

MINUTES
SUATS POLICY COMMITTEE
FRIDAY, JULY 25, 2014 @ 10:00 A.M.
SUMTER COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
(13 E. CANAL STREET, SUMTER, SC)

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Joseph T. McElveen; City Councilman Thomas J. Lowery; County Councilman Larry Blanding; County Councilman Jimmy Byrd; Mr. Curtis Spencer, CTC; Rep. Murrell Smith; and Sen. Thomas McElveen

OTHERS PRESENT: (See attachment)

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

A meeting of the Sumter Urban Area Transportation Study (SUATS) Policy Committee was held on Friday, July 25, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in the Sumter County Council Chambers located on the Third Floor of the Sumter County Administration Building, 13 E. Canal St., Sumter, SC. Councilman Larry Blanding called the meeting to order.

Motion made by Rep. Murrell Smith, seconded by Mr. Curtis Spencer carried a unanimous vote to approve the agenda for the July 25, 2014, meeting.

Motion made by Rep. Murrell Smith, seconded by Councilman Jimmy Byrd carried a unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2013 meeting as read.

UPWP FY 2014-2015

Mr. Allan Yu, Senior Transportation Planner, stated the SUATS UPWP budget for FY 2014-2015 was \$229,687. He stated the UPWP needed to be amended to include an additional task, the National Household Travel Survey. He stated the cost of the survey is \$112,500 with the SCDOT providing one-half of the funding (\$56,250) and SUATS providing the other half (\$56,250).

Rep. Murrell Smith asked if SUATS was required by the Federal Government to spend that money for the household travel survey. He further stated he had no desire to spend that money on a travel survey and inquired as to what benefit it was to Sumter County, when we need roads and sidewalks, to do a survey about where households in the nation travel.

Mr. George McGregor, Planning Director, stated it is his understanding this is not required, it is something being suggested SUATS do.

Mr. Yu stated the purpose of the survey is to collect certain travel data and store it in a data base system. The data will then be retrieved for Travel Demand Forecasting, Air Quality Analysis, Trend Analysis and other uses. This task will be carried out by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Seven thousand surveys will be done – five hundred (500) household surveys in Sumter will be collected.

Mr. Smith stated he feels that spending this amount of money is an unwise use of taxpayers' money. He stated he felt the committee should move and deal with what is needed in Sumter County – roads, infrastructure, sidewalks – and not a household travel survey for \$56,000 dollars.

Mayor Joseph McElveen asked if SCDOT would be doing the survey.

Mr. McGregor stated SCDOT would be doing the survey – SUATS would just be paying half the cost.

Mayor McElveen asked what percentage of that is the highway money SUATS gets from the state and/or federal government.

Mr. McGregor stated SUATS gets planning money every year and SUATS is being asked to spend about twenty-five percent of that on this survey. He added that this was the only change in the UPWP – adding the Travel Demand Survey.

Mayor McElveen asked if the Travel Demand Survey is taken out of the UPWP, could that money be used for local planning or local purposes.

Mr. McGregor stated that the UPWP defines SUATS planning activities – research, analysis and review. He stated there is value to collecting the data as it helps us plan and figure out what projects should be done. It shows trip habits.

Mayor McElveen stated this maybe a great thing and something may need to be done, but they are the federal government and state government and this is their thing not ours (SUATS).

With no more discussion, Rep. Murrell Smith made a motion to approve the UPWP **without** including the \$56,250 funding for the National Household Travel Demand Survey. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jimmy Byrd and carried a unanimous vote.

TIP FY 2014-2015

Mr. Allan Yu stated this year a new program was added into the SUATS TIP. He stated SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism awarded a \$100,000 grant to the City of Sumter via the Recreational Trails Program for construction of a walking trail around Lake Alice (adjacent to Palmetto Park). The proposed project will connect to Phase 1 of the existing walking trail. The Department of Public Services is the recipient of this grant.

Rep. Smith asked if this was the \$100,000 from PRT and if additional money would need to be approved by SUATS.

Mr. Deron McCormick, Sumter City Manager, stated no additional money was required – the project just had to be shown in the plan.

Mr. McGregor stated that because of the source of the money, it has to be shown in the TIP.

Mr. Yu stated that on May 19, 2014, SCDOT eliminated the 20% Guideshare requirement for the system preservation and intersection improvement projects. He added the SUATS Guideshare allocation increased from \$2.428 million per year to \$2.536 million year. Mr. Yu stated this will apply to SUATS next approved TIP project — Broad Street resurfacing and intersection improvement. He added that SUATS and SCDOT will meet to discuss recommendations by the end of August and bidding and letting for the project should be done by September 2015.

With no more discussion, a motion to approve the TIP was made by Rep. Murrell Smith, seconded by Mayor Joseph McElveen and carried a unanimous vote.

CAPITAL PENNY SALES TAX PROJECTS UPDATE

Mr. George McGregor gave the committee and update on the following projects:

- Carter Rd. and Hwy 441 will be done before October
- S. Guignard/Hwy 15 South – the crossover has been taken away to make that area safer
- Gion at Broad is in progress and should be completed soon
- Southern Gateway Project/Manning Ave. – expect to complete contract documents and go to bid in September
- Lafayette – working final right-of-way plans; in full design and on schedule to see construction next year
- South Main St. – under construction at the foot of the bridge and should be completed by the end of August
- E. Liberty St. streetscaping project should bid in October

ALICE DRIVE UPDATE

Mr. Jeffrey Wilkes, SCDOT, gave the following update on the Alice Dr. Project:

- approximately two-thirds of drainage has been installed on the northern portion and are currently working on the southern end
- good portion on curb and gutter has been installed, prepping for installation of sidewalks
- hope to have it open to traffic by the end of the year.

S. HARVIN STREET SIDEWALK

Mr. McGregor gave the following update on the S. Harvin St. sidewalk project:

- have had some design challenges – lot of stormwater challenges with the design that blew the budget.
- SCDOT is helping to revise budget with some field work and engineering and expect those changes in the September time frame and hope to move forward with the project in the fall.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Jimmy Byrd, seconded by Mr. Thomas Lowery and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda F. Scott

Wanda F. Scott
Board Secretary

