

Transportation Penny Advisory Committee
February 25, 2019 – 5:30 PM
4th Floor Conference Room
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia 29204

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Frank Anderson, Richard Brown, Phillip Simoneaux, Larry Funderburk, John Epting, Cyril Busbee, Jr., Karim Johnson, Malcolm Gordge, Jack Oliver and Lee Mashburn

OTHERS PRESENT: Michelle Onley, Kimberly Toney, Bryant Davis, Nathaniel Miller, and Mohammed Al-Tofan

CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Phillip Simoneaux called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Mr. Jim Prater spoke about the Smith/Rocky Branch public meeting during the public comment portion.

In response to the Mr. Prater’s comments, Mr. Simoneaux requested that staff look into the date of mailing of public meeting notices.

Mr. Beaty stated on future comment forms they will attempt do a better job of clarifying that the citizens should indicate, in order, their preferences of completion.

Mr. Beaty was asked why the citizens were being asked for their preference.

Mr. Beaty stated the referendum for Smith/Rocky Branch identified 3 segments: A, B and C. It identified an amount of funding for each segment, so as part of the process they want to present the project to the public, explain that funding is limited, that prices have gone up, and we will not be able to build all 3. There is a 2-week comment period for the citizens to indicate what is important, and if they could pick 1 or 2, what would they choose. After the 2-week comment period, the PDT and OET Teams compile all of the comments, summarize them and present the results to the Transportation Ad Hoc Committee, and ultimately Council. Once Council decides to move forward with Alternate “X”, we develop the alternate and typically hold another public meeting to publicly present the alternate. The team will make a recommendation of what makes sense based on public input, available funding and connectivity.

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES UPDATE

- ◇ **Executive Summary:** This report is submitted pursuant to Ordinance(s) 049-13HR and 058-16HR to ensure that the OSBO team provides support to the County to ensure that the SLBE has equal opportunity to participate in County contracts for all six (6) Industry Categories: Construction Services, Professional Services, Non-Professional Services, Engineering Services, Architectural Services, and Wholesale Operations.
- ◇ **Purpose:** The purpose of this report is to manage the ongoing requirements of the Ordinance(s), improving and creating new Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and ensuring payments to contracted SLBEs.
- ◇ **Analysis:** SLBE Certified Firms (Active Certification) – 83 Firms

◇ **Contract Participation:**

- Payments to SLBE Certified - \$34,199,808
- Payments to Uncertified Firms - \$128,398,654
- Total - \$162,598,462

◇ **Department Outlook:**

- i. *Facilitating increase in County wide SLBE utilization in County wide contracts*
 - OSBO staff is collaborating with RC Directors to identify current vendors to become certified SLBEs
 - ii. *Continued review of PDT SLBE Contractual Compliance*
 - *PDT SLBE Participation Update and Payment Invoices*
- ***Business Development***
 - i. *OSBO Website Highlights*
 - ii. *Highlighted Articles*
 - ❖ *Firm's Featured Stories*
 - *DAD N Associates, LLC – District 3*
 - *Brownstone Construction Group, LLC – District 4*
 - iii. *Attended weekly 1 Million Cups – Columbia*
 - iv. *Coordinated the Small Business Compliance and Legal Issues Workshop, January 24*
 - ❖ *38 Registered, 44 Attended*
 - v. *Coordinated and participated in the Small Business Certification Workshop, February 11*
 - ❖ *63 Registered, 83 Attended*
 - vi. *Attended Dirt Road Package Bid Opening, January 30*
 - ***Certification & Compliance:***

(Projects Completed)

 - i. *Attended Richland County Dirt Road I project Bid Opening*
 - ii. *Attended Pre-Bid workshop for SERN project*
 - iii. *Assisted in hosting OSBO Legal workshop*
 - iv. *Richland Library and OSBO hosted speakers from various governmental agencies to explain how and why small businesses should become certified. Business owners learned how to easily navigate the certification process and had an opportunity to discuss with the presenting agencies the benefits of becoming a certified vendor*
 - v. *Completed 2 certifications with 2 new certification pending and 11 re-certification pending*
 - vi. *Reconciled multiple undocumented payments (time and month information is pulled)*
 - ❖ *Number of payments due to prime, 25*
 - ❖ *Number of payments due to subcontractors, 99*
 - ***Program Coordinator***
 - i. *Attended Richland County Dirt Road I project Bid Opening*

- ii. *Attended Pre-Bid workshop for SERN Project*
- iii. *Assisted in hosting OSBO Legal Workshop*
- iv. *Moderator at the certification workshop. Richland Library and OSBO hosted speakers from various governmental agencies to explain how and why small businesses should become certified.*
- v. *Assisted in increasing workshop attendee numbers*
- vi. *Development of the 1st OSBO monthly newsletter*
- vii. *Redesign of the OSBO Brochure*

TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM UPDATE

◇ Council Approvals:

- None

◇ Preconstruction Update:

- *Procurement Items – Broad River Neighborhood and Dirt Road Package I (7 roads). Recommendation to award will go to Transportation Ad Hoc on 2-26-19, bids for the Southeastern Neighborhood Improvement Project (SERN) were opened on 2-20-19. Dirt Road Package J (6 roads), a Resurfacing package, Polo Shared Use Path, and Harrison Sidewalk will be advertised in March, followed by the North Springs/Harrington Intersection. Atlas Road Widening and Greene Street 2 are tentatively scheduled to be advertised for construction in late May 2019.*
- *Blythewood Widening Phase 1 – The PDT is actively procuring Right of Way. 95% Complete plans were delivered from the OET on 1-11-19. PDT coordinating with Town of Winnsboro regarding their waterline relocation.*
- *Bull/Elmwood Intersection – Right of Way acquisition is in process. 95% complete plans have been submitted to SCDOT. Coordination with business owners is ongoing.*
- *Garners Ferry/Harmon, and Screaming Eagle Percival Intersections – 95% complete plans were submitted to SCDOT on August 23, 2018 for initial review. Right of Way Acquisition is complete.*
- *Shop Road Widening – Right of Way Acquisition has been authorized to proceed by SCDOT. PDT has recommended changing eastern termini from S. Beltline to Mauney Drive since that section is already 5 lanes and would require Railroad coordination (total estimated cost greater than \$3 million)*
- *Shop Road Extension Phase 2 – Design work to include surveys and traffic counts continues.*
- *Greene Street Phase 2 – Design remains approximately 99% complete. Detailed design is being coordinated with the railroad and one drainage outfall location. Project critical items remain Railroad Agreements and County/City IGA.*
- *Decker/Woodfield Neighborhood Plan – 95% complete plans for Chatsworth Connector and Faraway Sidewalks are under review by the PDT. Median and drive closure/consolidations being studied with public meeting in Summer/Fall 2019 planned.*
- *Trenholm Acres/Newcastle Neighborhood Plan – Pending Council approval for Public Meeting Executive Summary, OET will begin final design studies.*
- *Gills Creek Greenway – Phase 2 and 3 design continues.*
- *Bikeways – Calhoun Street Diet to be presented to Transportation Ad Hoc on 2-26-19 followed by presentation to City Council. City has committed to maintenance of Sharrow marking on numerous roads, design likely to begin soon.*

◇ Construction Update

- Clemson Road Widening – Construction has begun.
- North Main Street – Both the SCE&G and Joint Use utility duct work are essentially complete. The waterline relocation and sewerline rehabilitation are also essentially complete. Contractor continues to raise the roadway profile from Anthony to railroad trestle.
- Shop Road Extension Phase 1 – The entire project is nearly complete. A tentative completion date is 3-31-19.
- 3 Rivers Greenway – Installation of the concrete pathway is now 95% complete. The 900' section of elevated boardwalk in the vicinity of the rapids is 90% complete. Construction of a 30' bridge over the Mill Race abutment is scheduled to begin in the next few weeks. Work is progressing on the bathrooms, ranger station, and parking lot which is now paved.
- Magnolia/Schoolhouse Sidewalks – Construction continues.
- Dirt Road Packages G and H (9 roads) – Construction continues.
- Koon Sidewalk – PDT coordinating with contractor to establish a Notice to Proceed to construction date.
- Pelham/Tryon Sidewalks – Construction nearly complete and contractor is addressing final items.
- Resurfacing Package O (39 roads) – Construction continues.
- Resurfacing Package P (57 roads) – Construction continues.
- Pedestrian Improvement Projects – Construction to begin in the next few weeks.
- Candlewood NIP Phase 3 – Construction to begin in the next few weeks.

◇ Miscellaneous:

- Public Meetings:
 - ❖ Smith/Rocky Branch A, B, C Greenways: February 13 and February 21, 2019
 - ❖ Lower Richland Boulevard Widening: February 28, 2019, 5:00 – 7:00, Sheriff's Substation at 2615 Lower Richland Blvd.
 - ❖ Broad River Corridor NIP: March 7, 2019, 5:00 – 7:00, Virginia Wingard Methodist Church, 1500 Broad River Road

Mr. Gorge stated he had received information regarding the future of the PDT and the potential of transitioning the handling of Penny Tax Projects in-house.

Mr. Beaty stated the PDT has a 5-year contract, which expires in November. At the Council Retreat, Dr. Thompson gave a presentation, and Council has been provided a memorandum and a potential organization chart. If Council decides to let the PDT expire, and go away, that Richland County could hire additional staff and take the program in-house. The life of the project would be expanded to 8 or more years. Other options would be to renegotiate with the current PDT or solicit bids from other PDTs. The work session tomorrow, will address those things.

The committee discussed the implications of the County taking the Penny Tax Program in-house, having their voices heard and potentially hiring an attorney. Several members stated their impression is that they are a voiceless committee, and that Council is not interested in hearing from them. It would appear the press is their best forum for being heard.

Mr. Beaty stated they have 40 full-time professionals working on the program, and 21 is managing inspection. In addition, they have 5 part-time employees, and a series of subcontractors that do the right-of-way, title opinions, appraisals, and exhibits.

THE COMET PROGRAM UPDATE

◇ COMET Memo

Service Changes: The service changes presented at last month's meeting were implemented on February 11, 2019. The next set of service enhancements will address time performance on various routes in the system, addition of service to Newberry, Batesburg-Leesville, Lexington, Sumter, minor revisions to local routes, and a revision to service in Blythewood, in May 2019.

The COMET has applied to install amenities at the following locations:

Shelters:

- *Stop 358, Bluff Windy WB*
- *Stop 467, Bluff Flamingo WB*
- *Stop 691 Decker O'Neil NB*
- *Stop 1238, Garners Ferry Brandon WB*

Benches:

- *Stop 786, Decker Trenholm SB*

The COMET's engineer is coordinating a meeting SCDOT to ease the concerns they have expressed with regard to the installation of simme seats. The COMET is trying to negotiate a blanket permit that will allow them to install these seats without a need to apply for individual permits.

The Board of Directors is considering a plan to add up to 175 shelters within the next 3 – 5 years.

COMET staff is continuing the review of their financial plan and evaluating options for financial sustainability, since the Penny funding will be exhausted by 2031.

All jurisdictions with service has some form of representation on the Board of Directors, with the Town of Blythewood making an appointment this month. Arcadia Lakes is the only Richland County jurisdiction without COMET service.

- It was requested to provide the ridership numbers at the next committee meeting.
- The question was posed, if we are trying to expand the system to get more rider, why terminate the service on weekends and holidays for those expanded areas? Is there any way for those expanded routes to run 7 days with a reduced schedule? *It would be based on the demand, and it is Mr. Andoh's understanding the demand from the Eastover/Lower Richland community is very limited.*
- ◇ DBE Report December 2018 and January 2019 – Mr. Andoh stated Transdev Services, Inc.'s goal is to be at 25.9% by June 2020. At this time they are at 25.6%.

OTHER BUSINESS – A discussion regarding the subgroups in the committee was held. It will be brought back for action at the next meeting.

- Next Scheduled Meeting: February 25, 2019 – 2020 Hampton Street

ADJOURN – The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:45 PM