



Transportation Penny Advisory Committee  
November 27, 2017 – 5:30 PM  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia 29204

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Virginia Sanders, Frank Anderson, Murray Coleman, Brian Colclough, Lee Mashburn, Rick Mohn, Malcolm Gordge, Jennifer Paolucci, Karim Johnson, Tiajuana "Tia" Evans, Jack Oliver, and Phillip Simoneaux

OTHERS PRESENT: Michelle Onley, Angela McCallum, Tony Edwards, Shawn Salley, Michelle Rosenthal, and Jamelle Ellis

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Paul Livingston and Calvin "Chip" Jackson

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Mr. Lewis Kirk with the Gills Creek Watershed Association spoke regarding the Gills Creek Greenway.

Mr. Beaty stated the agreement for the Gills Creek Greenway is scheduled to be taken up by City Council at their next meeting. Once it has been approved it will come back to Richland County. The agreement states Richland County will construct the greenway and the City of Columbia will accept the greenway and maintain it. Preliminary design has been done. There have been 2 public meetings. Concept design and concept estimates have been completed.

#### **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 community 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:** 1. Ongoing Ordinance Management; 2. Improve Methodology; and 3. New Methodology

**Problem Statement:** 1. Some certified firms have never been awarded a contract; 2. Incentives need to be established to encourage enrollment and re-certification

An additional employee has been added to the Cross Function Team. Every 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, Transportation, Procurement, and OSBO meet.

Charts detailing the SLBE Certification Program Overview; Contract Participation: Jan. 1, 2012 – Nov. 20, 2017; SLBE Certification by Ethnicity; SLBE Certification by Gender and OSBO Workshop: Nov. 15, 2017 were presented to the

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committee.

Manager's Assessment resulted in the following Action(s):

1. Hired Business Development Coordinator (Michelle Rosenthal)
2. OBSO Workshop for SLBE Community
3. Define Goal Setting Pay Items and Descriptions per NAICS Code
4. OSBO Website Redesign

Ms. McCallum stated under the SLBE Program firms are certified for 2 years. Once they meet their anniversary date, they have to be re-certified to ensure they are still eligible to receive contract work as an SLBE.

Ms. McCallum stated once the firms meet their SLBE goals they are allowed to solicit other firms to participate in the job, which are the uncertified firms that receive payments. The OSBO Office is encouraging the firms that once they reach their goals to continue working with the SLBEs.

Dr. Ellis stated in the past the office has not done as good of a job as they could have in listing all of the contracts available countywide.

Mr. C. Jackson stated it would important to segregate the participation of the firms for Transportation Projects and Countywide/General contracts since the Penny Projects have great participation.

Ms. Paolucci inquired if the SLBE Office is funded by the Penny.

Mr. Livingston responded that 50% of the funding is from the Penny and 50% is from the General Fund.

Mr. N. Jackson stated he believes the only figures that need to be presented to the TPAC committee are those that deal with the Penny Projects since those are the matters the committee are to oversee.

**TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM UPDATE**

a. Preconstruction Update

- Clemson Road: Plans are 99% Complete. Right of Way Certificate is complete, Utility Agreements complete (except for City of Columbia). Pending resolution of City of Columbia utility issue, design of waterline will then take approximately 3 months, which is now determining start of construction.
- Atlas Road: Addressing comments from 95% Complete Plan review. Right of Way acquisition nearly complete. Anticipate advertising for construction in 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2018
- Southeast Richland Neighborhood: Submitted 95% Complete plans to SCDOT and OET is addressing comments. Right of Way acquisition underway nearly complete, 2 tracts remaining. Anticipate advertising for construction in 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2018.
- Greene Street Phase 2: Design remains at approximately 95% complete. Right of Way acquisition continues, which is anticipated to be complete late 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2018. Anticipate advertising for construction in 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2018.
- Blythewood Road Widening: Anticipate 65% complete plans from OET in December.
- Broad River Road Widening: OET contract approved by Council, anticipate further design work beginning in December.

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- 3 Major Intersections: 70% Plans submitted to SCDOT for review for Garners Ferry/Harmon, North Springs/Harrington, and Screaming Eagle/Percival. Anticipate beginning Right-of-Way acquisition in February 2018.
- Resurfacing Package N (24 roads) and Sidewalk Package S7 (Marion Street, Bratton Street and Grand Street): Projects have been advertised and construction is anticipated to begin in early 2018.

b. Construction Update

- Shop Road Extension Phase I: The contractor continues work on the bottomless culvert. Clearing and grubbing, ditch installation, and building of sediment ponds continues.
- North Main Street Widening: SCE&G's duct bank is 80% complete. The Joint Use Duct Bank is 30% complete. Sewer rehabilitation is 70% complete. Water relocation is 45% complete.
- 3 Rivers Greenway: Construction is underway. 4,000' out of a total of 15,000' of concrete pathway has been constructed. There has been some concern that building the boardwalk will prohibit people from having access to the river and people not having a place to sit on the rocks. The design of the boardwalk is such that the boardwalk will be 8 – 10' and will tall enough to allow a person to carry a kayak over their head.
- Resurfacing Package K (8 roads) and Resurfacing Package H (115 roads): Are anticipated to be complete by the end of November.

c. Council Approvals

- Right of Way acquisition on Farrow/Pisgah resulting in project to begin construction in early 2018
- First reading in the amount of \$240 million and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading in the amount of \$250 million for the Transportation Program
- Atlas Road tracts for condemnation
- Broad River Road design contract for OET to prepare final construction plans
- Three Rivers Greenway agreement with Riverbanks Zoo concerning location of buildings
- Mitigation Credit sales for the Hulon Lane Roadway Improvement project
- Resurfacing Package 1 construction cost change

d. Miscellaneous

- Shared-Use Pathways (SUP): Multiple projects have 10' wide concrete pathways to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians. SCDOT has indicated they will only maintain pathways on roadway widening projects only. Richland County to determine path forward on other projects with pathways (Alpine, Polo)
- City of Columbia Utility Issue: Richland County and City of Columbia continue to discuss financial responsibility of relocating City utilities placed by permission within current Right of Way.

How to stay within the referendum amount:

- Bring more money into the program; an additional \$30 million has been brought into the program
- Reduce project size by eliminating projects or reduce the scope of the project

Ms. Sanders expressed her concern with the bond issue not coming before the committee prior to it being taken up by Council. She stated she believes the committee needs to meet prior to Council taking this up at their December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss the bond issue.

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Mr. C. Jackson stated he was in agreement with them committee meeting. He further stated that Council will be meeting again prior to action being taken on this matter. There is a March deadline to activate the bond in order for the County to go through the required process to secure the bond.

Ms. Sanders stated if we are going to make this committee be what it should be and operate in the way it should operate then you should do it the right way because there are people out there depending on the committee.

Mr. C. Jackson stated he hoped the committee members got the understanding that Council solicits their support and if any of them feel it is an adversarial role he hopes they reconsider that because it concerns him. His understanding of the purpose of the committee is to be an advocate for what the County is trying to accomplish. And advocate by providing strong recommendation, but at the same time once the decisions have been made to spread the positive method of those results. Council and the committee both serve the citizens and we are in this together.

Ms. Sanders stated she believes we should have good communications with your Council representatives, but also have good communications with the citizens.

Mr. Beaty stated for 3 years the program, at Council's direction, has been developing the program and planning to bond \$250 million. Where the projects are currently we can spend approximately \$100 million per year for the next 3 years. Of course, there are pros and cons to bonding. The penny is presently bringing in approximately \$60 million per year with \$15 million going to the buses. Therefore, if Council decides not to bond approximately \$45 million could be used on projects per year. If Council were not to bond, there are enough active contacts and work on the street that it would greatly inhibit new projects going to construction in 2018, which would be a negative. A positive would be that we would not have to pay interest.

**THE COMET PROGRAM UPDATE** – Ms. August stated they have received 74 resumes for the Executive Director position. The search committee is going through those and will make a decision within the next month or two.

She stated they have run a statistical analysis to assist with deciding what to do once the penny ends. They are looking at how many hours of service can be put on the street with the amount of money they receive. They utilize \$15 - \$17 million per year, which means they will run out of money before the end of the 22 years because there is a cap on the amount of money they will receive in that period of time. Of the funds they have received the majority has gone to purchase new vehicles. There were operating buses that were 15 years old when the average useful life of a bus is 12 years, which meant the buses were breaking down frequently. This year 33 new buses were received at a cost of over \$500,000 per bus. The buses each have Wifi, USB ports and cameras. The DART program received 22 new vehicles. They are in the process of securing new fare boxes.

- Securing new fare boxes for buses
- Restructuring Routes 15 and 5; Adding a shelter near Wal-Mart on Forest Drive
- #45 Bus – addition of Greenlawn Drive
- Started COMET Academy
- Ridership has increased since July
- Blythewood ridership is fluctuating
- Soda Cap Connector – Community based rides (League of Women Voters, Hyatt Place, Library, and Junior League have ridden); will help to decide on hours of service
- Working with Palmetto Health on a program to shuttle people from the Palmetto Richland to Palmetto Baptist

- Debuted COMET commercial
- National Transit Association has requested the COMET to submit the Soda Cap Connector information

Ms. August stated the next agenda packet will include the economic input the buses provide. People look at them as just providing transit services, but they are actually an employer.

- \$5 million – COMET employees (Richland Co.)
- \$9 million – COMET employees (Lexington Co.)
- There is a need for greater services to provide employees in the Midlands with transportation options

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Next Scheduled Meeting: January 22, 2018 – 2020 Hampton Street

**ADJOURN** – The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:01 PM