

Spartanburg County Transportation Committee
MINUTES
April 19, 2007
County Council Chambers
Spartanburg County Administration Office Building

A public meeting of the Spartanburg County Transportation Committee was held on Thursday, April 19, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. in County Council Chambers, Spartanburg County Administrative Office Building. Chairman Billy Painter presided. The following members were present: Tom Arthur, Sam Evatt, Mike Garrett, Steve Grant, Hal Murphy, John Throckmorton, and Hubert Boyd Waldrop.

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, notices of this meeting were mailed in advance to county officials, local news media, citizens, and other interested persons.

Item # 1 – Approval of January 18, 2007 meeting minutes

John Throckmorton made a motion to approve the January 18, 2007, meeting minutes as printed. Hugh Waldrop seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Item # 2 – Financial Report – Mrs. Sabrina Mason

The total unobligated funds as of March 31, 2007 were \$800,576.66. Four more months of user fees will be collected before the end of the fiscal year.

Item # 3 – Update on active projects – Mr. Eddie Speed

Mr. Eddie Speed reported the engineering department has continued with the Overall Condition Index (OCI) inspections.

Highway 357 @ Gap Creek is approximately sixty percent complete.

SC 295 @ Hayne Street project was started on April 2. The utilities are being moved.

Mr. Speed has been working with Eric Dillion on traffic control with regard to the McMillan @ SC 9 project. Mr. Dillion is designing left turning lanes by re-stripping the roadway instead of building a traffic island.

C Fund paving is almost complete.

The delegate set-aside for Carlock Road and Wood Lake turn lane projects are being designed. The bids will go out in early May.

The Howard and Pearl Street project is under construction. Charter and BellSouth are working on moving their utilities. Charter is trying to get special permission to work in the daylight hours.

There was some discussion regarding the funding for the Skylyn Drive project as to whether or not the funds had reverted back into the general funds as other funding for the project had not been secured. In June, SPATS will be discussing their position on funds for this same project.

Item # 4 – Proposed Spartanburg Capital Improvement Projects – Mr. Chris Bever

Mr. Chris Bever has developed a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the County. The CIP is a five-year instrument to be used by the County to identify capital needs. The CIP helps the County plan the development and/or rehabilitation of public owned property and infrastructure which includes roads and bridges, sidewalks, technology, vehicles and other equipment.

This five-year CIP helps preserve the existing assets which in turn helps avoid costly maintenance. The county can achieve economies according to scale, i.e., several road projects and/or HVAC replacements could be bid at same time to receive better rates. The CIP will provide the framework to leverage funds. If capital improvement projects are known ahead of time, the County could look at possible grant funding, public/private partnerships to complete projects, etc. The CIP will allow the county to develop a strategic, forward thinking budget plan, instead of looking at projects in one year and missing them, and looking at the same project the next year. The CIP supports the county's long-range planning goals, benefiting the county now, but more importantly, benefiting future generations.

The Office of Budget Management created the project description forms. Departments and divisions identified the capital needs. Budget Management reviewed each request to determine feasibility. Revenues were identified and applied to each project. The CIP was then reviewed by Budget Management and County Administration, and recommended for approval by the County Administrator.

Each project had its own project description form divided into different categories. The important piece of the CIP was the debt service analysis because, more than likely, the county will have to issue some debt for the detention facility expansion.

The CIP will allow stakeholders to have a thorough understanding of capital needs in Spartanburg County.

The five year plan is approximately \$116M in expenditures with 42% for Public Works, and almost \$36M for Public Safety.

The focus areas will preserve the public's assets, provide for public safety of citizens, businesses, and visitors, ensure efficient and effective services to the public, and advance the Parks and Recreation infrastructure with identification of funding source. Under each focus area are some of the

building improvements, countywide asphalt resurfacing, bridge and culvert repair and maintenance, sidewalk replacement program, and vehicle and capital equipment replacement.

The Public Safety expenditures include the main detention facility expansion, Fairforest road widening, Zion Hill at US 29 intersection improvements, Zimmerman road bridge replacement, and solid waste project that will benefit all public safety departments.

The efficient services expenditures includes the facilities master plan, 911 voice logging system replacement, countywide network, services and software upgrade and replacement.

The Parks and Recreation expenditures includes two phases of Westside park, New Cut Road regional park planning, parks and recreation vehicle and capital equipment replacement, as well as identification of projects beyond the five year plan.

The Fairforest Road widening is scheduled to be funded with the road maintenance fee at approximately \$975,000. The money has been split over two years, with the first year monies to be used for planning, right-of-ways, and leverage for other funding sources. The second year, the project could go to construction and completed in a timely fashion.

The Hampton Road at Holly Springs Road intersection improvement will have \$350,000 in funding for two consecutive years.

From the road maintenance fee, in 2007/2008, the county is budgeting \$2.836M and supplementing that with \$375,000 from the general fund, making the total county funding for resurfacing at \$3.2M for the next five planned years.

The municipal road resurfacing projects amount to about \$600,000 per year, but that number could change with the amount collected from the road maintenance fee.

In the first year of the CIP, the county would like to complete an assessment for the sidewalk replacement program. If assessment is completed, about a mile of prioritized sidewalk projects will be completed in a year.

Bridge replacements are also included in the CIP with funding from the road maintenance fee in the amount of \$457,000. The money will be available when County Council approves the CIP on July 1, 2007.

Zimmerman Road Bridge replacement is another example of how funding is going to be split over a two year period. Hopefully, the county can start leveraging funds, if not, move forward to next year with a plan to develop in 08/09.

As an overview of the revenues objectives, the county balanced all projects with revenue sources. They are feasible to accomplish with some action from County Council. The County wants to leverage local dollars with state and federal dollars. Money is being moved from the general funds over to the capital improvement plan where it should be. The county understands they will issue debt but

minimize the long-term impact on debt millage staying below the debt limit. The county created a vehicle and capital equipment replacement fund to meet long-term needs.

There are several debt issuances in the CIP – capital lease financing of Sheriff’s vehicles through four years. This will help the vehicle and capital equipment replacement project whole so no debt will have to be issued in the future.

There is a general obligation bond of almost \$34M, of which, the majority is going to the recommended detention facility expansion and other small projects.

The county is also going to try to issue a revenue bond, secured by the solid waste fees, to help some of the landfill projects including expansion and closing while looking at available debt to make sure it is within the parameters of the funding sources.

The county will continue to review the CIP with County Council. It is hopeful the CIP will be adopted with the operating budget in June, 2007 to allow project managers to start moving forward showing projects in the CIP.

Item # 5 – Proposed C Fund project administration requirements

The proposed C Fund project administration requirements derived from an advisory committee discussion to find ways to move approved projects to completion in a timely fashion. The committee has experienced projects being delayed for various reasons. The recommendation to the CTC is that local governments, agencies, and authorities who receive C Funds are responsible for administering the project funds through completion. C Fund awards for a project will have a term of not more than eighteen (18) months. All purchases of goods and services shall be made to the established procurement policies of the agencies. The administering agency shall make written quarterly project status reports by the end of the following months: March, June, September and December. Projects reimbursements payments shall not be made unless the quarterly reports are filed. Funds not expended within the 18 month project term will be lost by the Administering Agencies and returned to the C-Fund general account. The committee will soften the language, incorporate into the Notice of Project Approval form, and, devise a form C Fund Quarterly Report for use by the Administering Agencies to file such a report.

Mr. Tom Arthur moved to accept the recommendation. John Throckmorton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Item # 6 – Recommended projects from Advisory Committee – Mike Garrett

a) South Carolina General Assembly, House Bill 3251, SCDOT name a portion of SC 221 from Manning Street to Thompson Street, Lieutenant Colonel Howard L. Painter Boulevard, Chesnee High School Principal from 1957 – 1980 - \$400 for sign placement.

The South Carolina General Assembly and the South Carolina Department of Transportation approved naming a portion of SC 221 from Manning Street to Thompson Street the Lieutenant Colonel Howard L. Painter Boulevard. Lt. Col. Painter is a retired principal from Chesnee High School. The sign would be placed on a portion of SC 221 near the Chesnee High School.

John Throckmorton moved to approve \$400 for the sign honoring Lieutenant Colonel Howard L. Painter. Hugh Waldrop seconded the motion. The motion carried.

b) State Match Program (SMP 08) to resurface secondary roads on the State Highway System on a dollar for dollar basis up to \$276,000.

A state match program for 2008 has been offered to resurface secondary state roads on a dollar for dollar basis in the amount of \$276,000. The DOT will provide up to \$276,000 for \$276,000 of CTC funds provided. The Advisory Committee recommends approval. The match dollars have already been approved in the state resurfacing program several months ago. The list of desired projects, listed on the SMP'08 Participation Form, will be completed for as far as the dollar amount permits.

John Throckmorton moved to approve the State Match Program 2008 funding for up to \$276,000 to resurface secondary state roads on a dollar for dollar basis. Tom Arthur seconded the motion. The motion carried.

c) Recommended Policy requiring traffic impact studies for new schools

The Advisory Committee is recommending the CTC consider a policy in regards to funding transportation infrastructure projects as a result of new school construction. This issue continues to be a challenge in the county as growth occurs and traffic increases in areas where new schools are built.

The Advisory Committee established a subcommittee to discuss the issue and make recommendations as to how this particular issue should be addressed. The Advisory Committee asked SCDOT State Traffic Engineer (responsible for sighting the new schools) to serve on the committee and advise the process. Jim D'amato served as the sub-committee chairman. The committee met and felt that better communications between Spartanburg County Planners and the school districts are necessary in order to identify and plan for projects in the very early stages.

The subcommittee felt it would be necessary for the schools to conduct a traffic impact study at each school sight as part of the improvement process to identify what improvements were necessary to support the schools whether it is an intersection improvement or road widening. The Advisory Committee is recommending the following sentence be adopted as a policy: The CTC will not consider roadway improvement projects required to support increased traffic resulting from new school construction projects unless a traffic impact analysis is completed for vehicles and pedestrians before

construction of the school begins.

However, the statement doesn't clarify who would pay for the traffic study as well as other specifics. After careful consideration, the subcommittee will revisit the school traffic study policy, re-define with more specifics, and bring the defined policy back to the CTC for consideration of adopting.

Several problems have been cited: One is that Spartanburg County's land development standard does not require developers to complete a traffic impact study, and, the school districts are not required to tell local governments what their plans are or where they will build the schools.

d) Discussion of project funding priorities with respect to sidewalk construction requests for City of Pacolet and City of Landrum

Several sidewalk construction projects were presented for funding at the last Advisory meeting. One, from the City of Pacolet, is to extend the sidewalk on Hillbrook Circle at an estimated cost of \$150,000. About half of the estimated cost has been matched with a transportation enhancement grant.

Two requests were submitted by the City of Landrum – one on North Randolph Street at an estimated cost of \$470,000, and the other on East Prince Road at an estimated cost of \$123,000. The projects are valid projects to improve their pedestrian infrastructure, trails, and walkable communities.

The Advisory Committee did not approve any of the sidewalk project requests for recommendations due to concerns as to where the committee is headed with CTC priorities. At the time, the committee was concerned about the continuance of the county road fee. The county road fee has been used to partner with C Funds to do some projects. If the county road fee is eliminated or reduced it would severely impact the committee's ability to fund the priorities. The committee hasn't been able to accomplish many projects listed on the priority list. Once the road fee is considered in tact, a program can be put together to start on the prioritized list.

Mayor Elaine Harris presented an overview of the six (6) mile route Pacolet is creating. Existing sidewalks are on Highway 150, which is at one end of the Hillbrook sidewalk project. At the other end of Hillbrook Circle where the existing sidewalk ends, there is a need to connect the sidewalk to Highway 150.

Families already walk the ½ mile stretch and enjoy that mode of transportation. The six (6) mile route already has sidewalks and trail which leads by the upper and lower level of the town hall, along the Pacolet River, passing the amphitheater, the Middle School of Pacolet, Marysville Community School, T. W. Edwards recreation center, Police and Fire station, Library, the central business district, and the sports complex. The trail portion was funded through SPATS for \$89,000 with construction to start within the next few weeks. The project cost \$150,000 of which, funds have been secured from SPATS in the amount of \$63,723; Representative Littlejohn has allocated \$18,312 of his set aside funds;

and the balance needed is \$67,965. The project is a part of the community master plan. In December, the Spartanburg Marriott is going to host the South Carolina Pedestrian and Bike conference. The conference looks at the environment, safety, different modes of transportation such as walking and biking. Pacolet is slated to be one of the communities the conference attendees will visit. Because Pacolet wants to provide a community that is healthy and safe, Pacolet has already received \$28,000 from the Mary Black Foundation to enhance the trailhead which is the area near the river.

Mr. Tom Arthur made a motion to approve the funding of \$67,965 to complete the sidewalk project for the Town of Pacolet. Mr. Hal Murphy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The total cost of the two sidewalk projects in Landrum is estimated to cost \$592,425.24. The Town of Landrum indicated they could receive other funds, but the amount was not revealed in the Advisory meeting. Landrum is not completed with a major project. This project will be put on hold until the prioritized projects can be explored for funding.

e) Discussion of intersection improvement project at SC 358 and Hampton Road

Mr. Garrett wanted to advise the committee that the SC358 @ Hampton Road intersection improvement project is located on the western side of the county. Hampton Road is a county road and SC 358 is a state road. The intersection improvement project considered is to construct left turn lanes on each of the four corners of the intersection and install a traffic signal at an estimated cost of \$700,000. School District 5 was approached to see if they would be willing to partner on the project. The school district stated they would provide \$300,000 toward the project. The project is next on the prioritized list, and it is also on the CIP list. This project has not been addressed in the Advisory Committee meeting. Therefore, the Advisory Committee will revisit the prioritized list in order to determine how dollars can be leveraged for projects.

f) Intersection improvements at Hanging Rock Road and Sugar Ridge Road – installation of 4-way stop

The intersection improvement at Hanging Rock Road @ Sugar Ridge Road will have a 4-way stop installed to improve traffic congestion.

Item # 7 – Projects NOT recommended from the Advisory Committee

None

Item # 6 – New Business

None

Item # 7 – Old Business

With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Mr. Billy Painter, Chairman

Carol Crowe, Attested