

**FLORENCE AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (FLATS)
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 26, 2013
APPROVED**

Voting Members Present:

Senator Hugh Leatherman
Councilman Glynn Willis
Mr. Sherwin Welch
Mayor Stephen Wukela
Representative Kris Crawford
Councilman James Schofield
Mayor Ashby Gregg

Study Team Members Present:

Chris Gossett, SCDOT
Kevin Sheppard, SCDOT
Michael Bethea, SCDOT
Tony Edwards, SCDOT
Phillip Lookadoo
Levonne Powell

Non-Voting Members Present:

Chuck MacNeil
Jay Graham
Rusty Smith
Dennis Townsend

Staff Present:

Debi Matthews
Renee Proctor

Guest Speakers:

None

Senator Leatherman called the meeting to order.

Ms. Matthews presented the agenda items to the committee.

The first item of business was to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2013 meeting. Mayor Wukela made a motion to approve and Mr. Welch made a second motion. Vote carried unanimously.

The second item of business was to select a project/s for the 20% Guideshare allocation requirement. Ms. Matthews presented the committee with the list of proposed resurfacing and intersection improvement projects. She advised the committee that the three projects highlighted in yellow in the list of intersection improvement projects have been ranked by the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) and added to the list since the last Policy Committee meeting. She explained that any intersection improvement project selected must be included in the FLATS Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Two of the new projects added to the list (the Five Points Intersection Access Management and the realignment of the intersection on E. Cheves and E.

Palmetto St.) are already included in the LRTP. She presented the information regarding these projects from the LRTP.

The Study Team has chosen two project options to recommend for the Policy Committee's consideration. Each option will satisfy the three year rolling average for the FLATS project/s for FY2013 through FY2015 which is approximately \$954K for FLATS. Option one projects will also begin to satisfy \$126K towards the next three year rolling average. Option two projects will also begin to satisfy \$96K towards the next three year rolling average.

FLATS Potential Projects For 20% Guideshare Allocation						
Resurfacing Projects - 2011 NHS Resurfacing List						
Type/Route	Direction	Road Name	Termini	Length	Cost Estimate**	Yrs. Allocated
US76 Connector	E	David McLeod Blvd.	W. Evans St. to W. Palmetto St.	0.14	\$ 330,000	OPTION 1
US 20 Spur	E	David McLeod Blvd.	US 20 to W. Evans St.	1.77	\$ 1,841,000	
US52	W	Irby St./Lucas St.	Clement St. to Second Loop Rd.	3.64	\$ 5,583,000	
US76	W	Palmetto St.	N. Williston Rd. to Dupont Dr.	5.07	\$ 5,650,000	
** Cost estimates based on historical average costs for similar work. No detailed quantities have been gathered to prepare these estimates.						
Intersection Improvement Projects						
Projects Prioritized by SCDOT Regulations - Must Be Included In LRTP Before Funds Allocated						
Intersection				LRTP	Cost Estimate	Yrs. Allocated
Add a right turn lane on eastbound Second Loop at Cashua Dr.				No	\$ 750K	OPTION 1
Cost includes the additional R/O/W, drainage and sidewalk relocation						
(Cashua Project would be delayed due to environmental, etc. if added to the project at this stage)						OPTION 2
Five Points Intersection Access Management				Yes	\$ 600K	
Install medians near intersection on Palmetto St., Hoffmeyer Rd. and Cashua Dr.						
Add a right truck turn lane on E. Palmetto Street onto S. Church				No	\$ 300K	OPTION 2
Est. Cost is for turn lane only. Per SCDOT, redesign will be necessary for the entire intersection. Potential cost could be \$1M+. Extensive study will be needed.						
Realign Intersection on E. Cheves and E. Palmetto Street				Yes	\$ 600K	
Redirect E. Cheves St. to tie into Palmetto St. at a 90-degree angle						
Ebenezer Rd. (S-49) in Darlington Cty. at Rogers Rd.				No	\$ 500K	
Provide a left turn lane on Ebenezer Rd.						
US 76 at Santiago Drive (S-508)				No	\$ 100K	
Realign Santiago Dr. to intersect US 76 at a 90 degree angle and improve radii						
Ebenezer Rd. (S-112), Sumter St. (S-193) and Pisgah Rd. (S-112)				No	\$ 1.5M	
Realign intersection and provide left turn lanes on Ebenezer Rd.						
I-95 northbound exit onto eastbound US 76 - Provide accel lane on US 76				No	\$ 400K	
Projects ranked by the SCDOT and added to the list since last Policy Committee meeting.						

Senator Leatherman stated that he thinks these are important projects to consider and would like to form a sub-committee to look at them. He appointed Mayor Wukela, Mr. Welch and Representative Crawford. He asked if they needed to appoint a chair person and Representative Crawford stated that they would work it out. No action was taken on this item at this meeting.

Ms. Matthews presented the third item of business which was the amendments to the FY2014-FY2019 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

The SCDOT Highway Commission approved the Francis Marion University (FMU) enhancement application during their July, 2013 meeting. The SCDOT held a public comment period, with no comments being received. This project will be funded through the new Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) for FY2013. This enhancement project has been added to the Transportation Alternatives Sections of the TIP as required by the SCDOT.

The Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority (PDRTA) funds for Program 5307 in FY2013 have been corrected in the Federal Transit Administration Section as follows:

- \$485K Capital (CA) has increased to \$608K;
- \$290K Preventative Maintenance (PM) was included in the initial \$485K for (CA) so this line item has been deleted.

A ten day public comment period was held from July 30th until August 8th with no comments received.

Regarding the 20% Guideshare allocation, Senator Leatherman stated that he could not understand how the Department of Transportation could allocate money to the local areas and then tell them how they have to use it. He thinks that this requirement will be reversed by the Highway Commission after January 1st. Ms. Matthews stated that Commissioner Wooten has asked her to take a survey with all of the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) and Council of Governments (COG) to inquire about their perception of the 20% Guideshare allocation requirement.

The fourth item of business was amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program Narrative. This document outlines the responsibilities of the FLATS MPO and explains the information provided in the TIP financial sheet. The amendments to this document include:

- The new FLATS Study Area Boundary Map;
- Information regarding the new Federal Surface Transportation Bill, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21).

A ten day public comment period was held from July 30th until August 8th with no comments received.

Action by the committee was requested for both the amendments to the TIP financial sheet and for the Transportation Improvement Program Narrative. Representative Crawford made a motion to accept the amendments to both documents. Mayor Wukela seconded. The vote carried unanimously.

The fifth item of business was SCDOT updates. Mr. Gossett stated that the S. Cashua Drive project will be on the ground and acquiring right-of-way (ROW) in six to eight months. He has received the information regarding the Francis Marion University

enhancement project and will begin working on it soon. He stated that this project should move ahead pretty quick.

The Corp of Engineers has approved the mitigation plan for the US 378 Capital Sales Tax project so permits can now be issued. The issuance date for the permit should be September 17th. Six weeks later should be the letting.

The sixth item of business was updates from the County Transportation Committee (CTC) and the Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority (PDRTA).

Mr. Welch with the CTC stated that they have more requests than money because of the 1% sales tax issue.

Mr. MacNeil with PDRTA provided the committee with a chart outlining the current rider participation. He reported that PDRTA had an overall increase in ridership of 7% over the past fiscal year compared to 34% over the last two fiscal years. Over the past three fiscal years, ridership has grown more than 120%. The ridership for the Florence area alone has increased 21% over the last year even after 20% of the service had to be cut. Mr. MacNeil thanked all that contributed even though they did not attain enough to sustain their services. They will be making additional changes beginning next week with the Labor Day holiday. They will be reducing their services on holidays and weekends. Due to the 2010 Census, the urbanized area suffered a loss of funding of about \$100K. The pie stayed the same but there were more slices.

Representative Crawford wanted to know more about rider's payment for the system. Mr. MacNeil stated that the base fair is \$1.50 plus \$.50 to transfer. He explained that Darlington Technical College offers discounted passes to their students. Francis Marion University teachers and students ride free because of the subsidy to PDRTA. There are also multi-ride discounts for regular users. The total revenue is about \$450K. This doesn't come close to balancing their budget which is why they rely on other funding sources such as grants and local help.

Representative Crawford wanted to know if it would help for PDRTA to increase the riding fees. Mr. MacNeil stated there is a net benefit to cash flow but the relative growth is minor because you also lose riders. It may change by less than 10%. Representative Crawford asked if PDRTA could use the ridership money for matching funds. Mr. MacNeil advised that they could not.

Mayor Wukela stated that not being able to use the ridership funds for the match is a real problem. There should be some way to change this. Mr. MacNeil stated that it is a Federal regulation.

Senator Leatherman asked if there was any other discussion. Ms. Matthews asked if they could revisit the 20% guideshare allocation discussion. She wanted to ask Mr.

Sheppard with the SCDOT if there was a deadline for the FLATS MPO to select a project/s for this allocation.

Mr. Sheppard stated that the SCDOT Highway Commission would like to see what each MPO is doing by the new fiscal year date of October 1st in order to include it in the SCDOT Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP), but there was no particular deadline. He mentioned that FLATS was not the only MPO that has not made a selection yet.

Senator Leatherman stated that he would like to wait until January to see if this allocation requirement will be reversed.

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

There being no further business, Representative Crawford made a motion for the meeting to adjourn and Mayor Wukela seconded.