

**Spartanburg County Transportation Committee**  
**MINUTES**  
**January 18, 2007**  
**County Council Chambers**  
**Spartanburg County Administration Office Building**

A public meeting of the Spartanburg County Transportation Committee was held on Thursday, January 18, 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, John Throckmorton, Hubert Boyd Waldrop, and Bud Workman.

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 October 19, 2006 meeting minutes**

John Throckmorton made a motion to approve the October 19, 2006, meeting minutes as printed. Sam Evatt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Item # 2 – Financial Report – Mrs. Sabrina Mason**

The total unobligated funds as of January 9, 2007 were \$567,728.52. This includes user fees through November. Seven more months of user fees will be collected before the end of the fiscal year.

**Item # 3 – Update of projects – Mr. Eddie Speed**

The engineering department is continuing the Overall Condition Index (OCI) rating inspections. For the last three months the engineering department has completed 2,001 inspections for a little over 402 miles.

The 357 @ Gap Creek Road intersection improvement project invitation for bids are on the internet. A pre-bid construction meeting is scheduled for January 31 and the bids are to be in on February 8.

Drainage problems have arisen on the Highway 296 @ S62 project.

SC 295 @ Hayne Street final plans are expected tomorrow. One piece of property is yet to be purchased.

McMillan @ Highway 9 project is on the back burner as nothing much will be constructed other than an island with a right-turn out only. More traffic information is being collected.

The Howard @ Pearl Street intersection improvement project has been let. The pre-construction conference was on January 5. Traffic control signs are up. Right-of-way will possibly be staked tomorrow. Monday the contractor will start clearing and grubbing. The old building should be moved the last week of the month.

**Item # 4 – Recommended projects from Advisory Committee – Mike Garrett**

The following projects were presented to the committee:

**a) Delegation set-aside for House District 37:**

**1) Paint crosswalk on Old Furnace Road at Boiling Springs High School @ \$840 and,**

**2) Holden Drive – replace cross pipe, widen and pave gravel road @ \$50,000**

Representative Davenport would like to have a crosswalk painted at Boiling Springs High School at a cost estimate of \$840 and make improvements to Holden Drive. Holden Drive intersects at Highway 9. It is a gravel County road that has many requests to be paved as it is a cut through that receives a lot of traffic. It is proposed to replace the cross pipe to improve the drainage, widen the pavement, and pave the road. The County has previously acquired the right-of-way at an estimated cost of \$50,000. The Advisory Committee has reviewed both of the projects and recommends funding the projects.

John Throckmorton moved to accept the recommendation to fund the projects. The motion was seconded and approved.

**b) Delegation set-aside for House District 31:**

**1) Southport Station access road from SC 295 into Paige Property @ \$50,520**

Representative Harold Mitchell request his delegation set-aside be put towards the construction of a new access road off SC 295 into a Spartanburg Housing Authority Hope VI project leading into the Paige property where Paige's lake used to be. The Spartanburg Housing Authority has acquired the property and is developing new housing which is requiring a new access road. This delegation set-aside would go toward the cost of the project. The Advisory Committee reviewed the project and recommends approval.

The total cost of the project for the access road is approximately \$600,000 to \$700,000. The Housing Authority is paying for the access road to be constructed.

Tom Arthur moved to accept the recommendation to fund the project at \$50,520. The motion

was seconded and approved.

**c) Delegation set-aside for House District 42:**

**1) Dairy Ridge Road Bridge replacement @ \$3,440**

The Dairy Ridge Road Bridge has been closed for approximately two years. The County has not been able to secure total funding to replace the bridge. Representative Littlejohn has been working toward securing funding for the project. He has contributed his last few years of set-asides toward future funding. Representative Anthony represents a small portion of Spartanburg County and has agreed to pledge his funding toward the project.

This request will be addressed along with Item # 4 h.

**d) Delegation set-aside for House District 32:**

**1) Intersection improvements at Fernwood Drive and Wood burn Road @ \$51,400**

This project is located within the City of Spartanburg limits. This set-aside does not cover the total cost of the project. The project will include a right-turn lane on Woodburn Road onto Fernwood Drive. There is an existing traffic signal, but the intersection is very congested. The original amount stated on this request was to have \$26,400 used toward this project, however, Representative Smith had also requested a monument project at the auditorium be funded with the remaining portion of his set-aside funds, but that project was denied by the Advisory Committee. Therefore, Representative Smith has agreed to expend his entire \$51,400 to the intersection improvement project. The City of Spartanburg is evaluating the project before a funding decision can be made.

Tom Arthur made a motion to fund \$51,400 toward the intersection improvement cost of the Fernwood Drive @ Woodburn Road project subject to the City of Spartanburg contributing the remaining construction cost. The motion was seconded and approved.

**e) Delegation set-aside for House District 35**

**1) Town of Reidville sidewalk repairs @ \$15,000 and,**

**2) City of Woodruff sidewalk repairs @ \$35,960**

Representative Phil Sinclair requests his set-asides be split between two sidewalk repair projects. The first one is for the Town of Reidville @ \$15,000 and the balance of \$35,960 be used for sidewalk repairs in the City of Woodruff. Representative Kelly concurs with the requests.

Sam Evatt moved to approve the sidewalk repair requests as presented. The motion was seconded and approved.

**f) Drainage improvements at Howard Street, Old Howard Gap Road and Myrtle Avenue @ \$83,500**

This project has been a nagging problem for years. Water drains off the fairgrounds property and the old race track area down through a ditch and exits on Myrtle Avenue. It is piped through a 36" pipe down Myrtle Avenue and crosses the road into a hodgepodge of broken concrete pipes and collapsed corrugated metal pipe that runs through private property in front of a restaurant that takes it up to Howard Street. It is an old antiquated system. Many complaints have been received from the restaurant owner as the drainage runs through the restaurant. A pipe has collapsed and the restaurant has closed. Many complaints have been received from the liquor store as water puddles at the intersection. The old drainage system needs replaced from Myrtle Avenue in the vicinity of the 36" pipe directly across Howard Street, through private property. The runoff will be dumped into an existing drainage system that drains into Cleveland Park. The estimated cost is \$83,500. The committee felt this would be a worthy project. Part of the project is located within the City; part is within the County with a portion on DOT property. For years fingers have been pointed and it is time to do something.

John Throckmorton moved to approve the funding for the drainage project to be replaced. Bud Workman seconded the project. The motion carried.

**g) City of Pacolet retaining wall @ \$15,300 (additional funding)**

The concrete retaining wall is located within the City of Pacolet right-of-way that was part of the old mill village infrastructure. The wall slopes from about 8' to about 20' feet tall. On the high side the wall is failing, tilting out, and will fall. The Mayor of Pacolet brought the project to the CTC attention several months ago. Mayor Harris was so concerned about the failing wall that Pacolet agreed to fund an engineering study to evaluate the structural condition of the wall and recommend repairs. The evaluation recommended the wall be stabilized with anchors that would be drilled through the wall and grouted behind the wall at an estimated cost of \$74,400. Mr. Garrett brought this information before the committee at the last meeting. It was recommended that half of the estimated cost be approved by the CTC with the Mayor attempting to obtain other sources for the additional funding. Mayor Harris has worked on obtaining the additional funding, but has not been successful. It has been anticipated that a 10% contingency would be necessary to complete the project. The 10% contingency was not added to the estimated cost at the last meeting. The Mayor came back to the Advisory Committee asking for additional funding to complete the project. The Mayor has agreed to participate at a higher funding level (from Road Fee funding) and the Advisory Committee is recommending the CTC increase its funding by \$15,300.

Mr. Tom Arthur moved to approve \$15,300 of additional funding to repair the retaining wall in

Pacolet. John Throckmorton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**h) Dairy Ridge Road Bridge letter from Representative Littlejohn**

A letter has been received from Representative Littlejohn concerning the funding of the Dairy Ridge Road Bridge replacement. Representative Littlejohn is trying to work out a partnering arrangement to have the Dairy Ridge Road bridge replaced. The letter suggests contacting other agencies to see if they would be willing to participate. His plan is to obtain \$250,000 each from the State Parks and Recreation Department, Department of Transportation, CTC, Spartanburg County, and state or federal government. Item 4C is also requesting Representative Mike Anthony's portion of his set-asides in the amount of \$3,440 be used towards the funding to replace the Dairy Ridge Road Bridge. Representative Littlejohn agreed to contribute his set-aside funding for the last two years.

The Dairy Ridge Road Bridge is located near the Camp Croft entrance and has been closed for two years. The bridge was built back in the 1940s by the Core of Engineers. The narrow bridge is 30' high with a span of about 70', two concrete single spans on each end, and a steel truss in the middle. It is the biggest bridge that the County owns. The steel truss has failed. DOT has evaluated the bridge and recommended it be closed for safety reasons. There has been some controversy as to who is responsible to maintain the bridge. At one time, the bridge was on a section of a state highway. A portion of Dairy Ridge Road including the bridge was maintained by the state highway, and the county maintained the remaining roadway out to Highway 295. In the last ten years or so, the DOT has changed their position as to what their maintenance responsibilities were on the bridge. DOT states their responsibility for the roadway was only at the intersection of Highway 56 @ Dairy Ridge Road. This was never worked out to anybody's satisfaction. The County has contacted the DOT several times questioning their maintenance position, however, the DOT still insist they never did maintain the bridge, but the bridge needs to be replaced. The traffic counts are low, about 250 per day. Staff has discussed whether or not to replace the bridge or cul-de-sac both sides of the bridge. This information has been discussed with County Council but there has never been any guidance given as to the corrective action preferred, nor has any County funding been set aside for repairing/replacing the bridge. In the meantime, Representative Littlejohn has received many requests from his constituents to have the bridge replaced. As a result Representative Littlejohn has taken this request on as a project. The County and the CTC still has the bridge listed as a project to do.

Sam Evatt made a motion to approve funding not to exceed \$250,000 towards the replacement of the Dairy Ridge Road Bridge on the condition that all funding sources are secured for the bridge replacement from all entities by December 31, 2007. The motion also includes approval of Representative Anthony's set-aside funding request for \$3,440. John Throckmorton seconded the

motion. The motion carried.

**Item # 5 – Projects NOT recommended from the Advisory Committee**

**a) Farm Lake Road @ SC 9 intersection improvement**

The CTC received a request from County Council Chairman Jeff Horton to look at an intersection problem on SC 9 @ Farm Lake Road. The intersection is located opposite the Wal-Mart on SC 9 in Boiling Springs. The Advisory Committee decided not to recommend approval because the SPATS project is going to widen SC 9 beginning at that intersection within the next four or five years. The committee felt allocating monies to the project would be a waste of money. The engineering work to widen SC 9 has already begun.

**Item # 6 – New Business**

Representative Walker noted that the House and Senate is working on the SCDOT situation regarding the legislative audit findings. Tony Chapman, currently the interim director for the SCDOT, appeared before the Education and Transportation Committee in Columbia shared current updates on the SCDOT. Hopefully, within the next couple of weeks, there will be legislation in the House, but answers will not be resolved any time soon. Funding may be affected in the restructuring of the department. Representative Walker encouraged the CTC to contact their legislators asking them to do what can be done. There is \$170M left over from last year. Representative Walker is trying to get some of those funds allocated on a non-recurring basis for maintenance. Clarence Scoffield feels there will be some matching funds available in the next few months, however, there is no certainty of matching funds.

Mr. Tom Arthur wanted to mention that since there are new County Council members, a lot is up in the air about what will happen to the \$25.00 road maintenance fee. The only people that seem to be speaking out on this are those who oppose the road fee. Mr. Arthur would like to know if it would be appropriate for the committee to make a recommendation to Council that the road maintenance fee remain in place until such a time that an established alternative source is readily available to fund county road maintenance.

The County has tried to maximize the road maintenance fee with matching C Funds. It is a huge benefit to be able to match funds. County roadways have been widened, intersections have been improved, and roadways have been resurfaced. Without the road maintenance fee, none of the projects would have been able to be completed.

Sam Evatt made a motion to write a letter to County Council Chairman taking a position that the

road maintenance fee has been greatly used and matched, and not to be done away with until an alternative funding method is in place to maintain roadways in Spartanburg County. The motion was seconded and approved.

Mr. Bud Workman requested a list of the 2007 meeting dates. All scheduled CTC meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. in County Council Chambers on the third Thursdays once each quarter. For 2007, the scheduled meeting dates are: January 18, 2007; April 19, 2007; July 19, 2007; and October 18, 2007.

**Item # 7 – Old Business**

**a) approval of Delegation set-aside overrun**

In 2005, House District 32 set-aside budget was approved at \$79,220 with the actual amount spent was \$68,023.46. In 2006, House District 32 projects were administered by the City of Spartanburg and budgeted at \$36,328, but actual monies spent were \$43,780.16.

However, if monies are not spent on a specific project, the remainder goes back into the general fund, therefore, the overage would need to be approved.

Sam Evatt made a motion to approve \$7,452.16 to cover the overrun. John Throckmorton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

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**Mr. Billy Painter, Chairman**

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**Carol Crowe, Attested**