



Richland County Council
DIRT ROAD AD HOC COMMITTEE
 October 24, 2017 – 4:30 PM
 Decker Center
 2500 Decker Boulevard, Columbia, SC 29206

Bill Malinowski	Norman Jackson	Dalhi Myers
District One	District Eleven	District Ten

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Yvonne McBride, Tony Edwards, Roger Sears, Sandra Yudice, Brandon Madden, Jamelle Ellis, Angela McCallum, and Michelle Onley

CALL TO ORDER – Mr. N. Jackson called the meeting to order at approximately 4:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 6, 2016 – Mr. Malinowski moved, seconded by Mr. N. Jackson, to approve the minutes as distributed. The vote in favor was unanimous.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – Mr. Malinowski moved, seconded by Mr. N. Jackson, to adopt the agenda with the following amendment: Addition of the Election of the Chair. The vote in favor was unanimous.

ELECTION OF CHAIR – Mr. Malinowski moved to elect Mr. N. Jackson as Chair by acclamation.

PROGRAM UPDATE

- ❖ 19 roads are under construction with the Transportation Improvement contract
- ❖ Dennis Corporation began with 144 roads and paved one, Joustler Road

Mr. Malinowski stated according to his information there are 14 roads in construction. In addition, what is the anticipated completion date?

Mr. Edwards stated Mr. Malinowski’s information is correct and should be completed next year. Their contract included some resurfacing of roads as well.

Mr. N. Jackson restated that Dennis Corporation had 144 roads and completed one. They are no longer under contract with the County.

Mr. Edwards stated there are currently 19 roads under construction. Fourteen of those roads are to be completed by Dennis Corporation.

- ❖ Dennis Corporation started out with 144 roads.
- ❖ After the Consent/Denial Process they were left with 104 roads.

- ❖ 39 roads were pulled from the contract and given to Mead & Hunt; broken into 3 sets and are actively working on the 1st set of roads

Ms. McBride requested an overview of the current contracts, so she can follow along better.

Mr. Edwards asked for clarification if she was referring to construction or design.

Ms. McBride stated she wished to have a breakdown of each.

Mr. Edwards stated we started with a contract with Dennis Corporation, which has expired. During the complications of that contract, 39 roads were pulled and given to Mead & Hunt and their on-call team.

Mr. N. Jackson inquired if Mead & Hunt had completed their design.

Mr. Edwards responded that they are working through their design.

Ms. McBride inquired about how many firms are working for the teams.

Mr. Sears stated Dennis Corporation had 6 firms and Mead & Hunt has 7 firms.

Ms. Myers stated Dennis Corporation got nixed because they were slow on even getting the consents to get the roads paved. It took years to get residents to agree to give the County the right-of-way.

Mr. N. Jackson stated for clarification that Dennis Corporation is out.

Mr. Edwards stated Dennis Corporation's contract expired.

Mr. N. Jackson inquired of the 144 roads, how many are in design? Or have the remaining roads been given to another company to move forward?

Mr. Edwards stated of the 144 roads, 39 road were pulled because they had not begun anything on them. The 39 roads were given to Mead & Hunt. Dennis Corporation continued to work on the 63 roads, which they did not complete. Dennis Corporation completed a good portion of the design work, but some still need right-of-way acquisition.

Mr. N. Jackson inquired about what happened to the remaining roads and the roads that were not completed by Dennis Corporation.

Mr. Edwards stated 39 roads are with Mead & Hunt. The 63 remaining roads will go to Mead & Hunt for them to continue right-of-way acquisition and then the roads can be completed.

Mr. N. Jackson inquired if the roads have been given to Mead & Hunt.

Mr. Edwards stated they have not. The County is working on the scope and fees for the right-of-way acquisitions and the years 3 and 4 dirt roads.

Mr. N. Jackson inquired if the scope and fees will be completed prior to the end of the year.

Mr. Edwards stated responded in the affirmative.

Ms. Myers stated since this project has been stalled people are very concerned about it. Her constituents are clearly very concerned about it. It is almost as if there is no plan to track. She inquired as to what the plan is for the remaining roads (i.e. When will they go to design? When will paving begin?) This is too lousy goosy for this to be such a large part of many lives, which are also paying into the Penny Tax, this is all we are getting out of it. So to the extent that this is for them equally as important as Clemson Road, if we asked what is the status of the Clemson Road Widening Project she does not think we would say, "in a couple months we'll get something going on it." The County has some specifics and that is what the residents are asking.

When the residents come to her and inquire about the plan for their road(s) she has nothing to offer them. If there is not a definitive plan, then how do we get to the point where we can get a definitive plan? She stated if staff needs Council members to assist with obtaining right-of-way acquisitions, they are more than willing to do so. Historically, people have shown up in unmarked sweatshirts, t-shirts and vehicle. The residents have not been willing to sign documents because they are unsure of who these people are.

Mr. Edwards stated it has been very unfortunate the County had to go through the issues in past on the Dirt Road Program. The plan now is to utilize the OETs, all 5 teams, to help expedite the program.

Ms. Myers inquired as to how many roads each team will have.

Mr. Edwards stated each team will receive 10 roads.

Ms. Myers inquired as to how long the teams will have to complete the roads.

Mr. Edwards stated that is still in negotiations. We do not want to set them up for fail. We want to get an idea from them, and their SLBEs.

Ms. Myers inquired if the Transportation Department has said to the OETs that they expect the roads can be paved within 6 months, 12 months, 18 months. Is there any expectation given to them?

Mr. Sears stated right now the expectations is approximately 6 months to develop plans.

Ms. Myers inquired for clarification that the roads where there are plans, but were taken back, those roads will not go to the OETs.

Mr. Edwards stated this only applies to the new roads that do not have plans or any information.

Ms. Myers stated for the public that these guys are hardworking. She trusts their judgment and their ability. If she sounds frustrated it is not with them. They have taken over something that is at this point "a dog's breakfast." They have been put upon to come in midstream and get this on track. Her questions, although they sound difficult, are not because she has any disbelief in their ability, their willingness to do this and she doesn't want the public to think that either. It is just because the program is off track and we need some answers.

Mr. Sears stated this may help to clarify the matter, the way the Dirt Road Program was set up, it was a 4-year program originally. The program was broken up into the first 2 years and then years 3 and 4. So the roads we were talking about earlier are the first 2 years of the program. We contracted with Dennis Corporation. We did not get the results we were looking for. There are still some roads left in the first 2 years.

Ms. Myers inquired if that was the 39.

Mr. Sears stated that is correct. Those roads are being developed by Mead & Hunt. There are approximately 40 still outstanding from Dennis Corporation that are not in construction or in procurement. Of those 40 roads, the reason we have not moved forward yet is because we are in litigation with Dennis Corporation. Until that is settled we will not move forward with those 40 roads.

Ms. Myers inquired if the people's roads will be held up while the County is in litigation.

Mr. Sears while we are waiting to move forward on the 40 outstanding roads, we have begun to work on years 3 and 4.

Ms. Myers suggested that we discuss the outstanding roads in Executive Session.

Mr. N. Jackson stated we can have that on the next agenda for discussion.

Ms. Myers moved, seconded by Mr. N. Jackson, to receive a legal opinion in regards to the ongoing litigation with Dennis Corporation and the impact on the completion of the 40 remaining roads. In addition, to provide alternatives for the citizens' roads. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Sears stated for years 3 and 4 we are negotiating with each of the On-Call Teams to develop the rest of the program. The roads have been split into groups of 10 and assign to an On-Call Team. Once their set of 10 roads are completed, they will receive an additional 10 roads. This will incentivizes the On-Call Teams to complete the projects.

Ms. Myers thanked Mr. Sears on his explanation and informing the committee on why the 40 outstanding roads have not been paved.

Mr. N. Jackson inquired if the design will be based on the SCDOT or low volume.

Mr. Edwards stated both of the designs are being utilized. He stated what will take the longest on the dirt roads is obtaining the right-of-way. Not the design.

Mr. Malinowski inquired if all of the dirt roads are on the Penny paving list.

Mr. Edwards stated as far as he knows they are. The paving list was developed in 2014.

Mr. Malinowski requested Mr. Edwards to follow-up to verify all of the roads are on the list.

Mr. N. Jackson stated the last question, is "What will be the utilization of the SLBE?"

Mr. Edwards stated 4 of the 5 OETs primes are SLBE, along with numerous team members on each team. That is the one of the reasons they chose to go with the current route because it will get them in contact with the most SLBEs at one time.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:54 p.m.