

FLATS STUDY TEAM MEETING

FEBRUARY 15, 2013

APPROVED MINUTES

Members Present:

Chris Gossett
David Hobbs
David Gray
Michael Bethea
Cathy Rice
Chuck MacNeil
James Askins
Phillip Lookadoo

Levonnie Powell
Dyan Cohen
Mark Pleasant
Herb Cooper
Doug Reimold
Jay Graham

Staff Present

Debi Matthews
Renee Proctor

The first item of business was to review the minutes from the previous June 8, 2012 meeting. Chuck MacNeil made a motion to approve and Michael Bethea seconded. Vote carried unanimously.

The next item was amendments necessary to FLATS Bylaws. The Transportation Plan Advisory Group information has been omitted from the document. Florence is now in District 7, so the #5 has been changed to #7 for the SCDOT Transportation Commissioner under the voting member section. Study Team membership now includes a Councilmember from the City of Darlington and a Councilmember from the Town of Timmonsville. Phillip Lookadoo with the City of Florence brought to our attention that his correct title is Director of Planning, Research and Development. There was one typographical error noted on page five. Phillip Lookadoo made a motion to approve and Doug Reimold made a second motion. Vote carried unanimously.

The third item of business was the 2010 Study Area Boundary packet due to SCDOT by March, 2013. The packet includes the new study area boundary map as approved by the Policy Committee at their July 23, 2012 meeting, executed resolutions from the new urbanized areas (the City of Darlington and the Town of Timmonsville), the Policy Committee Resolution once executed by Senator Leatherman and the amended Bylaws once approved by the Policy Committee. Jay Graham made a motion to approve and Michael Bethea seconded. The vote carried unanimously.

The fourth item of business was an application from Francis Marion University for an enhancement project requesting SAFETEA-LU enhancement funds.

- FLATS accrued approximately \$354,000 through the Transportation Enhancement Program under SAFETEA-LU;
- The Transportation Enhancement Program has been eliminated under the new Federal Surface Transportation Bill, MAP-21;
- Initially staff was advised, if the SAFETEA-LU funds had not been obligated to a project before the enactment of MAP-21, the funds would no longer be available to the MPO;
- SCDOT has now advised if an MPO had a project application that was caught in the middle of SAFETEA-LU and the enactment of MAP-21, SCDOT will present the application to the Commission for their review for potential funding;

- FLATS staff received an application from Francis Marion University requesting these funds, but the application was not presented to the committee before the enactment of MAP-21;

Chris Gossett made a motion to present it to the Policy Committee and Levonne Powell seconded. The vote carried unanimously. This project will have to be approved by the SCDOT Commission to move forward.

The fifth item of business was FY2010-2015 TIP amendments.

- Guideshare Project: (S. Cashua Drive)
 - FY2013 - \$2,000,000 allocated for R/O/W;
 - FY2014 - \$2,300,000 allocated for R/O/W and \$3,000,000 for Construction;
 - FY2015 - \$3,700,000 allocated for Construction;
 - Guideshare Allocation reduced from \$2,667,000 to \$2,487,000 beginning FY2013;
 - FY2014-2019 TIP is due to SCDOT by the end of June. Updated TIP will be presented to the committee at next meeting.
- Resurfacing Allocation (New Section)
 - The SCDOT Commission voted to require MPO's to allocate 20% of their net Guideshare Funds after debt service to Resurfacing or System Preservation projects beginning in FY2013. This amount comes to an annual amount of approximately \$318,000. Mark Sheppard with SCDOT explained this new section at this time, which is the sixth item of business on the agenda. His explanation was as follows:

The resurfacing projects must be on the list of resurfacing projects from the local DOT office (Ray George, Contact) in addition to being on the National Highway System (NHS) map. The only highways within the FLATS study area boundary on the NHS map are US52 and US76. The allocation can also be utilized on intersection improvement projects on the local DOT's intersection improvement list. Another option is potentially piggy backing on a bridge project on a NHS project within the FLATS area. The allocation does not have to be done annually. A project can be chosen to use a three year average. Our process should be to coordinate with the district DOT, make a list of all potential projects, get each project cost, verify that it is in our LRTP and the Study Team choose a project to recommend to the Policy Committee. If the project is not in the LRTP, the LRTP will have to be amended to include project prior to allocation of the funds.

- Enhancement funds:
 - Transportation Enhancement Program (SAFETEA-LU) - Francis Marion University will be added to this section if Policy Committee approves before submitting TIP to SCDOT;
 - Next TIP Update, Transportation Enhancement Program Eliminated - Replaced with Transportation Alternatives Program as a result of (MAP-21).
- Capital Sales Tax Projects:
 - US378 –\$112,278,000 allocated for construction in FY2013;
 - US76 - \$25,370,000 allocated for construction in FY2013;
 - S-26 (TV Road) - \$24,743,000 allocated for construction in FY2013;
 - US51 – \$10,249,000 allocated for right-of-way in FY2013 and \$111,985,000 allocated for construction in FY2014;

- 301 Bypass/S-107 (Alligator Road) - \$5,300,000 allocated for preliminary engineering in FY2013 and 10,000,000 allocated for right-of-way in FY 2015.

Federal Transit Administration:

- PDRTA FY2013 Amendments:
 - (Section 5307) \$195,000 CA, \$500,000 OP and \$290,000 PM;
 - (Section 5309) \$350,000 CA not obligated in FY2012, Moved to FY2013;
 - (Section 5316) \$80,000 OP not obligated in FY2012, Moved to FY2013;
 - (Section 5317) \$153,000 CA not obligated in FY2012, Moved to FY2013;

No comments were received on the TIP Amendments during the 10-day public comment period. Jay Graham made a motion to present it to the Policy Committee and Mike Bethea seconded. The vote carried unanimously.

Debi also asked Mark Sheppard if Guidesshare funds could be used for sidewalks as this question was asked of her from Dyan Cohen. Mark said it could, but the project would have to be in the LRTP.

Jay Graham wanted to know if the money could be used for bike paths and Phillip Lookadoo wanted to know if bike lanes would fall into a gray area. Mark will get back to us but the project would have to be in the LRTP. It is probably under the Bike and Pedestrian Element.

The seventh item of business was the explanation of the new Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) by Herb Cooper.

- Replaces Transportation Enhancement Program as a result of MAP-21;
- Statewide Competitive Grant Program – 80/20 program;
- Applicant can apply for up to \$400,000 per project;
- SCDOT will accept multiple applications per year within the FLATS Study Area Boundary;
- SCDOT will accept applications year round;
- Applications are presented to FLATS staff. Staff sends to SCDOT for review. SCDOT has an 8 criteria ranking system. FHWA must also review the application;
- If a project is approved, SCDOT will advise staff. Project is required to be included in TIP. (Staff will advise committees of inclusion in TIP, however, no action will be necessary from committees.)
- Categories allowed:
 - Bike and Pedestrian Facilities;
 - Pedestrian Lighting or Signals;
 - Sidewalk Benches;
 - Bike Ramps;
 - Curb Ramps;
 - Landscaping can be included in any of the above referenced projects, but not as an exclusive landscaping project.

The Adopt-an-Interchange Program has also been eliminated under MAP-21.

The eighth item of business was the introduction of new Committee Members.

- Rusty Smith, Administrator, Florence County, non-voting Policy Committee
- James T. Schofield, Florence County Council, voting Policy Committee

- Waymon Mumford, Florence County Council, voting Policy Committee
- David Hobbs, Chairman, Florence County Planning Commission, non-voting Policy Committee and Study Team
- Michael Wooten, SCDOT Transportation Commissioner, District 7, voting Policy Committee
- Levonne Powell, PDCOG, Study Team
- Dyan R. Cohen, Councilmember, City of Darlington representative, Study Team (New Urbanized Area)
- James Askins, Councilmember, Town of Timmonsville representative, Study Team (New Urbanized Area)

The ninth item of business was SCDOT project updates. Chris Gossett stated that the No-Name Creek enhancement project has been put on hold until they receive the necessary easement to access part of the Wal-Mart property.

There will be five or six businesses relocating due to the S. Cashua project. Negotiations will be made with the property owners not to the renters. However, the renters will be allocated a portion of ROW funds. The ROW estimate has increased from 4.3m to 6m. There may be a negative balance in one year. The design is 95% approved. The accident rate in this area is four times the national average. By 2035, there will be 35% more traffic expected on S. Cashua.

The tenth item of business was updates from PDCOG and PDRTA.

- The COG is developing a Transportation Advisory Commission to their Board. Their next project on the list is SC-9.
- Chuck MacNeil gave a brief report of the current funding problems that PDRTA is experiencing. They have terminated their contract with Medicaid and will possibly have to cut their staff by 70%. They are desperately in need of any possible funding, either private or other in order to keep the five Florence routes running.

Debi announced that there would be another Policy Committee meeting in June so the Study Team would meet again in May.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Chris Gossett to adjourn and Dyan Cohen made a second motion. Carried unanimously.