

**TRANSPORTATION PENNY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2016
RICHLAND PENNY PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT TEAM OFFICE
4TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**



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, J. T. McLawhorn, Virginia Sanders, Philip Simoneaux, Derrick Huggins, Councilman Paul Livingston, Frank Anderson, and Bill Wiseman

OTHERS PRESENT: Rob Perry, Tony Edwards, Shawn Salley, Michelle Onley, Brenda Parnell, Quinton Epps and Kristen Hutto

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:30 p.m.

CITIZEN'S INPUT

No one signed up to speak.

UPDATE ON COUNCIL ACTIONS

The Transportation Ad Hoc Committee forwarded the bikeways correspondence from the SCDOT to the TPAC.

AUDIT UPDATE

Mr. Perry stated Elliot Davis has met with members of TPAC, as well as, himself. The audit is slated to be complete by the end of Summer.

SMALL LOCAL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM

The report was included in the agenda packet.

Mr. Simoneaux inquired about the process for sheltered market projects.

In the sheltered market only SLBE firms can bid on the projects, but the award of a contract is still the lowest bid.

THE COMET

Dr. Schneider gave a brief overview of the COMET's audit history and financial information.

- The COMET is a Regional Transit Authority that is created as a quasi-governmental entity under SC State Statute.
- SCDOT provides approximately \$500,000/yr.
- Board approves and submits budget to Richland County

Ms. Sanders and Ms. Kososki requested the financial reports of the COMET.

Ms. Sanders inquired if the bus riders are informed of changes to routes prior to the changes being implemented.

Dr. Schneider stated there are a series of public meetings held prior to any change being proposed.

Mr. McLawhorn inquired if the COMET gathers data on incidents that occur on the buses.

Dr. Schneider stated they do retain data regarding incidents, but there are very few incidents.

PDT UPDATE

Mr. Beatty stated there a few items to note in the bi-weekly report:

- Intersection of Green and Lincoln will be closed for the next 4 weeks to construction the intersection. Greene St. Phase I should be completed in August.
- Lincoln Tunnel Greenway – Phase II Ribbon-Cutting will be July 13th at 6:00 p.m. at Finlay Park.
- Broad River Road at Rushmore and Summit Parkway at Summit Ridge should be completed within the next month.
- Clemson Road Widening and Atlas Road Widening – approaching property owners in August regarding right-of-ways
- Working with 5 On-Call Engineering Teams to negotiate the next contracts
- SCDOT has advertised and will be taking bids July 12th on Hardscrabble Road
- PDT has advertised North Main Street; those bids will come in July 27th
- Prepared to advertised Shop Road Extension Phase I in 4-6 weeks

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- Three Rivers Greenway will be advertised in 4-8 weeks
- Bluff Road Phase I – advertise in August
- Anticipate advertising some dirt roads in August

Mr. Beatty stated the PDT has gone to 7 HOAs/Community Groups on the west side of Gills Creek and presented the Gills Creek Segment A Project to them. All 7 are interested in having Gills Creek located on their side of the creek. Mr. Perry has met with the City of Columbia to insure they are going to maintain the creek and provide police protection.

Ms. Kososki stated the Gills Creek Watershed Association is willing to support the County, if needed.

MAY 2016 PROGRESS REPORT

- The County took over the North Main Street Widening Project from the City of Columbia because they could not manage it. The City obtained a \$10 million TIGER Grant for this project, but it has very tight time requirements.
- The Dirt Road Paving Team has surveyed and completed design field reviews on 104 roads.
- To-date \$46 million in Transportation Penny funds has been spent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 23, 2016 – Mr. McLawhorn moved, seconded by Ms. Kososki, to approve the minutes as distributed. The vote in favor was unanimous.

TPAC STAFF POSITION

Mr. Simoneaux stated the subcommittee met and discussed the options for a TPAC staff position. Their recommendation was to engage an independent contractor to work approximately 20 hours per month and report back to TPAC.

Recommendations:

- CPA Firm with 12-month contract;
- Study, understand and utilize the PDT and COMET accounting systems;
- Produce ad hoc reports
- Examine issues on financial and project basis, as requested;
- Bachelor Degree in Accounting and/or Finance; preferably with 5 years of experience
- Understanding of government accounting systems

Mr. McLawhorn suggested the County conduct a compliance audit, as well as, engage an independent contractor.

Mr. Wiseman stated it is important to validate the best practices, processes and procedures.

Ms. Kososki recommended the position report directly to the TPAC to alleviate a conflict of interest.

This item was deferred to the July TPAC meeting to allow time for the committee members to review the recommendations.

BIKEWAY PROJECTS

Mr. Perry stated there are 87 bikeways in the program; 69 are on SCDOT routes. Whenever there are improvements on the SCDOT routes there has to be an intergovernmental agreement. In the IGA with SCDOT it states they will accept the project back after construction and perform normal maintenance. The plans were approved by SCDOT, but the County would be required to maintain the pavement markings and signage. The Transportation Penny Program does not have maintenance funding; therefore, it would be a policy decision of Council to proceed with the projects that will require County maintenance in the future.

Staff's recommendation is to reduce the number of bikeways and build only the dedicated bike lanes, which SCDOT would maintain.

The committee unanimously approved staff's recommendation to only proceed with the dedicated bikeways.

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, JULY 25, 2016 AT 5:30 PM

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:38 p.m.