

SUATS POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

September 14, 2009

ATTENDANCE

A meeting of the SUATS Policy Committee was held on Monday, September 14, 2009, in the City Council Chambers located on the Fourth Floor of the Sumter Opera House (21 N. Main St, Sumter, SC). Seven committee members – Mayor Joseph McElveen, Representative Murrell Smith, Councilman Jimmy Byrd, Mr. Ed Bynum, Mr. Luke Rogers, Senator Phil Leventis and Representative David Weeks – along with Mr. Charlie Holmes and the secretary, were present. Three committee members – Mr. Greg Thompson, Councilwoman Vivian McGhaney and Councilman Thomas Lowery were absent.

Others in attendance were: Mr. George McGregor, Planning Director; Mr. Deron McCormick, City Manager; Mr. Bill Noonan, Sumter County Administrator; Mr. Gary Hallmark, Shaw, AFB; Ms. Ann August, SWRTA; Mr. Shane Belcher, FHWA; and *The Item* newspaper.

The meeting was called to order at 4:12 p.m. by Mayor McElveen.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Charlie Holmes stated the bids for Phase 1 and 2 of the Alice Drive project had been received and opened on August 11, 2009. The contract is in final negotiation and should be awarded within 2 to 3 weeks. Construction will begin immediately upon moving and relocation of utilities. The Project should be completed in approximately seventeen months. The bids came in approximately one million dollars under estimate.

Mr. Holmes stated that final engineering is being completed on Phase 3 of the Alice Drive Project. SCDOT is preparing to begin right-of-way acquisition. The Policy Committee will need to provide comments to SCDOT if the committee would like to consider any design changes. Currently, Phase 3 will mirror Phases 1 and 2 with underground utilities, landscaping and sidewalks. Monies for utilities landscaping, sidewalks, etc. will have to come out of Enhancement Funds.

Senator Phil Leventis made a motion that underground utilities, landscaping, lighting be designed as part of Phase 3 for this project. The motion was seconded by Rep. David Weeks and carried a unanimous vote.

Mr. Holmes stated that none of the available Enhancement funds were expended on the Alice Drive Project which caused a reserve of approximately \$700,000. Most of the other enhancement projects in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) are being funded by ARRA funds and the Penny Sales Tax. The Plowden Mill Road Project will begin construction this month (September). The Study Team will meet in October to discuss future enhancement projects.

Mr. Holmes stated that the SUATS Policy Committee is charged with approving any transportation project that employs Federal monies in the Study Area. After this approval, the project is placed in our Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). SUATS receives from SCDOT any information regarding projects that need to be included in our TIP (DOT projects, Transit, etc.). These projects generally do not involve expenditure of SUATS guide shares or enhancement funds. When SUATS funds are involved, the project will be treated as a separate agenda item. At this meeting SWRTA has requested an amendment to a grant awarded as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). This amendment would allow the transit authority to use 10% of the grant amount toward operating expenses. Public notice is not required and no SUATS funds are involved.

Ms. Ann August explained that SWRTA had received a \$4.6 million grant and the Federal Government allows the use of 10% for operations and the rest for capital. The only stipulation is that this has to be reflected in the TIP.

Rep. Murrell Smith made a motion to amend the TIP to allow the Transit Authority to use 10% of the grant amount for operating expenses. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jimmy Byrd and carried a unanimous vote.

Mr. Holmes stated Sumter County has contracted with Kimley-Horn to provide engineering and environmental services for the Penny Sales Tax highway projects and that there are three projects. The first approved project includes spot safety improvements at the seven intersections rated most dangerous using SCDOT statistics. The following is a list of these intersections:

1. Carter Road at Broad Street

2. US 378 at SC 441
3. Gion Street at Broad Street
4. Guignard Drive at Lafayette Drive (US 15 S)
5. Lafayette Drive (US 15 N) at US 378 Bypass
6. Calhoun at N. Main
7. Lafayette Drive at Calhoun Street

A variety of solutions will be employed at these intersections, including new signalization, access management and additional lanes. Preliminary engineering is scheduled to be completed by December 2009, with construction to begin in April 2010 and completion of all intersection projects by April 2011. \$2.1 million is allocated for these projects or approximately \$300,000 per intersection.

The second approved project is to provide a southern gateway to the city at US 15 South and Manning Ave. The project consists of increasing the functional operation of the intersection as well as aesthetic measures, such as signage and landscaping. Final engineering is scheduled to be completed by June 2010 with construction beginning by October 2010. Completion for the project is scheduled for June 2011.

The third approved project is to rebuild the intersection of North Main and Lafayette Drive (US 15 N) at the 378 bypass. This will replace the existing egress/ingress points with a diamond shaped ramp system. Existing frontage roads will be reconfigured to improved safety and efficiency of operation. Final engineering will be completed by July 2010 with construction beginning in December 2010 and completed October 2011.

Mayor McElveen stated a plan has been put together that would greatly enhance the Manning Ave. Bridge making it another gateway to the downtown. He stated he hoped this was something the SUATS Committee will consider.

Mr. Deron McCormick stated that they have met with the local DOT staff who furnished a mock-up of what the bridge would look like if the four lanes were tapered down to two lanes with sidewalks and bike lanes. He stated that if this committee would allocate some money to have a structural engineer look at the bridge as a shutting off point, then this may be something we could partner with federal money or enhancement money.

Sen. Leventis stated he has shown the plan to Congressman Clyburn and believes he (Congressman Clyburn) would make every effort to

	<p>help. If the Committee would approve the \$62,000 for engineering structural and traffic analysis and design today, this would get us into a position where if there is additional enhancement money from the Federal Government or stimulus money, and there is an opportunity, that Congressman Clyburn would help.</p> <p>Mr. Holmes stated that they would have to see where the funding could be coming from and if this would qualify for Enhancement Funds.</p> <p>Rep. Smith suggested that the committee look into qualifying this project through the Competitive Grants and Budget and Control Board before trying to use Enhancement Funds.</p> <p>The Committee briefly discussed plans for the East Gate and Frierson Rd. at Shaw AFB.</p> <p>Ms. Sarah Nuckles stated that the DOT can provide a 20% match for projects that have reached a certain point (ready to go to construction) and are part of the SUATS regular Guide Share and are on the TIP.</p>
ADJOURNMENT	The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.
	<p>Respectfully submitted,</p> <p><i>Wanda Scott</i></p> <p>Wanda Scott, Planning Secretary</p>