



Government Services
Projects & Planning Committee Meeting via Zoom
March 25, 2021 – 11:00am

MINUTES

Present: Dwight Stewart, Jim McCain, Sammie Tucker, Will Wheeler, Chuck Wilson, Travis Windham

Not Present: Eugene Baten, Jay Davis, Jeffrey Graham, Julia Nelson

Staff Present: Christopher McKinney, Dennis Cyphers, Jeff Parkey, Jake Whitmire, Michelle Ressler

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Chairman Dwight Stewart, called the meeting to order at 11:04am.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Stewart provided the invocation and all attendees participated in the pledge.

3. Determination of Quorum

Chairman Stewart determined there was a quorum with 6 of 10 committee members present.

4. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Stewart entertained a motion to approve the Agenda. A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Wilson and seconded by Mr. Jim McCain. There being no discussion, Chairman Stewart called for the vote. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Chairman Stewart entertained a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Will Wheeler and seconded by Mr. Chuck Wilson. There being no discussion, Chairman Stewart called for the vote. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Staff Briefings

a. Rural Planning Work Programs

Mr. Dennis Cyphers explained 2021 – 2023 Rural Planning Work Program describes all the rural transportation and transportation related planning activities anticipated for that specific timeframe. It also contains a discussion of the major transportation issues as well as goals and objectives of that study area that the COG is responsible for. The purpose of the Rural Planning Work Program is to identify work program tasks and present program allocations in planning these activities. Mr. Cyphers explained any of the areas that are contained in the rural area that would not incorporate the MPOs such as SUATS and COATS. Anything outside those regions, is where this funding and study would include. SUATS and COATS have their own programs. Mr. Cyphers stated COATS covers from Columbia to west of the Wateree River.

Mr. Jeff Parkey provided an overview of the Rural Planning Work Program (RPWP). He stated the RPWP is submitted to SCDOT every two years. This work program year will pertain to July 2021 through June 2023 with a budget of \$85K for each year, which comes from Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) to fund these activities.

Mr. Parkey next provided the transportation planning activities that will be carried out during July 2021 through June 2023:

- Administration of the program and analysis
- Program development – LRTP and TIP
- Coordinating with federal, state, and local partners
- Public transit
- Public information and participation
- Other initiatives

He next highlighted the percentage allocations for the different work activities on the budget page of the RPWP. Mr. Parkey explained Task I-B: Plan and Program Development is where both LRTP and TIP are included and have been updated. Currently, there are no further updates for the LRTP and TIP. He continued there are several tasks in the RPWP where GIS and other methods are used to conduct analysis to identify needs and opportunities. He next stated they continue to work alongside SWRTA. He explained Task III-C – Livability Initiatives and Active Transportation Alternatives are other initiatives that we seek grant funding such as planning for Greenways and bicycle and pedestrian facilities, etc.

Chairman Stewart called for a motion to approve the Rural Planning Work Program. Mr. Jim McCain made a motion to approve the Rural Planning Work Program and seconded by Mr. Chuck Wilson. There being no discussion, Chairman Stewart called for the vote. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

8. New Business

a. Executive Directors Comments

Mr. Christopher McKinney stated SCDOT will be receiving federal funding which will eliminate some of their debt. Mr. McKinney stated his was hopefully, after hearing this announcement, that we would receive some of this additional funding. He continued, SCDOT asked us to present our number one and number two projects that we do not have the resources to complete as this time. The Bishopville Truck Route was submitted as number one and Black River Road project as number two. Mr. McKinney further stated if things go as expected, we will get our debt wiped out and we would receive additional funding to complete the Bishopville Truck Route and the Black River Road project. If we receive the funding from SCDOT now, that will clear the table for us to do additional projects. If we do not receive the funding, we will not be able to fund any projects until 2030-2032. Mr. McKinney indicated we cannot do business the same way we have done in the past. In the past, we did huge widening projects, which means if one project was awarded the other projects would have to wait 10 - 20 years before doing another project. Moving forward, the city/county will have to put in additional funding to make sure the project is fully funded. This will ensure that Guideshare Funds will not be encumbered. Mr. McKinney further indicated we will be looking at doing more intersection, pedestrian, greenways, or smaller projects that will have an impact and meet the goals of SCDOT.

A discussion followed regarding the announcement from SCDOT or FHA about the Bishopville Truck Route. Mr. McKinney stated they are still saying spring. The total cost of the project is an estimated \$32M. Mr. McKinney further explained SCDOT would give us the funding for the Bishopville Truck Route and would not come out of the Guideshare Funds. It was further discussed counties have not

been asked to put in C Fund accounts, which is what is received to resurface/rework current roads. The city/county does not have a lot of money to work with in the C Fund accounts.

Further discussion ensued on how this new funding will work. Mr. Cyphers stated SCDOT would absorb any costs/debt service (\$500,000). The \$500,000 debt service is from the Camden Truck Route.

Mr. McKinney clarified, if both projects are direct funded from the federal level. This means Feasibility Studies could be put back on the table to figure out what our next projects will be, and we will be looking at projects based on merit and costs. Further discussion followed concerning setting limits and criteria for Guideshare Funding to keep numbers on target.

9. Adjourn

Chairman Stewart called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Jim McCain made the motion to adjourn and Mr. Will Wheeler seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis Cyphers

Dennis Cyphers
Chief, Government Services