

**MINUTES  
SUATS POLICY COMMITTEE  
MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 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; Senator Phil Leventis; Councilman Jimmy Byrd; Councilman Thomas J. Lowery; Rep. J. David Weeks; Mr. Curtis Spencer, CTC; and Mr. Jay Davis, Planning Commission Chairman

**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 Monday, January 30, 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 asked Rep. J. David Weeks to give the invocation.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**TITLE VI COMPLAINT PROCEDURE**

Mr. George McGregor stated that recently US DOT Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and SCDOT officials conducted the SUATS MPO self certification on compliance of all rules and regulations set by FHWA. He stated the officials found that the SUATS MPO is in compliance with all basic FHWA requirements. In order to be in full compliance, the officials recommended Title VI Civil Rights Act of 1964 be incorporated into the SUATS MPO planning process. Mr. McGregor stated SUATS needed to have a complaint procedure in place and have someone locally who can accept a complaint and forward it on to DOT.

Senator Phil Leventis asked if a Title VI Complaint had ever been filed with the Planning Department.

Mr. McGregor stated to his knowledge there had not been a complaint filed.

After some discussion, Councilman Jimmy Byrd made a motion to adopt the Title VI Complaint Procedure as presented. The motion was seconded by Rep. David Weeks and carried a unanimous vote.

**ENHANCEMENTS**

Mr. McGregor stated that SUATS has \$902,000 in enhancement funds available for qualified projects. All qualified projects require a 20% local match. He stated that if the

money is not obligated, there is some threat that SUATS could lose it. Mr. McGregor went on to state that the guidance from DOT is to consider projects of major significance.

He stated the Study Team met on September 27, 2011 to review recommendations on future enhancement projects. The Study Team focused its efforts on large, community enhancing projects. They recommended two projects for consideration by the Policy Board.

Mr. McGregor stated the first project recommended by the Study Team is the Manning Avenue Corridor Plan Project. This project combines a host of streetscape, intersection, and pedestrian crossings and sidewalk improvements in an effort to improve vehicular and pedestrian safety in the corridor. This project goes hand in hand with the Manning Avenue Bridge project and the Penny Sales Tax Southern Gateway project and essentially links downtown Sumter to points south and east. The estimated cost for the project is seven million dollars with potential right-of-way costs unknown. He suggested doing the project in phases with the first phase starting at the Manning Avenue Bridge and end at Fulton St.

Mayor Joseph McElveen asked if the project included the Manning Avenue Bridge.

Mr. McGregor stated it did not include the bridge or undergrounding of utilities.

The second project to be recommended for consideration is the Shot Pouch Corridor Master Plan which spans approximately 4 miles, connecting Dillon Park to the Greenswamp. We already have a half-mile trail from Broad St. to the YMCA on Miller Rd. We should build on that central project. The total cost of the project is estimated to be one to two million dollars.

Mr. McGregor stated that in 2010 the Policy Committee gave staff the go-ahead to submit the application three sidewalk projects: Wise Dr., Carter Rd. and S. Harvin St. He stated that Wise Dr. and Carter Rd. had been completed as part of the Penny Sales Tax projects and would not need an application submitted. He stated he wanted to give the committee a status update on S. Harvin St.: the initial estimated cost for the project was \$146,000 in which \$116,000 would be financed by the federal funds and \$29,000 would be the 20% local match. Because of a number of construction related items were not taken into account during at that time, the new cost estimate for the project is \$256, 440. Of that amount, \$51,288 would be the new local match amount.

Mr. Weeks asked what the time frame for completion on the S. Harvin St. project would be.

Mr. Al Harris stated it would take an estimated six months to build a good plan and an estimated eighteen months to complete the project.

After some discussion, Rep. David Weeks made a motion to allocate enhancement funds (\$697,000) to Phase 1 of the Manning Ave. Corridor Plan Project – from the bridge to Fulton St. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thomas Lowery and carried a unanimous vote.

Mayor McElveen expressed concern about not going underground with the utilities. He stated he would like to find a way to do underground utilities. Mayor McElveen stated he would try to find a way to use legislative leverage to cover the expense for undergrounding utilities.

Mr. McGregor stated that staff would furnish the committee with a detailed plan of Phase I for the Manning Ave. Corridor Plan Project when the draft is completed.

### **SWRTA FTA GRANTS**

Mr. McGregor stated that SWRTA notified the SUATS MPO regarding its intention to apply for FTA Section 5307, 5311, 5316 and the State Mass Transit Funds (SMTF) grant programs. As a standard federal grant procedure, the SUATS MPO must place these projects into the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) so that SWRTA can advertise their intention of applying for such federal grants to solicit public comments.

After a brief discussion, Councilman Jimmy Byrd made a motion to a motion to add the SWRTA projects (FTA Section 5307, 5311, 5316 and the State Mass Transit Funds grant programs) to the TIP. The motion was seconded by Rep. David Weeks and carried a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

*Wanda F. Scott*

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Board Secretary