

FLATS STUDY TEAM MEETING

May 28, 2010

APPROVED MINUTES

Members Present:

Peter M. Knoller
Phil Goff
Doug Reimold
Charles Brooks
Jim Frierson
Tony Edwards
Janice Baroody
Michelle Shepherd
Michael Bethea

Staff Present

Kevin Griffin
Scott Park
Renee Proctor
Debi Matthews

The first item of business was to review the minutes from the previous meeting. There were no changes. Peter Knoller made a motion to approve and Phil Goff made a second motion. Vote carried unanimously.

The second item of business was an update from Michelle Shepherd with SCDOT on a new proposal for S. Cashua:

- Initial proposal - From Second Loop to Hwy. 76 a 5 lane with curb/gutter and sidewalk, but due to right-of-way cost, this was not justifiable;
- The next alternative - 5 lane with curb/gutter and sidewalk from Celebration to Second Loop , but this would not help the capacity issue;
- The latest alternative - 5 lane with curb/gutter and sidewalk from S. Parker Drive to Second Loop. No dollar amount has been figured yet. Meetings on this new proposal have brought up concerns of the traffic issues at the Knollwood intersection. There would still be a lot of right-of-way cost from the area between Celebration and Knollwood. Alternative could be to 3 lane the section from Celebration to Knollwood and/or just an intersection improvement at Knollwood in addition to the 5 lane from Celebration to Second Loop. The Knollwood to Second Loop section would be close in cost to the initial Second Loop to Hwy. 76 proposal. She will try to have approximate cost for the Policy Committee meeting.

Since the widening of S. Cashua is included in the FY305 LRTP to be discussed, this item was moved up on the agenda as the third item of business:

- Scott advised that this project is listed in the current Horizon Year 2030 LRTP. However, in the Horizon Year 2035 LRTP, this project is placed as a vision for the end of the horizon year in the financial portion (Ch 10) of the document. All projects in this portion were ranked and prioritized by State and Federal requirements to include Act 114. This project could be funded if another capital sales tax is voted on.
- Scott advised we needed to discuss how to proceed with a recommendation to the Policy Committee. Do we want to recommend moving this project up in the ranking list and purchase right-of-way, with construction later or recommend approval of the projects as prioritized in the plan?
- Michelle mentioned this project may need to be shelved for now.

- Phil mentioned S. Cashua from Five Points to Second Loop has also become a congested area especially in the 5:45 p.m. time.
- Janice said the S. Cashua congestion makes them late on their route everyday. S. Cashua would be a priority for them. However, the Third Loop project would be their top priority. They have their biggest issues on this road mainly due to ADA accessibility. She also likes the Hoffmeyer Road from Darlington project.
- Michelle mentioned the possibility of breaking S. Cashua out into phases. Phase I could be the S. Parker to Second Loop as shown in the FY2035 LRTP. They could LET and develop it as a stand alone project and the portion from S. Parker to Knollwood could be Phase II.
- Peter Knoller made a motion to leave the projects as prioritized in the FY2035 LRTP and recommend the document to Policy Committee. Janice made a second motion. Vote carried unanimously.

The third item of business was to review the FY2011 UPWP:

- Scott advised members that the funding from FY2010 UPWP has not changed;
- The additions to this UPWP are to look more closely at congestion management in the Traffic Surveillance section (B-3) and the Air Quality section (B-2).
- Phil made a motion to recommend the FY2011 UPWP to the Policy Committee and Kevin made a second motion. Vote carried unanimously.

Peter asked for a brief update on funding should Florence County be designated as non-attainment for air quality. Scott stated that Federal funds would be less and the LRTP would have to be amended. The projects will have to be re-evaluated for transportation conformity by Federal standards. However, additional CMAQ funds would be available for non-attainment areas. As it looks right now, the majority of SC will be in non-attainment by EPA's new standards.

The fourth item of business was an update on current Enhancement Grants:

- Red Doe - Florence County will be the LPA for this project. Currently waiting on the Participation Agreement from SCDOT.
- Lucas Street Gateway - The City of Florence is the LPA for this project. They have received the Participation Agreement and the project is currently in the design phase.
- S. Irby Street Gateway - The City of Florence will also be the LPA for this project. They are currently waiting on the Participation Agreement from SCDOT.

The fifth item of business was the 2010 Enhancement Grant Program:

- Scott advised the Policy Committee recommended at their last meeting to wait until the LRTP was complete to open the application cycle for the FY2010 enhancement funds. There are bicycle and pedestrian projects listed in the FY2035 LRTP that these funds could be used for.
- Peter made a motion to recommend the application cycle be open. Janice made a second motion. Vote carried unanimously.

In other business, Scott advised the committee of the SCDOT conference call earlier this week.

- There will be a slight increase in the current funding level for transportation projects for each area.
- Statewide maintenance, bridge repair and safety projects listed in the STIP, must now be in each area's TIP prior to being listed in the STIP. As projects are allocated, SCDOT will

advise the appropriate MPO for inclusion in their TIP as a new line item. This can be added to the TIP as an administrative correction instead of an amendment. SCDOT's public comment period for each project will serve as the MPO's public comment period. These corrections would not affect our guideshares. The Public Participation Plan and possibly the By-Laws would possibly need to be amended if it is decided to handle these type TIP corrections by staff instead of meeting each time a project comes about from SCDOT.

- Janice made a motion to recommend to the Policy Committee for staff to make these corrections in lieu of meetings. Peter and Phil both made a second motion. Vote carried unanimously.

Final item of other business, Doug asked about the recommendation for the LRTP by the Darlington County Planning Commission at their May meeting: skipping collector roads and extending improvements on Ebenezer Road from Hoffmeyer to Darlington. There is a lot of traffic on this road. The Ebenezer/Pisgah Rd. intersection also needs improvement. Darlington County added these recommendation to their Transportation Element.

Scott advised that the collector roads would be a cost to the developer instead of the LRTP funds. Scott explained the comparison to Ebenezer like S.Cashua that have high capacity issues, but did not get funded after a run through the criteria scaling.

Doug asked Scott to present this information to the Darlington County Planning Commission at their June 15th meeting.

With no further discussion necessary, meeting was adjourned.