



DIRT ROAD AD HOC COMMITTEE
May 7, 2019 – 3:30PM
4th Floor Conference Room
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Dalhi Myers, Chair, Chakisse Newton and Bill Malinowski

OTHERS PRESENT: John Thompson, Eden Logan, Nathaniel Miller, Michelle Onley, Allison Steele, Mohammed Al-Tofan, Kimberly Toney, Michael Niermeier, Chris Eversmann, Wayne Richardson, James Brown, Ismail Ozbek, Stephen Staley and Sandra Yudice

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Ms. Myers called the meeting to order at approximately 3:30 p.m.
2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Myers, to adopt the agenda, as amended, to add “Alternate Paving Methods”. The vote in favor was unanimous.
Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Mr. Malinowski, to reconsider the agenda. The vote in favor was unanimous.
Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Mr. Malinowski, to make “County Maintained Roads and Public Works Plan” item 3(a) on the agenda. The vote in favor was unanimous.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 23, 2019** – Mr. Malinowski moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to approve the minutes as submitted. The vote in favor was unanimous.
- 3(a) **County Maintained Roads and Public Work Plan** – Ms. Myers stated, at the last meeting, we discussed County-maintained roads, and learned there was no plan through Public Works for County-maintained roads because Public Works no longer maintained County-maintained roads.
Mr. Ozbek stated Public Works does maintain all County roads, paved, dirt or alternatives. They do not have any type of Pavement Program or a Resurfacing Program.
Ms. Myers inquired, if by maintaining, they mean filling potholes.
Mr. Ozbek stated he means repairing (i.e. limited paving). They are limited to repair of road sections. They cannot put in a new road or pave several hundred feet of road. They “sub” those out.
Ms. Myers stated, so we do it, but through contractors.
Mr. Ozbek stated we used to pave roads, through contractors, until the Transportation Penny Program was put into effect.
Ms. Myers stated, for clarification, so any road that is not on the Transportation Penny Program, we do not have a plan for.
Mr. Ozbek stated not until the funds are exhausted. He is sure, whatever is remaining, Public Works and the County’s original plan will merge. We are going to have lots of roads unpaved, by the time

funds run. He stated he was involved at the beginning of the program, but once the program are finished, and all the roads are paved, whatever is remaining will be the Public Works responsibility.

Mr. Malinowski stated, he brought this up at the last meeting, when the Penny Program began, there was a certain amount of funds set aside from the Penny Tax collections for dirt road paving. It was known, and mentioned that not all dirt roads would come under that dollar amount because there was not enough. Council inquired if we would still receive "C" funds for those roads to be paved, and we were told "yes." But, at the last meeting, we were told the "C" funds are primarily being dedicated to sidewalks. He believes Ms. Steele said that we have to apply for "C" funds for the paving. His question is why are we not doing that, since we are still entitled to "C" funds, as a County. Those funds should be used toward the paving of those roads that do not come under the Penny Tax. We should not have to wait 20 years to begin the paving program on those roads.

Mr. Ozbek stated the Legislative Delegation controls where the CTC funds are spent. The CTC funds is approximately \$3.5 million per year, which includes sidewalks and other types of improvements. They take Council, or citizen requests, and present them to the Transportation Committee. In Ms. Steele's previous job, she administered the sidewalk programs, as well as other road repairs. Just before the Transportation Penny Program started, we had 15 – 18 roads (North/South Paving). We were told to rollover that money, which was supposed to go to dirt road paving, into the Penny Program.

Ms. Myers inquired as to who told Mr. Ozbek to rollover the funds.

Mr. Malinowski stated they were told that would remain separate.

Mr. Ozbek stated when this program was established we had the contractors, Administration staff, etc. Those were the "shovel ready" projects for the Penny Program.

Mr. Malinowski stated there is separate group for the Dirt Road "CTC Program". At least, that is what they were led to believe. He would like to see something that documents that somebody was told to send "C" Funds into the Penny Program.

Mr. Ozbek stated it also included the projects. Whatever remaining dirt road paving projects were rolled over into the Penny Program.

Ms. Myers inquired, "On whose instructions?"

Mr. Ozbek stated he would assume Administration. He would guess Finance would have that.

Ms. Newton inquired, "How would that be allowed?"

Mr. Ozbek stated, Mr. Brown, Transportation Chair, may be able to shed more light on this. From his involvement, they requested a list of shovel ready projects from Public Works.

Ms. Newton stated we are talking about several different items, at one time, as if they were one thing, and she would like to separate those things. The most recent item, is Mr. Ozbek's recollection, that there was a directive to take funds from one source and allocate those funds toward Penny projects. To Mr. Malinowski's point, he has requested documentation on that. Her understanding, of the parameters of the Penny Project, say that such a transfer, or direction, from any party, would be unauthorized, so that concerns her. A second item, is an overview of CTC funding and projects, that Mr. Brown could speak to. The third item, is the fact that Richland County has County-owned roads that need to be maintained, which may include potholes, repair, paving or resurfacing. There is a question of who is managing that process for the voluminous amounts of County roads that are not accounted for in the Penny Project. The Penny Project does not begin to address all of the roads in Richland County because it was not

budgeted to ever do that. Her understanding, was there was going to be a reporting back to committee about what were Richland County roads, what were private roads, etc.

Mr. Eversmann stated, subsequent to the meeting, they got a tasking from Ms. A. Myers requesting various lists of roads that would pertain to this issue. They were assisted by the Transportation Penny Department, and the information was submitted last week.

Ms. Newton stated, for clarification, the information is housed in Administration.

Mr. Eversmann stated, there are several, long lists, but they are formatted in a way that cross-referencing would be fairly easy.

Ms. Newton stated, her understanding was, some of those items were going to be cross-referenced, in terms of, when you look at the whole inventory of roads, it would say, "This is a Richland County road." "That is a public road, but also a Penny Road." She inquired, if was itemized that way, in the information that was provided to Administration.

Mr. Eversmann stated, close, but not exactly. The list of the roads, in the Transportation Penny Program, for paving, is maintained by the Transportation Penny Department, and that information is not contained in our GIS data base. Their list of County unpaved roads is organized alphabetically, by district, and the Transportation Penny Program took their list of roads, for paving under the Penny Program, and organized them the same way. You can very easily put the lists together and say, "District 10, District 11..." and you can compare the list of dirt roads vs. ones that are accounted for in the Transportation Penny Program.

Ms. Myers inquired if they can produce one list.

Mr. Eversmann stated, in the timeframe, we could not merge them, but he is sure they could do so.

Dr. Thompson stated they would provide it.

Ms. Newton stated, back on the third item, there is an inventory of roads, some of which are Penny Projects roads, and others that belong to the County.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Mr. Malinowski, to instruct Public Works to develop a plan for the maintenance of Richland County roads, and present it back to the committee within 30 days. It needs to be clear to all of us how we are maintaining those roads.

Mr. Malinowski stated we may be reinventing the wheel. He was under the impression that we already have a plan.

Mr. Ozbek stated they do have a plan. First of all, let's break it down into non-paved and paved roads.

Mr. Malinowski stated, prior to Ms. Newton's time, there were lists out for each district, and they were ranked. Then the ranking changed, when the Penny Program was coming in, because they were doing a little different information, so it changed the rankings some. They do have a ranking of roads.

Mr. Ozbek stated it is all Section 21-20: Road Paving Program, which states, "Road construction and paving projects administered by the County and funded from public funds shall be accomplished in accordance with the consistent, systematic program established and administered by the Director of Transportation, in conjunction with and with the support of the Director of Public Works, or his/her designee." It has the prioritization, formula and what it is going to cover. This was rewritten for the Transportation Penny. He stated pavement ranking programs and prioritization have completely changed with Sec. 21-20.

Ms. Myers stated the question goes more to what roads have been prioritized, and what is the plan for repairing or paving them.

Ms. Newton stated that is part of what she is saying. What Mr. Ozbek read, is a road paving plan, which she appreciates because that is part of a road maintenance program. What her motion spoke to, because from the last meeting to this meeting, there is a difference in terminology, and some confusion on her part about the responsibilities that Richland County is taking for County roads, outside of the Penny Program. What she is asking for is the comprehensive maintenance plan for Richland County roads. A maintenance plan, to a non-engineer, might include repair, repaving, various sundry engineering things that she has not conceived of. Again, she is asking about our entire inventory of roads, and what our plan to maintain them is.

Mr. Ozbek stated it is repairs and resurfacing. When roads come to a certain level that they cannot be repaired...

Mr. Malinowski inquired if there is a written maintenance plan.

Mr. Ozbek stated, as far as the maintenance plan, we have a One Stop program. Anything that comes in, we immediately...

Ms. Newton stated, for example, her husband is in the Army. He has an emergency checklist he goes through every month. He does not wait for someone to say, "I do not have water, or my emergency blanket needs to be switched out." He routinely assesses the inventory. He changes out water on this schedule, and changes out emergency supplies on this schedule. He is proactively doing it. He has a plan. He has thoughts around it. She stated, you have expressed the thoughts, and she is wondering is there a plan that says, "This is how we address our One Stop thing." Even if no one comes to the One Stop, do you routinely drive down "Grant Road" to assess its condition. To her, that is what a plan looks like.

Mr. Ozbek stated they do have a dirt road plan, which means certain roads are in a rotation for scraping. Unfortunately, paved roads do not wear out at the same rate. There are so many factors, and so many things that are inconceivable. There is a backlog of 100 – 200 requests. Roads do not come by themselves. They have drainage systems...

Ms. Myers stated, the last time, the committee was told the Public Works Department was no longer in the road paving business and that our money was being spent on sidewalks. So, as a group, we were shocked because they did not understand that we had moved out of maintaining the County's roads into only sidewalks. Therefore, we wanted to get clarification, ask for a plan that could be presented to the full Council and move forward.

Mr. Ozbek apologized, if his staff gave the perception that we do not do maintenance. That is all they do is maintenance of paved and dirt roads. As far as sidewalks, we fix them.

Mr. Malinowski made a substitute motion, seconded by Ms. Newton, to provide the committee a copy of the manual relating to the maintenance and repair of County roads, paved and unpaved, the road rankings for the unpaved roads, denoting which unpaved roads are being undertaken by the Penny Program, and which are still under the County tutelage for using "C" funds. In addition, to provide documentation, where it was shown, that there will only be the Penny Program to handle dirt roads in the future.

Mr. Ozbek stated there is no plan for what is going to happen, if, and when, the money runs out.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

4. **Richland County Road Maintenance Fee** – Ms. Myers moved, seconded Mr. Malinowski, to direct Administration and Public Works to provide the amount of road maintenance paid by taxpayers for FY17 and FY 18, and what the funds have been used for.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

5. **Review of Code Sections Dealing with Driveways and Public vs. Private Roadways** – Mr. Malinowski stated, at the last meeting, no one knew if the roads signs being put up because it was a postal requirement or it was County requirement. And, if it is not a County requirement, why are we putting signs on private property.

Mr. Ozbek stated it is a 911 system requirement so emergency personnel can find the location.

6. **Alternate Paving Methods** – This item was not taken up.

7. **ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.