

FLATS POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
June 6, 2011
APPROVED MINUTES

Voting Members Present:

Senator Hugh Leatherman
Councilman Glynn Willis
Representative Kris Crawford
Sherwin Welch
Mayor Stephen Wukela
Councilman Morris Anderson
Mayor Ashby Gregg
Commissioner Harrison Rearden

Non-Voting Members Present:

Janice Baroody
Peter Knoller
Pearl McDaniel
Tom Kinard
Drew Chaplin

Study Team Members Present:

Michelle Shepherd, SCDOT
Kevin Sheppard, SCDOT
Michael Bethea, SCDOT
Jessica Hekter, FHWA

Staff Present:

Debi Matthews
Renee Proctor
Derrick Singletary

Senator Leatherman called the meeting to order.

Senator Leatherman recognized the new committee members:

- Glynn Willis, City Councilman, succeeds Mr. Billy D. Williams as a voting member;
- Tom Kinard, Florence Airport Commission Chairman, succeeds Mr. Tommy Parham as a non-voting member;
- Drew Chaplin, City Planning Commission Chairman succeeds Mr. Glynn Willis as a non-voting member and a Study Team member.

The first item of business on the agenda was to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Mayor Wukela made a motion to approve and Councilman Anderson made a second motion. Vote carried unanimously.

The annual election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman was held. Senator Leatherman was re-elected to serve as Chairman and Mayor Wukela was elected to serve as Vice-Chairman. A motion and a second were made. The vote carried unanimously.

The first item of old business: Updated scope for South Cashua Drive from Michelle Shepherd:

- Michelle with SCDOT announced the public meeting for S. Cashua would be Tuesday, June 7th from 5:00 – 7:00. She reviewed the TIP Financial Statement for S. Cashua. She advised that this project would utilize all FLATS guideshare funds through FY2015, in addition to requiring a \$3.124M loan in FY2014 from SCDOT.

Senator Leatherman stated that bids are low at this time and it would be cheaper to proceed with the project now. Michelle affirmed that these costs she presented for right-of-way and construction are estimates and the Committee will be kept abreast of the bids. The question was asked about extending this project to US76 and Michelle stated that from a purpose and needs prospective, a three lane section to US76 would not be feasible from a capacity concern. A motion and second was made and carried unanimously to add the S. Cashua project to the FLATS TIP contingent on public comments during the 10-day public comment period.

- The Senator would like the Committee to look at the sidewalk situation. He does not think that they need to be in the project and if so, extended only to Celebration.
 - Kris Crawford stated he feels sidewalks are always needed, but since we are borrowing money to complete the project, perhaps we should look elsewhere for the funding for the sidewalk portion of the project. Mr. Crawford mentioned that sometimes there are other funds that will pay for sidewalks if they are not included on the front end.
 - Mr. Welch expressed his concern regarding the need for sidewalks to be included in the project.
 - Mr. Willis expressed from a livability standpoint, he thinks the sidewalks are necessary.

Michelle said the cost to add sidewalks for the entire project would be approximately \$340,000. SCDOT highly recommends sidewalks be installed with any new widening project. Michelle will advise on the public comments regarding this after the public meeting. Mr. Reardon suggested that they be included in the beginning because it will be cheaper in the long run. Senator Leatherman asked about an alternate bid for just sidewalks. Kevin with SCDOT said that you can bid the project to include sidewalks as a package or bid the sidewalk portion as an alternate by themselves. The Senator would rather bid them as an alternate. Motion and second were made and carried unanimously to continue bidding the sidewalks as an alternate.

- Michelle gave the Sales Tax projects update. Pine Needles Road is in the construction stage and will be completed this fall. The US76, TV Rd and Hwy. 378 projects are in the right of way stage. Environmentally these projects have been delayed due to mitigation to purchase the credits which delays the permits. These projects will be LET in summer of 2012. The Senator thinks that we need to keep projects going one after another. Senator wants to talk to Secretary Johns at SCDOT legal regarding this matter. Senator and Kris will talk with Secretary Johns. Michelle continued that the preliminary engineering is being done on US51 and the 301 bypass.
- The revenue from the sales tax is currently 74.2 million and is right on target.

Mr. Anderson questioned if sidewalks are included in the Pine needles project. Michelle stated that they were and that they should be going in soon.

The first item of new business was given by Debi Matthews.

- Update on the required amendments added to the TIP Financial Statement for FY2011. Debi explained that there were no public comments during the 10-day public comment period for these amendments:
 - The debt service amounts have been restructured by SCDOT. Senator Leatherman asked if we were still getting all of the money that we should be getting. Kevin with SCDOT stated that when the bonds were reissued we would just be paying the money back faster but FLATS is getting all that they are due;
 - The guideshare amount increased from \$2,294,000 to \$2,667,000 for fiscal years 2011-2015;
 - Funds were added on the financial sheet for PDRTA, Florence DSN Board and Florence Senior Citizens Association for FY2011.

A motion and a second were made to approve these amendments in the TIP. Vote carried unanimously.

- Debi advised the committee that the S. Cashua funding information provided by Michelle would be added to the TIP and an additional 10-day public comment period would be required. Upon completion of the public comment period, she will advise the committee if any comments were received.

The second item of new business was given by Debi:

- The Public Participation Process (PPP) has been updated to comply with the three year requirement. The only update from the 2008 version was to remove the Transportation Plan Advisory Group (TPAG) information as requested when the 2008 version was adopted by committee. Minimal typographical errors were corrected. There were no public comments during the 45-day public comment period. A motion and a second were made to approve the document. Vote carried unanimously.

The third item of new business was given by Debi:

- The FY2012 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) identifies the transportation planning activities conducted by the FLATS Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). This satisfies the annual update requirement. FLATS will receive \$213,095 for FY2012. We should have roughly \$50,000 to add to this amount from FY2011. A motion and a second were made to approve the document. Vote carried unanimously.

Debi advised the Committee of the enhancement project updates and confirmation was made to Kris Crawford that the No-name Creek project is the name of the trail extension behind Super Wal-Mart on Beltline.

Other discussion: There were no updates given by other Transportation Agencies.

The FLATS Newsletter was shared with the Committee and Kris Crawford asked that staff send it to him via e-mail. Debi stated that the Newsletter would be placed in several facilities for the Public to view.

The final item on the agenda was for public comments: Peggy Brown stated her concern regarding the need for sidewalks on Cashua. Senator informed Mrs. Brown that this was strictly contingent on public comment. Peggy is also concerned about the need of pedestrian transportation due to the poor health of our children in this state and feels that sidewalks should definitely be included in all new projects.

There being no further comment, the meeting was adjourned.

**** For Information Purposes To Committee Members:**

Ms. Shepherd with SCDOT was asked at the 9/27/10 Policy Committee meeting to research and respond to the questions below. Ms. Sheppard responded individually to the committee members regarding their question/s prior to the 6/6/11 meeting:

- Senator Leatherman asked the following two questions regarding S. Cashua:
 - ? What would the cost be to continue the 3-lane section to US76 versus being done at a later date as a standalone project?
RESPONSE: The cost to continue the 3-lane section along South Cashua all the way to US 76 became a nonissue, since the scope wouldn't fulfill purpose and need requirements. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, such an improvement wouldn't provide significant capacity/operational improvements to qualify it for federal funding, i.e., FLATS Guideshare monies.
 - ? What would the cost savings be to eliminate sidewalks?
RESPONSE: the additional cost to include sidewalks on the South Cashua project is roughly \$320,000, which is less than 5% of the total construction cost.
- Representative Crawford inquired:
 - ? Who owns Jefferson Drive in order to obtain an encroachment permit for a potential traffic light?
RESPONSE: SCDOT's maintenance staff has confirmed that this road is owned by Florence County. If a traffic light is desired at this location, then Florence County will need to submit an encroachment permit, which can be accessed on our internet website through the following link (http://www.scdot.org/doing/encroachment_permit.shtml). Once completed, the form will need to be submitted to our District Maintenance office (Attention- Eric Minshew).
- Representative Crawford also asked the following question regarding the resurfacing contracts for SC51:

? What are the cost of each of the sections for this resurfacing project (section at Florence end and section above Pamplico)?

RESPONSE: SC 51 SECT 1 Florence- Milepost 33.73 - 34.23 [approx. 0.5 miles];
SC 51 SECT 2 above Pamplico- Milepost 23.89 -26.14 [approx. 2.25 miles];
The estimated cost is \$1,254,388 for the segment overlapping Section 1, and
\$541,341 for the segment overlapping Section 2. Please note that the future
widening project will utilize all of the existing pavement from both resurfacing
projects, so nothing will be torn out/wasted as part of this effort.