

**TRANSPORTATION PENNY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2016
RICHLAND PENNY PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT TEAM OFFICE
201 ARBOR LAKE DRIVE, COLUMBIA SC**



In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda was sent to radio and TV stations, newspapers, persons requesting notification, and was posted on the bulletin board located in the lobby of the County Administration Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Hayes Mizell, Carol Kososki, Murray Coleman, Trevor Bowers, Bill Wiseman, James Faber, Frank Anderson, J. T. McLawhorn, Councilman Paul Livingston, and Councilman Norman Jackson

OTHERS PRESENT: Rob Perry, Shawn Salley, Michelle Onley, Tony Edwards, Cheryl Patrick, Chris Gossett, Brenda Parnell, Tony McDonald, and Kristen Hutto

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:39 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 25, 2016 – The minutes were approved unanimously.

CITIZEN'S INPUT

No one signed up to speak.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AUDIT

Mr. McDonald stated there is a continued dialogue with the Department of Revenue, but there has not been any significant new information. There has not been any communication from law enforcement regarding any possible legal action to date.

SMALL LOCAL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM

Mr. Livingston requested the OSBO Office staff to introduce themselves for the benefit of the committee.

THE COMET

Mr. Samuel Scheib, Planning Manager, gave a brief update regarding the COMET.

- 2.2 million boardings on the system; highest since 2009
- RFP completed for purchase of 8 diesel buses
- 2 new members on the Board of Directors; Joyce Dickerson – Richland County and Carolyn Gleaton – City of Columbia
- New officers will be elected on February 24th
- Working on getting bus shelters/benches installed

Ms. Kososki requested monthly and/or quarterly budget reports from the COMET.

Mr. McLawhorn inquired if there was a way to expedite placement of the shelters.

Mr. Scheib stated the COMET has contracted with a consulting firm to get the shelters constructed. The main hurdle has been State procedures that have to be followed. (i.e. sight design, acquiring right-of-way easement on private property).

Mr. McLawhorn expressed his concern regarding the need for shelters in the lower income areas of the County. He requested the matter be researched and the shelters constructed as expeditiously as possible.

Ms. Kososki inquired about moving the bus stop into the Forest Drive Wal-Mart parking lot.

Mr. Scheib stated Wal-Mart was approached about moving the bus stop into the parking lot and they declined the offer.

Mr. Faber requested a definitive time for the bus shelter in the Eastover area to be built.

Mr. Scheib stated all of the shelters presently purchased with 5307 urban funds and cannot be used to put in a bus shelter outside of the urban area, which Eastover is outside of zone allowed. Therefore, different shelters have to be ordered using 5311 funds.

UPDATE ON COUNCIL ACTIONS

Mr. Livingston stated Council requested TPAC to work with staff to move forward as quickly as possible to do an assessment of the Penny Program.

Mr. Mizell requested in the future a written request from Council if they direct TPAC to take action on a matter.

Mr. Perry stated the Finance Director to working on a scope of work for the external audit.

JANUARY 2015 PROGRESS REPORT

Mr. Perry stated Council approved 2 sidewalks projects: (1) Sidewalk S2 – Maple Street (District 6) and Mildred Avenue (District 4); and (2) Sidewalk S4 – Wiley Street (District 10). Both of the sidewalk projects are sheltered market projects.

Mr. Bowers inquired if the dirt road paving program was on track.

Mr. Perry stated Council revised the Dirt Road Paving Ordinance to rank the dirt road projects by who would benefit the most (i.e. number of houses, churches, etc.). With the \$45 million in available funding, 107 of the dirt roads are currently being worked on and the remaining roads will be moving forward in years 3 and 4.

Resurfacing Bid Opening is Wednesday, February 24th at 2:00 in the 4th Floor Conference Room. Everyone is invited to come to the opening.

Upcoming Public Meetings:

February 29th – Pinewood Widening Public Meeting

March 10th – Shop Road Widening Public Meeting

March 24th – Southeast Richland Neighborhood Project Public Meeting

Mr. Wiseman raised questions about the ranking of the widening and intersection improvement projects.

Mr. Perry stated the only projects that are active appear on the reports. The projects were not prioritized, but grouped by category. The Program Development Team took Council/TPAC's ranking criteria and ranked all of the projects by category and then presented them to Council for approval.

Mr. Wiseman requested Mr. Perry explanation the expenses listed on p. 6 of the Monthly Progress Report provided to TPAC.

Mr. Perry stated:

- a. Mitigation Bank – purchase of property and to set up mitigation bank for the property;
- b. Bond Debt Service – Fees associated with the Bond Anticipation Note issued by County;
- c. County Transportation – Transportation Staff
- d. County OSBO/SLBE – OSBO Staff and Operating Budget
- e. PDT LNTP – Program Development Team – Limited Notice to Proceed
- f. PDT Operations – Program Development Team Contract
- g. Dirt Road Paving Management – Dennis Corporation and subs developing the 107 dirt roads
- h. Design/Right-of-Way/Construction – Project Level Costs

Mr. Gossett stated the list provided to the committee members is generated through B2G Now (SLBE Tracking Program). Every time a contract is signed with someone, a copy of that contract is forwarded to the SLBE office for tracking.

Mr. Wiseman expressed concern that the numbers in the report from the SLBE Office does not match the numbers in the Monthly Progress Report.

Ms. Kososki stated she will be submitting a memorandum requesting formatting and labeling changes.

Mr. Faber inquired about the progress on the Shop Road Extension.

Mr. McLawhorn stated there were rumblings in the community about SLBE firms having multiple contracts. He inquired if it was true there are SLBE firms that are doing work on different contracts.

Mr. Gossett stated there are firms that are working on multiple projects.

Mr. requested an organizational chart of all the firms currently working on projects.

GILLS CREEK GREENWAY PROJECT

Gills Creek is one of the 15 greenways located in the original referendum and when ranked it was the 3rd greenway to be designed.

Mr. Beatty stated the Gills Creek public meeting was held February 11th wherein approximately 350 residents attended the meeting. Many of the residents were against the project and many were for the project; therefore, the Program Development Team is still digesting the comments from the meeting. Acceptance of public comment will continue through February 26th.

CLEMSON ROAD AND SPARKLEBERRY LANE INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT

A traffic count was conducted during the morning and evening peak hours. The findings were there are just as many automobiles going straight as are turning.

A public information meeting was held December 3rd. The Program Development Team presented 4 options and simulations for the public to review. Most residents were in favor of pursuing the "out-of-the-box" diverging alternative.

From a business and safety standpoint the diverging alternative was the best alternative and most cost beneficial to handle the matter long-term.

There are cost savings on other projects that should make up for the difference in costs to do the diverging alternative.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. McLawhorn inquired how Council is handling the land use planning besides the Penny Tax.

Mr. Jackson stated the neighborhood master plans determine how the County moves forward in the future. The master plans give Council an idea how the area should look.

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2016 AT 5:30 PM

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.