

Spartanburg County Transportation Committee
MINUTES
JULY 17, 2008
6:00 P.M.
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SPARTANBURG COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE BUILDING

A public meeting of the Spartanburg County Transportation Committee was held on Thursday, July 17, 2008, 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, William Hamilton, Steve McAbee, 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 April 17, 2008 meeting minutes

Mr. Steve McAbee moved to approve the April 17, 2008 meeting minutes as printed and mailed. Mr. Hal Murphy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Item # 2 - Financial Report – Mrs. Sabrina Dickens Mason

Mrs. Sabrina Mason reports the total unobligated funds as of June 30, 2008 were \$2,832,518.73 which includes user fees through May as well as the donor county funds. The donor county funds this year were \$958,312.31 which is a little less than in previous years. There is one more month of user fees to collect for the 2008 fiscal year. There is also one more month of administrative contract funds to subtract from the unobligated fund balance.

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

Mr. Speed reported that in the last three months there has been six projects completed amounting to \$1.9M. Every project came in under budget except for one which came in on budget. There will be approximately \$64,929 reverting back into the general fund.

There have been six new projects started – Zion Hill @ US 29. Preliminary plans will be submitted by August 15.

The Cherry Hill Road @ Old Converse Road project has been designed and permits have been secured. There is one parcel of right-of-way to purchase.

The Peachtree Road @ Bible Church Road project is about 50% complete.

The Woodburn Road @ Fernwood Drive project is 90% complete. This project and the Peachtree Road project have been held up by the telephone company.

The Fairforest Road widening project has been designed, permits are secured, and right-of-way is being purchased.

The SC 358 @ Hampton Road project has been designed. All permits are secured. The right-of-way person states that he will be picking up all the final paperwork on Monday. Therefore, bids should be out by August 15 with construction to start by September 1.

Item # 4 – Wayfinding Sign policy – Mike Garrett

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) has adopted a Wayfinding Sign Policy. The policy is a guide and the signs will direct motorists to points of interest around the cities. The policy sets the design criteria for size, color, letter size, information entitled to be used on the sign, etc. However, no commercial establishments are permitted on such signage. Maintenance for the wayfinding signs is required of the municipality placing such signage.

The Advisory Committee is recommending the CTC adopt the SCDOT wayfinding sign policy with the addition of the following statement: *Monies approved for such wayfinding signage shall be allocated from delegation set-aside funding.*

William Hamilton moved to adopt the SCDOT Wayfinding Sign Policy with the additional CTC requirement. John Throckmorton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Item # 5 – Recommended projects from Advisory Committee – Mike Garrett

a. Glendale Bridge restoration - \$50,000

Dr. George Fields explained that the bridge project is a part of a much larger project using the Lawson's Fork Creek and the Pacolet River. It will be a ten and one-half paddling trail. The hub of the project will be in Glendale using the falls and the bridge in order to have some kayaking and canoeing, as well as a twenty-five acre riverside park. The three partners (SPACE, Wofford College, and Palmetto Conservation Foundation) are coordinating with others in Glendale to extend the paddling trail to Clifton and Pacolet.

The bridge is located in the center of Glendale. SCDOT gave up the bridge in 1976 and the County has been maintaining the bridge since then as a pedestrian bridge. The bridge is the one thing that can be seen from the highway. Plans are to restore the bridge for pedestrian safety.

The bridge will be used for functions and as a part of the trail. The restoration of the bridge will be a central cultural feature for the area boosting a new mission around ecotourism to replace the lost textile industry.

The Glendale Outdoor Leadership school has been organized to train leaders in trail building, water sports, rock climbing, hiking, and biking. Classes have already begun. The center for the School is in the old Methodist Church building. The property encumbers four acres of land located two blocks from the river. The Greenway will connect the hiking trails.

Wofford is building a \$2M environmental study center. The Palmetto Conservation Foundation is building the Greenway at an estimated cost of \$550,000.

A SPATS enhancement grant is contributing \$100,000. The Palmetto Conservation Foundation is contributing \$100,000 for the bridge restoration. Mr. Fields is requesting \$50,000 of C funds to help with the restoration of the bridge. The deck of the bridge will be restored. The old pedestrian walkway on the bridge will be removed and lights will be added to the bridge.

Various grants are secured to complete the greenway and the paddling trail.

Tom Arthur moved to approve \$50,000 toward the restoration of the Glendale bridge for pedestrians. Steve McAbee seconded the motion. The motion carried.

b. Intersection improvement at Lake Bowen Dam Road @ SC 9 - \$450,000

This is an intersection improvement project on Highway 9 just south of the Highway 292 intersection. This has become a problematic intersection due to area growth. The committee was hopeful to accomplish this intersection improvement by the widening of Highway 9. But with the available funding this cannot be accomplished.

The proposal is to construct left turn lanes on Highway 9 and Lake Bowen Dam Road and install a traffic signal at an estimated cost of \$450,000. The Advisory Committee prioritized the intersection improvement as the number one project. The Advisory Committee is recommending the project be funded at \$450,000. No match funding is available.

Tom Arthur moved to approve the project at \$450,000. The question arose as to whether or not a right turn lane would be constructed on Highway 9. The final design has not been completed. If a right turn lane is needed, then it will also be constructed. John Throckmorton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

c. Lieutenant Colonel Howard L. Painter Boulevard sign - \$500

The CTC had previously approved \$400 for this sign, however, \$500 is required for the signage.

Hugh Waldrop moved to approve \$100 for the additional funding for the Lt. Col. Howard L. Painter Boulevard sign. Hal Murphy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

d. Sergeant Shawn F. Hill Memorial Highway sign - \$500

The Sergeant Shawn F. Hill Memorial Highway sign has been approved by the State Highway Commission. Hugh Waldrop moved to approve \$500 for the signage. The motion was seconded and carried.

Recently, there have been two other such requests submitted by the SCDOT. One is for a sign for the new SC Highway 215 around Roebuck to be renamed the “L.E. Gable Memorial Highway” and the other is to name the bridge across the CSX railroad tracks along SC Highway 215 the “M.D. Putnam Bridge.”

In accordance with the state code, Sam Evatt made a motion to approve \$500 for each of these signs. Hugh Waldrop seconded the motion. The motion carried.

e. Annual administrative funding - \$2000

In accordance with the state code, county transportation committees may expend from funds allocated an amount not to exceed \$2,000 for reasonable administrative expenses directly related to the activities of the committee.

Tom Arthur made a motion to approve \$2000 administrative funding. Sam Evatt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**f. Annual Spartanburg County Contract - \$264,000
Includes Automobile for CTC @ \$12,500**

The annual CTC/Spartanburg County Contract is to assist the CTC with the operation/administrative functions of the CTC program. This year the contract request has been increased by \$18,000 from \$246,000 to \$264,000. The \$18,000 increase includes \$12,500 to replace an automobile for Jim Nelson.

Sam Evatt moved to approve \$264,000 for the fiscal year 2009 CTC/County contract. Steve McAbee seconded the motion. The motion carried.

g. East Union Street sidewalk in Chesnee, Rep. Walker 2009 set-aside - \$42,000

The East Union Street sidewalk installation is a 2009 set-aside funding request for the Senior Center in the Chesnee community.

Sam Evatt moved to approve the \$42,000 to install sidewalks in the Chesnee Community. Hugh Waldrop seconded the motion. The motion carried.

h. Gibbs Road Pavement Rehabilitation - \$180,000 + \$191,000 = \$371,000

Gibbs Road is a pavement rehabilitation project in Wellford. Gibbs Road runs from John Dodd Road to SC 292. Gibbs Road is the responsibility of three agencies – The State DOT has a small section from SC 292 that is 1727 feet long, the County has a 5000 foot section down to Black Duck Road, and the City of Wellford has recently annexed the remaining portion. The CTC Advisory is recommending the pavement be rehabilitated at a cost of \$484,000 to do the Wellford section. Wellford has agreed to use their road fee money that has been put in the bank for the last four years at \$113,000. The CTC Advisory is recommending the CTC approve monies from the annual CTC municipal paving funds at \$180,000. (The annual municipal paving funds will be reduced by this same amount.) The additional funding is being requested from C Funds at \$191,000. The total pavement reclamation estimated cost is \$484,000 which does not include the state and county portion of Gibbs Road as it is not necessary to reclaim these portions of the roadway. No trucks will be permitted to use the roadway.

John Throckmorton moved to approve \$180,000 of municipal C Fund paving monies and \$191,000 of C Funds. Tom Arthur seconded the motion. The motion carried.

h. Pacolet Wayfinding Signs, 2008 set-aside - \$19,500

This is a delegation set-aside request for the City of Pacolet to install Wayfinding signs in the community at a cost of \$19,500. The CTC Advisory entertained this request several months ago and agreed it was a valid project for C Funds, but needed more information.

Steve McAbee made a motion to approve the \$19,500 for the City of Pacolet Wayfinding signs using the criteria from the CTC approved Wayfinding Sign policy. Hal Murphy seconded the motion. Tom Arthur opposed the motion. The motion carried

j. State Match Program for 2009 - \$276,000

This is an opportunity to match CTC monies with the state pavement program at \$276,000. This program requires the CTC to spend these matching funds over and above the required bi-annual 25%. The list, submitted by the state, is not a state prioritized list, but a list for the CTC to select and prioritized the roads for the program.

Hugh Waldrop moved to approve the 2009 State Match Program for \$276,000. Tom Arthur seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Item # 6 - New Business

The CTC Advisory Committee has been developing a project priority list. The projects were submitted by almost everyone in the transportation community and put through an evaluation scored ranking process. This project priority list will be used as a guided road map for future considerations of the committee.

Item # 7 - Old Business

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned.

Mr. Billy Painter, Chairman

Carol Crowe, Attested