

FLATS POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
March 30, 2009
APPROVED MINUTES

Voting Members Present:

Senator Hugh Leatherman
Councilman Billy D. Williams
Representative Kris Crawford
Sherwin Welch
Mayor Stephen Wukela
Commissioner Marvin Stevenson

Non-Voting Members Present:

William Hoge
Janice Baroody
Richard Starks

Study Team Members Present:

Chris Gossett, SCDOT
Phil Goff, PDCOG
Derrell Rice, SCDOT
David Burgess, SCDOT
Doug Frate, SCDOT
Phillip Lookadoo, City of Florence

Staff Present:

Scott Park
Debi Matthews
Renee Proctor

Senator Leatherman called the meeting to order.

The first item of business on the agenda, to review the minutes from the previous meeting is addressed as the last item of this meeting.

The second item of business on the agenda was the election of Chair and Vice-Chair:

- Sherwin Welch nominated Senator Leatherman to remain as Chair; Representative Crawford made 2nd motion. Carried unanimously.
- Senator Leatherman nominated Representative Crawford as Vice-Chair; Mayor Wukela made 2nd motion. Carried unanimously.

The third item of business on the agenda was updates from the CTC, PDCOG, PDRTA and SCODT:

- Sherwin Welch updated the committee on the current projects for the CTC. The projects currently under construction throughout the county total approximately \$5,404,706. They expect to get \$2 million next year.
- Phil Goff updated the committee on the status of the current projects for the PDCOG.
- Janice Baroody updated the committee on the recent stimulus funds PDRTA has received.
- Chris Gossett with SCDOT updated the committee on the status of the one-cent sales tax projects and FLATS projects. For the one-cent sales tax projects:
 - Pine Needles – Phase I complete; Phase II under construction.
(Representative Crawford asked where the funds came from for this project. Mr. Hoge advised that the first \$500,000 was FLATS money used to begin the project while waiting on the 1% sales tax money.);

- US378 – Project Final Design is 30% complete;
- US76 – From I-95 to Timmons ville in preliminary engineering and alignment stage;
- TV Road – From Wilson Road to Interstate 95, to contract with EarthTech in a month, completion will be in 2010;
- SC51 – Broken into four sections. Total project is 24 miles. They are currently working on the first section, which is six miles. Funds may not be available to complete this project.
- 301 By-Pass - Currently there are no funds available to commence this project.

Senator Leatherman advised that the Senate elected to pass the 1% sales tax use for highway infrastructure. Still has to be passed by the House.

Representative Crawford asked if we had collected enough on the one-cent sales tax money to complete the Pine Needles project.

Mr. Starks advised we had collected about \$32 million from the sales tax and with the infrastructure bank funds, amounts to \$100 million available for the road projects. The Pine Needles project will cost approximately \$20 million.

For FLATS projects, Mr. Gossett continued:

- South Cashua – Due to right-of-way issues, they have decided instead of four lanes, they will continue three lanes through the corridor. This project begins at Second Loop and ends at US Highway 76. This project will be presented to the Study Team prior to presenting it to the Policy Committee;
- I-95 and SC327 interchange – The right-of-way acquisition is complete;

Mr. Gossett advised that any stimulus money they received would be applied towards bridge construction. Currently there are six bridges for Florence County on the list for these funds.

The fourth item of business on the agenda was Enhancement Projects update:

Scott Park advised committee that there are new SCDOT rules for the enhancement grantees that will require SCDOT to approve local government agencies as a project manager for pre-engineering, ROW purchases and construction on a per project basis. SCDOT is also willing to manage the projects in order to meet the federal requirements.

- Lucas Street Intersection Gateway - The City is requesting an extension to the project from SCDOT due to finalizing cleanup efforts. The City is reviewing the LPA decision.
- Red Doe Plantation - SCDOT Archives technical review returned to Red Doe architect. County has not yet decided if they will be the LPA or have SCDOT manage the project.
- Irby Street Gateway - SCDOT is currently reviewing. The City is reviewing the LPA decision.

Senator Leatherman stressed the importance of SCDOT granting the extension for the Lucas Street Gateway project. Mr. Herb Cooper, Enhancement Coordinator for SCDOT was at the meeting and assured Senator Leatherman that the extension will be approved.

Mayor Wukela advised that after this cleanup has been completed, this is a potential site for the PDRTA transportation hub.

Senator Leatherman asked where we were on the beautification of the Interchange at I-95 and US Highway 52. This project is very important to Councilman Williams.

Mr. Hoge advised this project is partially City and County. We currently do not have FLATS dollars available, plus there is also the issue of the 20% match. Councilman Williams advised he would speak with Drew Griffin with the City about it.

Sherwin Welch also stressed the need for enhancements on the E. Palmetto Street corridor coming into town from the airport. Mayor Wukela concurred.

The fifth item of business on the agenda was an update on Stimulus Plan monies by Derrell Rice with SCDOT to be added to our TIP:

- The SCDOT Commission has approved the release of up to \$200 million for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding for highway and bridge projects on February 19, 2009. Distribution of these funds are as follows:
 - Resurfacing - \$150 million (33.33%)
 - Interstate Maintenance - \$74 million (16.66%)
 - Safety - \$19 million (4.18%)
 - Bridge Replacement - \$56 million (12.50%)
 - MPO/COG/SIB County/Other - \$150 million (33.33%) - (MPO/CPG/Other \$106 million & TMA Funding \$44 million)
 - Enhancements - \$14 million

Approved stimulus projects for Florence County are:

- The Commission approved up to \$100 million in the resurfacing category. The projects on the Pavement Improvement Stimulus list are targeted for obligation for construction within 120 days of receipt of notice of availability of Recovery Act Funds.
 - Florence County - 1,474.19 primary & secondary route federal aid lane miles (3.33% of Sys) - Approximate amount \$3,326,652
 - Darlington County - 958.18 primary & secondary route federal aid land miles (2.16% of Sys) - Approximate amount \$2,162,231

Resurfacing projects for Florence County (Congressional District 6) are: S-903, S-13, US52, S-48, S-546 and S-31. (Rank status as listed 1-6)

Resurfacing projects for Darlington County (Congressional District 5) are: S-587, S-390, S-102, S-392, S-179, S-42, and S-16. (Rank status as listed 1-7)

- The Commission approved a \$14 million sidewalk program to address a requirement for 3% of Economic Recovery Funds to be allocated to Transportation Enhancement Activities.

- \$2 million dollars reserved for sidewalk improvements in each engineering district.
- Construct new sidewalks/upgrade existing to insure compliance with ADA.
- Recommendations/estimates provided by district engineering staff confirmed by headquarters. Projects within existing R/W meeting federal eligibility will be selected.
- Projects requiring new R/W or utility relocations will not be allowed.
- The Commission approved the release of up to \$50 million of ERA funding to support the construction projects involving Interstate Maintenance activities.
 - The Interstate Maintenance project for Florence County is I-95 North bound, approximate mile marker 156-161 North bound. Project rank is 60.
- The Commission approved the release of up to \$37.5 million of ERA funding to support the construction and replacement of existing bridge structures. There are no bridge projects in Florence County.
- The Commission approved the release of up to \$12.5 million of ARRA funding to support the construction of Traffic and Safety projects involving intersection improvements, pavement markings, signal head replacements, and other activities.
 - Interstate pavement remarking project for route I-95 in Florence County.
 - Turn lanes will be added to route US15 @ S-10 and Interstate pavement remarking project for route I-95 in Darlington County.
- Congressional District 5 Commission Allocation - \$106,512,798 / 6 counties = \$17,752,133 per county.
 - Florence County - Route I-95/SC 327 Interchange - Cost estimate is \$24,900,000 and the ARRA Funding needed is \$10,400,000.

Senator Leatherman expressed the importance of the work needed on the 327 Interchange at I-95 to Commissioner Nuckles. This project is partially in her District.

Commissioner Nuckles advised that she does understand the importance. This Interchange is one of three in her District and they all need work done.

The sixth item of business on the agenda was a TIP amendment for PDRTA stimulus funds:

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| • Mass Transit – Repaint/Renovate Trolley and Buses | \$ 178,000 |
| • Mass Transit – Maintenance Facility – Engineer Design | \$ 115,000 |
| • Mass Transit – Maintenance Facility – Rehab/Renovation | \$ 553,000 |
| • Mass Transit – Preventative Maintenance | \$ 110,000 |

Commissioner Stevenson made a motion to approve and Councilman Williams 2nd motion. Carried unanimously.

The sixth item of business on the agenda continued with a TIP amendment for road resurfacing stimulus funds:

- Florence County funding: \$3,326,652 - 8.72 miles (Countywide)

- Cherokee Road
 - Third Loop Road
 - McQueen Street
 - Evans Street
- Darlington County funding: \$2,162,231 - 8.09 miles (Countywide)
 - McIver Road

Representative Crawford made a motion to approve and Councilman Williams 2nd motion. Carried unanimously.

The seventh item of business on the agenda was to review the FY2010 UPWP. Mayor Wukela made a motion to approve and Commissioner Stevenson 2nd motion. Carried unanimously.

The eight item of business on the agenda was a previously discussed item to add four additional members to the FLATS Study Team:

- City of Florence Planning Commission Chair
- Darlington County Planning Director
- SCDOT FLATS Enhancement Coordinator
- SCDOT Landscaping Projects Coordinator

Mayor Wukela made a motion to approve and Representative Crawford 2nd motion. Carried unanimously.

The last item to be addressed was to review the minutes from the November 10, 2008 meeting. Mayor Wukela made a motion to approve and Representative Crawford made 2nd motion. Carried unanimously.

Senator Leatherman addressed the audience for public comments. There were none.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.