

**MINUTES  
SUATS POLICY COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2012 @ 10:00 A.M.  
SUMTER COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
(13 E. CANAL STREET, SUMTER, SC)**

**POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councilman Eugene Baten; Mayor Joseph T. McElveen; Rep. J. David Weeks; Mr. Curtis Spencer, CTC; Rep. Murrell Smith and Mr. Jay Davis, Planning Commission

**OTHERS PRESENT:** See attachment

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. George McGregor, Planning Director; Mr. Allan Yu, Senior Transportation Planner; Wanda Scott, Planning Secretary

A special meeting of the Sumter Urban Area Transportation Study (SUATS) Policy Committee was held on Friday, August 31, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. in the Sumter County Council Chambers located on the Third Floor in the Sumter County Administration Building (13 E. Canal St.). Councilman Eugene Baten called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. George McGregor provided the SUATS Board with an update on the proposed FY 2013 funding plan. He stated that on August 16<sup>th</sup>, he and Allan Yu, Senior Transportation Planner, participated in a conference call with Planning Staff at SCDOT and COG and MPO directors across the state. DOT introduced the new transportation bill called MAP-21- which is a funding stream of federal dollars that are coming. It is less than last year. SCDOT will receive approximately \$66 million less in total federal funding that is spread across a variety of transportation funding categories. For SUATS, that is less than 7% less – 10% in Guideshares statewide.

He stated the total proposed State Guideshare is \$138 million. Guideshares are the local monies we use for projects such as Alice Dr. Under SCDOT's current FY 13 proposal, SUATS will receive \$2,428,403, a reduction of \$165,893 for FY 12 funding of \$2,594,296. SUATS gets its Guideshares, the monies SUATS uses, from the Urban System Program which has been reduced by \$10 million. The pot of money where we use our enhancement dollars – under the new federal legislation it is no longer called enhancement, it is called Transportation Alternatives – has been reduced by 50%.

He stated that due to debt service commitments from projects almost a decade old, SUATS in fact will be left with only \$689,723 per year through 2021.

Mr. McGregor provided charts showing the proposed funding plan for 2013.

The guideshare reduction, under State Law and polices allows for a public comment period. That comment period will be over on September 4<sup>th</sup>. He stated participated in a series of conference calls with the state's MPO and COG directors who have requested to be on the SCDOT Commissioners meeting agenda in September. He stated the group is trying to put together a presentation showing what the impacts are and showing what the local commitment has been to the state system as well as propose some alternative solutions to flex spending.

He stated the bottom line is SUATS is losing \$165,000 off the top for the normal SUATS projects and is being required to use 20% of that money for repaving state roads.

Rep. Smith expressed deep concern over the 20% mandate on resurfacing and stated that is where he thinks the focus should be. He stated he did not think there much of an alternative for the Guideshares reduction.

There was discussion on C-Funds and SCDOT wanting to have total control over these funds.

After some discussion, Rep. Murrell Smith made a motion to, as a committee, send correspondence to the DOT Commissioners asking them to reconsider their vote on the 20% mandate for resurfacing and the ramifications it will have on SUATS moving forward with its transportation needs in Sumter County. The motion was seconded by Rep. David Weeks and carried a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

*Wanda F. Scott*

Wanda F. Scott  
Board Secretary

