



Transportation Penny Advisory Committee

**MINUTES**

January 24, 2022 – 5:30PM

Via Zoom and on Live Streamed on Richland County YouTube Channel

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** John P. Epting, John Black, Eva Prioleau, Shaun Greenwood, Frank Anderson

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Michael Maloney, Rasheed Muwwakkil, Ali Eliadorani, Jeff McNesby, Michael Green, Nathaniel Miller, Alicia Pearson, Michelle Rosenthal, Eric Harris, Margaret Jones, Angela Weathersby, Kellie Odom

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mr. Epting called the meeting to order at approximately 5:34 PM.
2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** - Mr. Black moved, seconded by Ms. Prioleau, to adopt the agenda with the added change of conducting committee business in the Other Business portion of the agenda.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** - Mr. Epting inquired if any comments from the public had been received to discuss at this meeting.

Ms. Odom responded that there were none.

4. **OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES** – Ms. Rosenthal started on page 5 of the agenda (SLBE Certified Firm Status). As of Jan 20<sup>th</sup>, there are 11 pending applications, 6 renewing, and 107 certified in the directory. On page 6, the Total Certified SLBE's by Industry – there are 8 Architectural & Engineering Services, 39 Construction Services, 11 Non Professional, 39 Professional, and 10 wholesale. This totals 107 SLBEs. On page 8, training offered by the OSBO Business Academy was reviewed. How to Pitch Your Business Workshop Series (Virtual) on Jan 13<sup>th</sup> had 68 attendees. This workshop is important because it ties into the Seeds to Engage Small Business Grant coming in the Fall. Part of the requirement is to pitch the business itself, this particular workshop highlights how to do that. The “Did I Win the Bid?” Part 1 had 26 participants. Part 2 was reformatted to be virtual on Jan 22 due to weather and there were 48 participants.

Ms. Rosenthal inquired if there were any questions.

Ms. Prioleau asked what ways the trainings were being promoted.

Ms. Rosenthal responded that the events are marketed through the PIO office and also various partners including City of Columbia, SCDOT, SBA, etc. It is also announced on OSBO's website.

Mr. Epting commented that the attendance was impressive, however are there any concerns with individuals missing important information seeing as only 26 attended the first workshop and 48 attended the second.

Ms. Rosenthal replied that there was initially some concern, however when the meetings are moved to a virtual format – the attendance seems to be higher. The first session was in person and initially had 50 individuals who signed up.

Ms. Prioleau asked if Facebook Live was being used during events.

Ms. Rosenthal responded that the PIO streams the event live on the County's Youtube Channel.

5. **TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM** – Mr. Maloney stated that a Greenway Advisory Committee meeting will be coming up on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Also Atlas Rd. Widening CE&I and Materials Testing and Blythewood Rd. ROW Acquisition would be discussed in upcoming council and committee meetings.

Mr. Epting inquired if the Greenway Advisory Committee Meeting is intergovernmental and who is on the committee as well as who oversees it.

Mr. Muwwakkil responded that meeting is between the County and each neighborhood greenway committee with a project.

Mr. Epting replied that the members of TPAC would like to be able to sit in on those meetings if possible in order to be informed and also offer assistance.

Mr. Epting inquired if Blythewood Rd. ROW Acquisition was for the Blythewood Area Improvements or Blythewood Rd. Widening.

Mr. Maloney replied that is for Blythewood Rd. Widening and that on the agenda under the Pre-Construction Updates, the section for Blythewood Rd. Widening mentions this in detail stating that the ROW on all but three properties has now been obtained. Michael Green has been able to get in touch with the Town of Winnsboro regarding finalizing their water relocation plans.

Mr. Epting inquired when the next Ad Hoc meeting would be.

Mr. Maloney replied that the series of committee meetings is on February 22 and that it would likely be around that time but is not on the calendar at this time.

Mr. Maloney stated that there are not many other updates at this time. Garners Ferry\Harmon

Intersection has moved to advertising. Regarding dirt roads, Dirt Road Package M is going through final contracting and then Dirt Road Package N will be advertising next.

Mr. Epting inquired on the City's response regarding the request to make Gills Creeks Greenway 10 ft wide instead of 12 ft.

Mr. Maloney replied that the full width is 14 ft and that a year or so ago, the City approved narrowing the bridges to 12ft and in order to be consistent, that was applied to the entire stretch.

Mr. Epting inquired if that means the path will now be 12ft and if descoping will be necessary to remain within budget.

Mr. Maloney replied that the budget is the next issue and he and Allison Steele are looking at the options to work out the details.

Mr. Epting inquired if there would be an opportunity for public comment.

Mr. Maloney responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Anderson inquired about more information on the North Main project mentioned on page 12 of the agenda

Mr. Maloney replied that the Penny Program has put in the maximum amount into the project and the County would like to make sure that the City is on board with any requirements they have in the agreement.

Mr. Muwwakkil proceeded with reviewing the Construction portion of the agenda.

Ms. Prioleau asked if the roads for Resurfacing Package R were numbered in order of priority.

Mr. Muwwakkil stated that there are 52 roads and the contractors are provided with the start date and end date but are not told what order to go in.

Mr. Epting inquired if any more packages would be forthcoming.

Mr. Muwwakkil stated that all roads have been prioritized and are being repaired in the order of greatest to least need. The packages that contain the roads are created along the way.

Mr. Epting asked for clarification that once the last package was reached, would those roads be the ones listed as having the least amount of need at the time all roads were surveyed.

Mr. Muwwakkil responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Epting added that the Greene Street bridge looks great and inquired if asphalt would be put

down around March and if the road would be available to traffic while the shade structure is being installed.

Mr. Maloney added that the timeline for asphalt is about right and that with the railroad permissions being currently worked on, he would have to come back with a more definitive answer regarding road closures.

6. **THE COMET PROGRAM** – Mr. Harris stated that the Comet is focusing much of their efforts on cleaning up the preplanning process for the Lucious and River SuperStop. The notice to proceed should be issued by February 1. Ridership overall is steady, however Route 88 is down to 588 passengers which is the lowest thus far. However, lower ridership during the November and December months seems to be consistent in all forms of public transit across the country and the route is being monitored.

Ms. Prioleau inquired about the location of Route 88.

Mr. Harris stated that it is a cross service route and is not located in one particular area.

Mr. Harris also mentioned that he spoke with Mr. Walter Durst concerning extending the Lake Murray Dam route. This will be taken into consideration, but at the moment the primary focus is on time performance as well as other projects. If it is pursued, it will be later this year or the top of next year.

Mr. Harris concluded by stating there are 8 new sites in design as far as passenger amenities, as well as a new shipment of bus shelters coming in some time in February and will be installed as soon as possible.

Mr. Anderson inquired if there was any progress with naming a permanent Director of the Comet program.

Mr. Harris answered that the Board of Directors is currently working on that, however to his knowledge there has not been much progress as of yet.

Mr. Epting inquired about the progress of the electric & hydrogen buses.

Mr. Harris replied that as of the last meeting back in December, they were in the process of creating various schedules and that they are still working out many kinks.

Mr. Epting inquired about any available updates on Reimagining the Comet and the upcoming report.

Mr. Harris answered that anytime between now and February where they will receive recommendations from the consultants working on the project. The Comet has met with the City and Richland County but is circling back to meet with Lexington County and U of SC to see if they have any recommendations. After this, they will move into a series of public meetings for additional feedback.

7. **OTHER BUSINESS** – Mr. Epting stated that the next scheduled meeting will be February 28<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Epting moved on to committee business and stated that he would like to discuss officers and the calendar for the year in order to be in line with the bylaws. The floor was opened for nominations and volunteers.

Mr. Black volunteered for the position of Chair.

Ms. Prioleau nominated John Epting for the position of Chair. Mr. Anderson seconded the nomination.

Mr. Epting accepted the position of Chair for the Transportation Penny Advisory Committee.

Mr. Epting proceeded to nominate Mr. Black for position of Vice Chair. Mr. Anderson seconded the nomination.

Mr. Black accepted the nomination for Vice Chair of the Transportation Penny Advisory Committee.

Mr. Black nominated Ms. Prioleau for the position of Secretary, seconded by Mr. Anderson.

Ms. Prioleau accepted the nomination for Secretary of the Transportation Penny Advisory Committee.

Mr. Epting stated the the bylaws state that the committee should be meeting on the third Monday of the month as opposed to the fourth. Sticking to this format will allow the committee to be aware of what is being presented in the AdHoc meetings and provide input.

Mr. Maloney added that for AdHoc meetings, the department has to submit their input about three weeks before the meeting itself.

Mr. Epting inquired if this means there would be less information available to comment on.

Mr. Maloney answered that if TPAC meetings remained in the fourth week, they could discuss the previous AdHoc meeting and then help to prepare for the next month's AdHoc meeting.

Mr. Epting inquired to the present members of TPAC if they had a preference when it came to the meeting date.

Mr. Black stated that he feels the bylaws should be followed unless a proposal was submitted to amend the bylaws.

Mr. Epting agreed and added that a proposal would have to be approved by Council.

Ms. Prioleau moved to accept the calendar that was previously sent out by Mr. Epting that lined out the meeting dates for the rest of the year. Mr. Black seconded.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Epting stated that he would forward the calendar out to everyone.

Mr. Epting stated that there are currently ten appointees on the committee. However, the bylaws state that if a member misses two consecutive meetings that member can be dismissed by the rest of the committee. He will be sending an email with this information as well as the calendar to all members who are not present.

8. **ADJOURNMENT** – Mr. Anderson moved, seconded by Ms. Prioleau, to adjourn.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30pm.