

FLATS POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
July 23, 2012
APPROVED MINUTES

Voting Members Present:

Senator Hugh Leatherman
Councilman Glynn Willis
Sherwin Welch
Mayor Stephen Wukela
Mayor Ashby Gregg

Non-Voting Members Present:

Chuck MacNeil
Drew Griffin
Drew Chaplin
Dennis Townsend
Thomas Robinson

Study Team Members Present:

Michelle Shepherd, SCDOT
Kevin Sheppard, SCDOT
Michael Bethea, SCDOT
David Gray, SCDOT
Jessica Hekter, FHWA
Phillip Lookadoo

Staff Present:

Debi Matthews
Renee Proctor
Jay Graham

Senator Leatherman called the meeting to order.

The first item of business on the agenda was to approve the minutes from the June 6, 2011 meeting. Glynn Willis made a motion to approve and Mayor Wukela made a second motion. Vote carried unanimously.

The second item of business was the annual election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Sherwin Welch made a motion to re-elect Senator Leatherman as Chairman. Mayor Wukela made a second motion. Vote carried unanimously. Mayor Gregg nominated Sherwin Welch to serve as Vice-Chairman. Mayor Wukela made a second motion. Vote carried unanimously.

The third item of business was to present the new committee members:

- Drew Griffin, Manager, The City of Florence, to succeed David Williams on the non-voting Policy Committee;
- Charles “Chuck” MacNeil, Executive Director, PDRTA, to succeed Janice Baroody on the non-voting Policy Committee and Study Team;
- Thomas Robinson, Administrator, Florence County, to succeed Richard Starks on the non-voting Policy Committee;
- Jody Lane, Chairman, Florence County Planning Commission, to succeed Peter Knoller on the non-voting Policy Committee and Study Team;
- David Gray, Regional Planning Manager, SCDOT-Office of Mass Transit, to succeed Jim Frierson on the Study Team;

- Jay Graham, Director, Florence County Planning and Building Inspections Department, to succeed Kevin Griffin on non-voting Policy Committee and Study Team.

Debi Matthews presented the first item of old business. The final three chapters for the 2035 LRTP were presented (Chapter 5-Future Roadway Element, 10-Financial Plan & 11-Implementation Plan). Debi briefly presented the highlights from each chapter. Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 & 9 were adopted by the Policy Committee during their September 27, 2010 meeting. Debi advised that the Study Team has recommended approval and action is needed by the Policy Committee. Motions were made on chapters 5, 10 & 11 as follows:

- Chapter 5 – Mayor Wukela made a motion to approve. Glynn Willis made a second motion. Vote carried unanimously;
- Chapter 10 – Mayor Wukela made a motion to approve. Glynn Willis made a second motion. Vote carried unanimously;
- Chapter 11 – Mayor Wukela made a motion to approve. Sherwin Welch made a second motion. Vote carried unanimously.

Debi advised the committee that a 30 day public comment period was held on the 2035 entire LRTP document from January 23, 2012 through February 20, 2012. No comments were received. Debi advised that the Study Team has recommended approval of the entire document and action is needed by the Policy Committee. Glynn Willis made a motion to approve the entire document. Mayor Wukela made a second motion. Vote carried unanimously.

The second item of old business was given by Debi.

- Update on Bentree Lane/Holly Circle. It is the second ranked widening project. Functional classification has been amended and it is now eligible for federal funding. It is currently maintained by the City of Florence. SCDOT and the City of Florence will discuss a road exchange for SCDOT to provide a 20% match. Discussion is ongoing.

The first item of new business was given by Debi.

- The FY2013 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 \$159,409 for FY2012. We should have roughly \$41,245 to add to this amount from FY2012. The Federal Government pays 80% and Florence County pays 20%.

Debi advised that the 10 day public comment period was held for this document from May 7, 2012 through May 17, 2012. No comments were received. The Study Team has recommended approval of the entire document and action is needed by the Policy Committee. A motion was made by Glynn Willis and a second by Mayor Wukela to approve the document. Vote carried unanimously.

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

- Presented the amendments to the FY2010-2015 TIP Financial Statement. The following amendments were presented:
 - **Guideshare Project: (S. Cashua Drive)**
 - FY2012 - \$700,000 allocated for Preliminary Engineering and \$4,300,000 for ROW;
 - FY2014 - \$6,700,000 allocated for construction;
 - Annual Guideshare allocations remain at \$2,667,000;
 - FY2015 balance is approximately \$1,000.
 - **Enhancement funds:**
 - \$118,000 allocated for FY2012;
 - Approximately \$354,000 Available (FY2010-FY2012);
 - **Capital Sales Tax Projects:**
 - The Pine Needles Road expenditure and allocated funding has been added back into the TIP for information purposes. The total expenditures as of 4/30/11 is \$17,676,490. This information is not included in the TIP cost.
 - FY2012 allocations have been updated for each project;
 - US378 – FY2013 \$38,757,000 allocated for construction; and FY2014 \$18,241,000 allocated for construction;
 - US51 – FY2013 \$29,588,000 allocated for construction.
 - **Federal Transit Administration for FY2012:**
 - PDRTA:**
 - \$668,000 CA and \$440,000 OP for Urban Area Formula Program (Section 5307);
 - \$350,000 CA for Vehicle Acquisition (Section 5309);
 - \$80,000 OP for (JARC) Job Access Reverse Commute Program (Section 5316);
 - \$153,000 CA for New Freedom Program (Section 5317).
 - Florence Senior Citizens Association FY2012 Allocations:**
 - \$ 60,000 PS for Elderly & Persons with Disabilities Program (Section 5310).
 - Florence Co. DSN Board FY2012 Allocations:**
 - \$37,000 PS for Elderly & Persons with Disabilities Program (Section 5310).

Debi advised that there were no public comments during the 10-day public comment period for these amendments. The public comment period was held May 7, 2012 through May 17, 2012. Debi advised that the Study Team has recommended approval and action by the Policy Committee is necessary. Mayor Wukela made a motion to approve and Glynn Willis made a second motion to approve the TIP amendments. Vote carried unanimously.

The Senator would like to use Transportation Enhancement funds to get something going at the I-20/I-95 interchange. Debi advised the committee that she had spoken with Cathy Rice at SCDOT and we can apply through the Adopt-An-Interchange program for funds for this interchange. We can apply for up to \$400,000 annually with this

program. The maintenance would be up to the City because they own most of this area. The Senator thinks that both County and City would have to be involved. Drew Griffin with the City of Florence stated that this area is defined. GE is in the County. Parcel lines define this area. He will get with Debi to share the ownership of the interchange area on their maps. Mayor Wukela stated that the operational costs going forward are a significant element and City and County should be mindful going forward. The committee asked if the \$400,000 had to be split between different applicants. Debi said she did not think so. The entire \$400,000 can be applied for, but she will verify with Cathy Rice at SCDOT.

Senator asked SCDOT how the penny sales tax money was coming in. Michelle stated that there were \$95.5m in collections.

The third item of new business was to update the committee regarding the new 2010 Census Urbanized Areas and MPO-TMA Designations. Jessica Hekter with FHWA presented a PowerPoint presentation to explain these procedures and steps to be completed by the Policy Committee by March 2013. (A copy of this presentation is included at the end of these minutes.

The Senator asked Jessica if we have new areas that need to be represented. Jessica responded that Debi will answer that question in her presentation but it does include the City of Darlington and Town of Timmonsville. Senator also asked if FLATS has the option to expand the boundary area. Jessica responded that we do but there is no guarantee of additional monetary benefit. The Senator asked if it would enhance our money and Jessica replied no. Senator asked who ran the scenarios and Jessica replied SCDOT. Senator asked if we were on track with documents that needed to be completed to SCDOT by August and Debi replied yes. Senator wanted to know if an area did not want to come in to the MPO could they choose not to. Jessica responded that since the 2010 Census has designated them as being included in the urbanized area, they must sign a Resolution of support as part of the MPO. However, they do *not* have to be any of the FLATS committees if they do not choose to.

Debi presented maps to the committee regarding the proposed new Study Area Boundary. The first map showed the current FLATS study area boundary, along with the 2010 Census urbanized area. The second map included the 2010 Census urbanized area and projected a one mile ETJ around the urbanized area for the proposed new study area boundary. Some areas around the urbanized area are a little more than the one mile ETJ. FHWA recommended a complete Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ) be included if part of it was affected by the one mile ETJ. Debi advised that the Study Team made no recommendation except to refer the map to the Policy Committee for their decision.

The Senator again asked if the addition of these areas would allow us more money. Debi said that the potential was there but not a guarantee. Jessica with FHWA responded that it would be speculation due to the addition of a new MPO in SC. We now have

eleven MPO's that Guideshare funds will be split between. Debi stated that the new FLATS Study Area Boundary shapefile information needs to be presented to SCDOT by August and asked for a recommendation from the Policy Committee. The Senator stated that we really don't have a choice. Sherwin Welch made a motion to approve the new study area boundary and Glynn Willis made a second motion. The vote carried was unanimously.

Other discussion:

The first update was for South Cashua Drive from Michelle Shepherd.

- Seventy people attended the public hearing and there were thirty comments mostly regarding traffic signals and sidewalks. They are currently developing the plan to include sidewalks. There will be a new traffic signal at McCowan Dr. but McCowan and Parkland will not be realigned. There will be one light at each street and timing will be set for these two. There will be another public hearing this fall after the environmental document has been approved by FHWA. The Right of Way phase will begin this winter and construction in 2014. Michelle stated that the environmental sensitive areas have to be mitigated somewhere else. Sherwin Welch asked why the sidewalk and bike paths could not be combined. Michelle stated that ROW does not allow for that. It will be a shared lane and will not be marked. Experience shows that marking is less safe. Glynn Willis said he has been contact from many business residents regarding how much time they will have to leave properties. They want to be in compliance with SCDOT, but would like to remain open for as long as they can. Michelle stated that would be discussed early on in the process. Senator asked that Michelle have the ROW department at SCDOT to contact Glynn Willis.

Michelle Shepherd gave a Sales Tax update.

- Michelle stated that the Sales Tax Program has collected \$95.5m to date. The RFP process has been completed for all projects. Now they have to coordinate with the Army Corp of Engineers for final mitigation. Construction of Highway 378, Highway 76, and TV Road will begin next spring or summer. SCDOT meets with the Corp again tomorrow. The ROW phase for all projects is well under way for the above projects and construction for a portion of Highway 51 will begin in winter of 2013/2014.

Chuck MacNeil with PDRTA gave an update.

- Chuck expressed his concern for lack of non-federal revenues with Medicaid transportation. PDRTA is addressing funding opportunities for the local match. They are trying to reduce operating expenses that are necessary for a viable and efficient transit throughout the six counties. Initiation to Francis Marion University had a tremendous start last year. PDRTA anticipates significant growth in that service.

Sherwin Welch gave a CTC update.

- Mr. Welch stated that CTC funds committed are \$6,798,000. Local projects are Oakland Avenue, James Jones Avenue and Dargan Street and others throughout the county. A big public concern is Oakland Avenue. This project is let in July and may be awarded in August per Dennis Townsend with SCDOT.

The final item on the agenda was public comments: There were none.

There being no further comment, the meeting was adjourned.