## FLORENCE AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (FLATS) STUDY TEAM MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 9, 2013 APPROVED

**Members Present:** 

Staff Present

Chris Gossett (via conf. call)

Debi Matthews Renee Proctor

**David Hobbs** 

**Drew Chaplin** 

Michael Bethea

Lavonne Powell

Chuck MacNeil

James Askins

Dyan Cohen

**Kevin Sheppard** 

The first item of business was to review the minutes from the May 31, 2013 meeting. Drew made a motion to approve and David seconded. Vote carried unanimously.

The second item of business was to determine a project for the 20% Guideshare allocation. The three projects in yellow under the intersection improvement section have been ranked and added to the list since the last Study Team meeting. The intersection improvement projects are required to be chosen in this order.

FLATS Potential Projects For 20% Guideshare Allocation								
Resurfacing P	roiects - 2	011 NHS Resurfaci	ng List					
Type/Route	Direction		Termini	Length	Cost	Estimate**	Yrs. Allocated	
US76 Connector	Г	D :   1						
0370 Conficctor	Е	David McLeod Blvd.	W. Evans St. to W. Palmetto St.	0.14	\$	330,000		
US 20 Spur	E	David McLeod Blvd.  David McLeod Blvd.	W. Evans St. to W. Palmetto St.  US 20 to W. Evans St.	0.14 1.77	\$ \$	330,000 1,841,000		
	E W				\$ \$ \$	•		

<sup>\*\*</sup> 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				
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 st	age)					
Five Points Intersection Access Management	Yes	\$ 600K				
Install medians near intersection on Palmetto St., Hoffmeyer Rd. and Cashua I	Dr.					
Add a right truck turn lane on E. Palmetto Street onto S. Church	No	\$ 300K				
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 no	eeded.					
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 radi	ii					
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.						

Debi stated that the Five Points project cost estimate is roughly \$600k and realigning E. Cheves and E. Palmetto would be about \$600k. These amounts are probably low since they were in the study for the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) done by the consultant four years ago. Michael concurred.

The suggestion to include the project to add a right truck turn lane on E. Palmetto St. onto S. Church was anticipated to be able to prohibit truck traffic on E. Cheves Street. However, before trucks could be prohibited off of E. Cheves, there would be much more involved than just adding the right truck turn lane to this intersection. The cost of \$300K is just for the turn lane. Michael stated that for trucks coming into Florence on E. Palmetto St., left turns are prohibited at the Palmetto and Church intersection. To get onto Church, truckers would still have to use Cheves St. A right turn would help to get on Church to go north but still does not take care anyone wanting to go south on Church St. It would help to eliminate some trucks off of Cheves St. but not all of them. Before prohibiting trucks off of a street, you have to adequately accommodate them somewhere else with minimal impact on them.

Debi asked Kevin for suggestions. He stated that we had not mentioned resurfacing but could do a combination of resurfacing and intersection improvements. Kevin also stated that we are roughly looking at \$1m to spend with the three year rolling average. Debi asked how we could justify moving a project up. Kevin stated that if the cost is so great that you can't afford to do them or if the proposed improvement interfered with another potential improvement for the area, these could be potential justifications.

Debi asked Chris if there would be any negative effects on the S. Cashua widening project if the first intersection project was chosen. Chris stated that it could be a separate standalone project and the construction phases of them could be linked together at the same time. The project would have to be approved and put in the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) pretty quickly. Debi stated that it would also have to be put in the LRTP.

After much discussion, the committee chose to recommend two options to the Policy Committee for their consideration:

A: Resurfacing of the US 76 Connector for \$330k and the first intersection improvement of adding a right turn lane on eastbound Second Loop at Cashua for \$750k totaling \$1,080,000.

B: The first intersection improvement of adding a right turn lane on eastbound Second Loop at Cashua for \$750k and the third intersection improvement of adding a right truck turn lane on E. Palmetto St. onto S. Church for \$300k totaling \$1,050,000.

Drew made a motion to approve the two options and Levonne seconded. The vote carried unanimously.

Third item of business was the TIP financial sheet. Debi stated that the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) Highway Commission has approved the Francis Marion University project for FY2013 funds from the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP). The

SCDOT is currently hosting a public comment period for all TAP project approved. TAP approved projects are required to be listed in the TIP. This project has been added under the TAP section.

One correction has been made in the Federal Transit Administration section of the TIP for the Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority (PDRTA) under FY2013. Initially approved was \$485K for (CA). This figure has increased to \$608K. The \$290K for (PM) has been deleted. This figure is included in the (CA) figure. The public comment period was held from July 30<sup>th</sup> through August 8<sup>th</sup> with no comments received.

Debi stated that the 20% Guideshare allocation project/s chosen by the Policy Committee would have to be included in the TIP, requiring another 10-day public comment period. Debi asked for a motion to approve the TIP contingent upon no comments being received during the additional public comment period after adding the 20% Guideshare allocation project/s. Drew made a motion to approve the TIP as requested. Chuck seconded and it carried unanimously.

The fourth item of business was amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program Narrative. This document outlines the responsibilities of the Florence Area Transportation Study (FLATS) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and explains the information provided in the TIP financial sheet. Debi added the new FLATS Study Area Boundary Map and Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act (MAP-21) information. Debi also worked with Chuck from PDRTA to add additional information regarding public transportation. The public comment period was held from July 30<sup>th</sup> through August 8<sup>th</sup> with no comments being received.

Michael made a motion to approve and Dyan seconded. The vote carried unanimously.

The fifth item of business was SCDOT updates. Chris stated that they are waiting on the Right of Way (ROW) department to LET a contract for a consultant to start the ROW acquisition for S. Cashua. He will start working on the Francis Marion University TAP project. There is nothing new on the Capital Sales Tax Projects.

The sixth item of business was updates from PDRTA and the Pee Dee Council of Governments (PDCOG). Chuck with PDRTA stated that funding from the Cities and Counties have allowed them to sustain services in some areas however there will be more slicing now that they have budget numbers. The critical pieces are the local match funds. He has been working on the FY2014 federal funds with Diane Lackey with the SCDOT.

Levonne with PDCOG stated that the Pee Dee Regional Transportation Advisory Committee has met. They had some comments from Districts four and five. Miscommunication from District five has been resolved. Levonne and Mr. Brown have met with Dennis Townsend with SCDOT and he has provided at list of potential resurfacing projects and cost estimates. The committee will be meeting again soon. They will not have anything to put in a TIP until this committee meets and goes to the Board. Kevin advised Levonne that he will need a list of intersection improvement projects that are chosen so he can rank them. Levonne will give him the results when she has them.

Debi advised James and Dyan to let her know if there were any intersection improvement projects for Timmonsville and Darlington that would need to be added to the list. James stated that Timmonsville definitely needed some help. They don't have a planning committee but he will be working on that so he can bring back possible projects for his area.

Dyan asked Chris if the 52 bypass project was going to have any bicycle access. Chris replied that it would have a two foot shoulder. Dyan wanted to know if there could be any modification. Chris replied no that it has already been bid and the contract has been awarded. Construction will start in the next month or so.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Drew to adjourn and Michael made a second motion. The vote carried unanimously.