

Transportation Penny Advisory Committee  
September 24, 2018 – 5:30 PM  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia 29204

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Frank Anderson, Malcolm Gordge, Richard Brown, Phillip Simoneaux, Larry Funderburk, John Epting, Cyril Busbee, Jr., and Paul Livingston

OTHERS PRESENT: Michelle Onley, Kimberly Toney, Bryant Davis, Nathaniel Miller, John Thompson, and Mohammed Al-Tofan

**CALL TO ORDER** – Mr. Phillip Simoneaux called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes were approved unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – No one signed up to speak.

**OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES UPDATE**

- ◇ **Executive Summary:** This report is submitted pursuant to Ordinance(s) 049-13HR and 058-16HR to ensure that the OSBO team provides support to the County to ensure that the SLBE has equal opportunity to participate in County contracts for all six (6) Industry Categories: Construction Services, Professional Services, Non-Professional Services, Engineering Services, Architectural Services, and Wholesale Operations.
- ◇ **Purpose:** The purpose of this report is managing the ongoing requirements of the Ordinance(s), improving and creating new Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and ensuring payments to contracted SLBEs.
- ◇ **Analysis:** SLBE Certified Firms (Active Certification) – 83 Firms
- ◇ **Contract Participation:**
  - Payments to SLBE Certified - \$40,729,387
  - Payments to Uncertified Firms - \$101,826,234
  - Total - \$142,555,621
- ◇ **Department Outlook:**
  - i. *Facilitating increase in County wide SLBE utilization in County wide contracts*
    - OSBO staff is collaborating with RC Directors to identify current vendors to become certified SLBEs
  - ii. *Continued review of PDT SLBE Contractual Compliance*
    - *PDT SLBE Participation Update and Payment Invoices*

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- **Business Development**
  - i. OSBO Website Highlights
  - ii. Highlighted Articles
    - ❖ Firms's Featured Stories
      - SLC Hauling and Trucking Company, LLC – District 2
      - Shady Grove Construction, LLC – District 1
  - iii. Attended weekly 1 Million Cups – Columbia
  - iv. Attended the Columbia Chamber Small Business Council Committee
  - v. Attended the NCAA Community Meeting
  - vi. Attended the National Association of Women in Construction – September 19<sup>th</sup>
  - vii. Attended the Big DM Women Empowerment Conference – September 29<sup>th</sup>
  - viii. Coordinated Marketing 101 Workshop – September 19<sup>th</sup>
  - ix. Attended the Bid Opening for Pedestrian Improvement Package 2
  - x. Participated in three site visits
  - xi. Formulated Excel spreadsheet for upcoming goal setting projects
- **Financial Resources Coordinator:**

(Projects Completed)

  - i. Attended Pre-Bid meeting for Candlewood Phase 3
  - ii. Provided SLBE Goal Setting for Clemson Road Sidewalk
  - iii. Attended bid opening meeting for Pedestrian Improvements Package 2
  - iv. Reconciled multiple undocumented payments (time and month information is pulled)
    - ❖ Number of payments due to prime – 39
    - ❖ Number of payments due to subcontractors – 159
- **Certification & Compliance:**

(Projects Completed)

  - i. Completed three (3) new certifications and one (1) re-certification with three (3) new certifications pending and five (5) re-certifications pending
  - ii. Attended the Big DM Women Empowerment Conference at the Columbia Convention Center on September 29, 2018
- **Work with CGS Staff to implement a Small Business Expo for Spring 2019**

## TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM UPDATE

### ◇ Council Approvals:

- Existing Brick Mailboxes on Sidewalk Projects – Approved leaving existing mailboxes and constructing sidewalk around them instead of removal; they will still be able to be ADA compliant.
- Calhoun Road Diet – Approved continued study and coordination regarding road diet and bicycle accommodations
- Resurfacing Authorization – Approved design of approximately \$7.5 million in Resurfacing funds to

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be advertised for construction in early 2019.

- Dirt Road Program Management – Approved PDT managing the Dirt Road Program.
- Spears Creek Church Design – Approved moving forward with 3 readings and a public hearing for the design of 30% plans; reducing termini by 1,700 feet.
- Sidewalk S-9 (Koon/Farmview) – Approved a contract in the amount of \$200,000; was presented to Council October 2, 2018.

◇ Preconstruction Update:

- Blythewood Widening Phase 1 – The PDT submitted 70% complete Right of Way Plans to SCDOT and requested authorization to begin acquiring Right of Way on August 28, 2018
- Clemson Road Widening – The PDT has received Construction Authorization from SCDOT. The project is planned to be advertised for construction in November 2018.
- Lower Richland Boulevard Widening – Design work to include surveys and traffic counts have begun.
- Polo Road Widening – Design work to include surveys and traffic counts have begun.
- Bull/Elmwood Intersection – Approval from the SCDOT was received on August 30, 2018 to initiate Right of Way acquisition. 95% complete plans have been submitted to SCDOT. Coordination with business owners is ongoing.
- Garners Ferry/Harmon, North Springs/Harrington, and Screaming Eagle Percival Intersections – 95% complete plans were submitted to SCDOT on August 23, 2018 for initial review. Right of Way acquisition is nearly complete.
- Shop Road Extension Phase 2 – Design work to include surveys and traffic counts have begun.
- Greene Street Phase 2 – Design remains approximately 99% complete. Detailed design is being coordinated with the railroad and one drainage outfall location. Project critical items remain Railroad Agreements and Right of Way acquisition/coordination of the USC Facilities building.
- Broad River Corridor Neighborhood Improvement Plan – Design work to include surveys and traffic counts have begun.
- Broad River Neighborhood Plan – The project is planned to be advertised for construction in later September 2018.
- Candlewood Neighborhood Plan Phase 3 – Construction bids were received October 17, 2018 and are under review.
- Decker/Woodfield Neighborhood Plan – 95% complete plans for Chatsworth Connector and Faraway Sidewalks are under review by the PDT. A public meeting was held on October 8, 2018 from 5-7 at Decker Center.
- Southeast Richland Neighborhood Plan (SERN) – The PDT has received Construction Authorization from SCDOT. The project is planned to be advertised for construction in November 2018.
- Trenholm Acres/Newcastle Neighborhood Plan – Design work to include surveys and traffic counts have begun.
- Gills Creek Greenway – Phase 2 design continues. A completed Service Order to begin design for Phase 3 was fully executed on August 29, 2018.
- Pedestrian Intersections – The project received bids for construction on October 3, 2018 and are under review; may have to re-advertise.

◇ Construction Update

- North Main Street – Both the SCE&G and Joint Use utility duct banks are essentially complete. The waterline relocation and sewer line rehabilitation are also essentially complete. Removal of overhead

*utilities and installation of storm drainage has begun from Anthony Street to near Sunset Blvd.*

- *Shop Road Extension Phase 1 – Resurfacing of the existing intersection of Shop Road and Pineview is now complete. Concrete pavement from the intersection with Pineview is essentially complete, but shoulder grading continues in this area. Approximately 3,000’ of the eastbound lanes was paved with asphalt in preparation for future placement of concrete. Concrete paving on the westbound lanes is underway. Concrete is being utilized because the life span is longer than asphalt, and is able to stand up better to truck traffic.*
- *3 Rivers Greenway – Installation of the concrete pathway is now 95% complete. The 900’ section of elevated boardwalk in the vicinity of the rapids is 70% complete. Work is progressing on the bathrooms, ranger station, and parking lot which is now paved. Council is considering utilizing general funds instead of Penny funds for approximately \$850,000 to construct bathrooms, ranger station, and parking lot to ensure compliance with regulations.*
- *Magnolia/Schoolhouse Sidewalks – The Construction Notice-to-Proceed has been issued for October 1, 2018.*
- *Dirt Road Packages G and H – The Construction Notice-to-Proceed has been issued for October 1, 2018.*
- *Pelham/Tryon Sidewalks – The Construction Notice-to-Proceed has been issued for October 1, 2018.*
- *Resurfacing Package O (39 roads) – The Construction Notice-to-Proceed has been issued for October 1, 2018.*

◇ Miscellaneous

- A Transportation Ad Hoc Committee meeting is scheduled for October 25, 2018.

Mr. Beaty stated, in the paper, was an article on the PDT’s salaries. The paper was inaccurate. When the news reporter called him, he chose not to give any details of the contractual matter. The issue comes down to, when they signed a 5-year contract to provide program management, they estimated it would take on average 29 people for those 5 years. Some years it might take 32. Others it might take 28. They agreed on 2014 salaries, at the time, so they said 5 years’ times this many people, times their salary equals \$30.1 million. The PDT is being paid \$30.1 million over 5 years to deliver the program, which equates to \$6,020,000 per year no matter if they have 29 or 32 employees. It is up to the PDT on how they pay individual staff. Their original rates that they agreed on in 2014 had a secretary making \$30,000 a year. To protect the County, and the PDT, they said there would be no pay raises for those 5 years. They put a phrase in the contract that said, if the US Bureau of Labor and Statistics, says there is a cost of living increase, for these positions, then we will apply a raise. If there is no increase, they get no raise. If there is, they tie it to something. The Director of Transportation, at that time, said the County might want more positions from them in the future, and inflate those numbers. That way, if they came to him and said they wanted an architect, they would not have to negotiate because there are already pre-established pay rates for an architect. Their contract says, any further pay rates, they may be eligible for, is tied to this exhibit. This exhibit is already inflated, so when they sent a letter to the County, and said they needed to start this dialogue, the contract is tied to these inflated rates, which does not make sense. The newspaper did not have all of the story. They reported that the PDT said a secretary was making \$52,000.

Mr. Simoneaux inquired if there has been an update on hiring a new County Administrator.

Mr. Livingston stated there is a committee and we have hired a consultant to assist with recruiting a new Administrator.

## THE COMET PROGRAM UPDATE

- ◇ Service Changes – The COMET is implementing service changes on November 5. Among the services are:
  - *Increase service on the 2 Lexington County Routes (26 & 28) and extend Rout 28 to the Airport;*
  - *Increase frequencies on the 101 to 20 minutes during peak and 30 minutes on weekends;*
  - *Add weekend service to 88: Crosstown;*
  - *Convert route 31: Denny Terrace to a route deviation service operated by DART;*
  - *Add on-demand service to the Riverbanks Zoo on Route 84; and*
  - *Extend route 17: Harrison (now called route 74) to Trenholm and Forest Drive for access to grocery stores*
  - *Add services for Amazon and Nephron*
- ◇ Service Suspended – Due to Hurricane Florence the COMET suspended service for more than three days beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 13. Regular service resumed on Monday, September 17.
- ◇ The COMET Academy – The 4<sup>th</sup> class of the COMET Academy is underway now, educating a group of citizens about how transit is funded, operated, and structured.
- ◇ Ridership Report: Mr. Andoh provided the report to the committee members.
- ◇ Marketing: The COMET is working on a new transit system map, a new timetable design and bus shelter system map. This will be ready by November 2018.

Mr. Andoh was asked about how many shelters the COMET currently has. He stated he was not sure, but would be able to provide that answer in about 2 months.

They are going through a reorganization, and evaluating the staff they have. They are trying to address some deficiencies, so by January 2019 they should be able to provide an updated organizational chart.

The press releases regarding the Uber and Riverbanks Programs are to be emailed out to the committee members.

Mr. Andoh stated his top challenges are making sure he has everyone on board and staff development. There are some deficiencies in the staff and it is causing a trickle-down effect. In addition, open communication with Lexington and Richland County, in order to ensure they are providing them with what they want in a transit system. Lastly, the Penny funding is coming in faster than anticipated, so they are going to have to have a discussion regarding the future finances of the COMET (i.e. additional Penny funding or ramping down services provided).

Mr. Simoneaux stated he believes that scooters will be coming to the Columbia in the near future.

Mr. Andoh stated he would like to have a conversation with the Mayor about partnering with the City to implement a hybrid program. He would also like to replace 8 buses in the next 4 years with a hybrid of hydrogen and electric buses. The City has a hydrogen station that has not been used since 2011. Boston may be loaning us their hydrogen buses, once they done with their pilot. He stated the next time they replace diesel buses will not be until 2030. He would like to purchase the buses with grant proceeds instead of Penny funding because the buses cost approximately \$750,000 apiece.

Mr. Brown requested additional information regarding the Boston hydrogen bus.

Mr. Andoh stated they have the station and infrastructure. They will have to give the contractor training on how to operate and maintain the bus. The intent is to rotate the bus around to see how it performs in the Columbia market. His understanding is the hydrogen bus is a 2017 vehicle, and is the next generation of hydrogen technology. They did engage the Center of Transportation and Environment, who helped with the initial pilot in 2011, to help them with how to launch a pilot like that here in Columbia.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

- Next Scheduled Meeting: November 26, 2018 – 2020 Hampton Street

**ADJOURN** – The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:20 PM