. Bowman requested that RFATS display signs in the project areas to increase public awareness. Mr. Leazer stated the RFATS logo can be included on the Pennies for Projects signs.
- B.** Mr. Hooper noted staff completed an administrative adjustment to the FY 09-15 TIP on allocated CMAQ funds programmed and expensed in 2012.
- C.** Next regular meeting – November 18, 2011.
- D.** Mr. Hooper stated that the CMAQ allocation for RFATS, the only nonattainment area in South Carolina, should remain stable with respect to the 1997 ozone standard. Mr. Hooper then noted that EPA has withdrawn their request to lower the 2008 ozone standards. Ms.

Bell then stated that she recently received information from DHEC regarding the application of the 2008 ozone standard and a revised recommendation they are preparing to submit to EPA later this fall.

7. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 P.M.