



Richland County Council
Transportation Ad Hoc Committee
MINUTES
October 22, 2024 – 4:00 PM
Council Chambers
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

COMMITTEE COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Overture Walker, Chair; Paul Livingston, Don Weaver, and Jessica Mackey

NOT PRESENT: Yvonne McBride

OTHERS PRESENT: Allison Terracio, Jason Branham, Michael Maloney, Angela Weathersby, Anette Kirylo, Patrick Wright, Ashiya Myers, Lori Thomas, Leonardo Brown, Jackie Hancock, Aric Jensen, Michelle Onley, John Thompson, Kenny Bowen, and Quinton Epps

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Overture Walker called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 PM.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. September 24, 2024 – Mr. Weaver moved to approve the minutes as distributed, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

In Favor: Livingston, Weaver, Walker, and Mackey

Not Present: McBride

The vote in favor was unanimous.

3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Mr. Livingston moved to adopt the agenda as published, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

In Favor: Livingston, Weaver, Walker, and Mackey

Not Present: McBride

The vote in favor was unanimous.

4. **ITEM FOR DISCUSSION**

a. Transportation Penny Update – Mr. Maloney provided a brief update on the Transportation Penny Projects.

Projects in Construction

- Blythewood Road Widening – The project started construction in April 2023 and completion shall occur in September 2025.
- Sunset Drive Sidewalk Construction – The project construction started in May 2024 and completion shall occur in February 2025.
- Dirt Road Package “O” Construction – The project of improving Nathan Ridge Lane, Jackson Road, Sara Mathews Road, and Howard Coogler Road.
- Alpine Road Resurfacing and Sidewalk Improvement – The project construction started in February 2024; they are completed the final punchlist items.
- Atlas Road Widening – The preconstruction meeting occurred on October 11, 2024, project start is November 4, 2024.
- Percival Road Sidewalk – The preconstruction meeting will occur in November 2024.

Projects Preparing for Construction Bidding

- Resurfacing Package “U” Construction – The project consists of \$6M in improvements.

Projects in Right-of-Way Acquisition

- Broad River Road Widening: The right-of-way acquisition is underway. All the property owners have been in communication with the project team. Twenty parcel owners committed small pieces of property to the needs of the public project. Others are in negotiation.
- Pineview Road Widening: The right-of-way acquisition is underway. All the property owners have received information regarding the project. This project began acquisition in April.
- Smith/Rocky Branch Greenway: The property owners have received information on the project easement needs and will receive offers within the next two months.
- Dirt Road Paving Program: Several roads in Richland County, with emphasis on District 10, are receiving consent/denial checks, appraisals, and right-of-way contact meetings with our staff augmentation and on-call engineering team.
- Received authorization to proceed into right-of-way acquisition from SCDOT for Spears Creek Church Road Widening Project, Lower Richland Boulevard Widening Project, and Broad River Road Corridor Neighborhood Improvement Project.
- Decker/Woodfield NIP: Performing land acquisition for Brookfield Road and Hunt Club Road.

Projects In Design

- Bluff Road Improvements Phase 2: Design details are being completed.
- Polo Road Widening: Design review and adjustments are occurring based on SCDOT comments.
- Blythewood Road Area Improvements: Awaiting 60% plans for authorization to proceed to right-of-way acquisition.
- Shop Road Widening: Awaiting approval of 60% plans for authorization to proceed to right-of-way acquisition.
- Clemson Road & Sparkleberry Lane Intersection: Awaiting SCDOT approval of 60% plans.
- Kelly Mill Road Special Project: SCDOT reviewed the 30% design. Design development continues.
- Shop Road Extension Phase 2, Special Project: Preliminary Design/Concepts has commenced for support in upcoming public meetings.
- Crane Creek Greenway: We contacted the property owner on this project regarding the easement required for the trail.
- Gills Creek Greenway: Completing the design and acquisition process.
- Columbia Mall Greenway: Completing the design process.
- Neighborhood Improvement Projects – Trenholm/New Castle, Crane Creek, and South East Rural Neighborhood Phase 2: Awaiting an encroachment permit from SCDOT.
- Dirt Road Paving Program: Several projects are in design and land acquisition.
- Three Rivers Greenway Phase 2: The Penny will bid the project out to contractors. We received the final plans, are awaiting the specifications, and are checking on two permits.
- Bikeways: Awaiting a request from the City of Columbia for the funds for eight bikeways.

Mr. Weaver inquired about the specifics of the Decker/Woodfield Neighborhood Improvement Project.

Mr. Maloney responded it is the installation of a sidewalk from Decker Boulevard to Richland Northeast High School. There is also a portion that is a greenway, which they are working out with the Recreation Commission.

Mr. Livingston inquired if the road would remain closed until the Sunset Drive sidewalk construction is completed in February 2025.

Mr. Maloney responded in the affirmative.

Ms. Terracio inquired if we consulted with a specialist regarding the bike lane installation associated with the Atlas Road Widening Project. She noted that a previous Penny Project had a painted bike lane on a busy roadway. Motorists were not used to it, so they ended up grinding up the road and removing the bike lane.

Mr. Maloney replied that it was a road diet project. It involved tearing down a four-lane road to create a bike lane. The difference between the two projects is that Atlas Road is going from a 2-lane rural road to a 5-lane road with 5-ft. bike lanes and 5-ft. sidewalks on both sides. He noted he had someone come in with expertise in bike operation, who suggested extending out the sidewalks instead of installing bike lanes. He pointed out that Council had previously taken action not to utilize shared-use paths and strictly utilize bike lanes.

Ms. Terracio indicated she continues to hear about ensuring bikers' protection. She inquired if we had consulted an expert on the greenways.

Mr. Maloney stated they looked to the On-Call Engineering teams that Council approved to utilize for the design of the greenways.

Mr. Walker inquired if SCDOT is managing any of the projects in construction.

Mr. Maloney replied that he had no projects managed by SCDOT on the project update list, but SCDOT is managing Hard Scrabble and Leesburg roads.

5. **ADJOURNMENT** – Mr. Weaver moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

In Favor: Livingston, Weaver, Walker, and Mackey

Not Present: McBride

The vote in favor was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:22 PM.