

MINUTES

FULL BOARD MEETING
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS CONFERENCE ROOM
FEBRUARY 26, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Judy Gilstrap, Ed Elliott, Wallace Shaw, Dennis Claramunt, Eddie Moore, Ted Mattison, Bob Waldrep, J. W. Sanders, Janie Wilson, Rufus Foster, Henry Jolly, Grady Butler, Joe Dill, Don Godbey, Bill Wylie, Thomas Alexander, Bennie Cunningham, Ernest Riley, Reg Dexter, J. Connie Bowers, Randy Crenshaw, Dale Culbreth, Jane Hall, Renee Cariveau, and Loretta Smith.

GUESTS PRESENT:

Max McKinney, Mauldin High School; Bill Jordon and Mike Sullivan, SC Department of Transportation; and David Mueller, Appalachian Development Corporation.

STAFF PRESENT:

Steve Pelissier, Joe Newton, Dirk Reis, Chip Bentley, Becky Hall, Beverly Allen, Carol Andersen, Debra Brown, and Debbie Courson.

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Gilstrap. The invocation was offered by Rev. Sanders. On motion by Mr. Bowers, seconded by Mr. Riley, the minutes of the January 22, 2010, meeting was unanimously approved.

Overview of the SCDOT Planning Process and Status Report on Projects in the Appalachian Regional Rural TIP (Transportation Improvement Program).

Mr. Mike Sullivan with the S.C. Department of Transportation presented an overview of SCDOT's transportation planning process and how the current project rankings were developed. In 2007, the South Carolina General Assembly approved ACT 114 that

required SCDOT to ensure that transportation projects originate from an established priority list. The legislation was intended to provide a uniform process for evaluating project priorities within each MPO and COG planning area. Included in the Act were requirements that any ranking process must consider the following criteria:

- Financial viability
- Public safety
- Economic development
- Traffic volume and congestion
- Truck traffic
- Environmental impacts
- Special considerations including but not limited to, tourism benefits, alternative transportation solutions, and consistency with local land use plans.

The ranking criteria were approved in late 2007 and DOT staff has used the criteria to implement the project ranking process in the last two years. Mr. Sullivan explained that they have coordinated with the local MPO's and COG's as they have established the ranking process. The data used to support Public Safety, Traffic Volume, Truck Traffic, Environmental Impacts, and Financial Viability are derived from data that SCDOT develops as part of their pre-construction process. The economic development ranking is provided by the SC Department of Commerce based on potential impact on employment and investment in a region. The Special Considerations category allows for local input from COG's and MPO's to take into consideration issues like tourism benefits, alternative transportation solutions, and consistency with local land use plans.

Following the presentation, Mr. Bill Jordan gave an update on the status of three projects that are moving forward in the COG's planning area at this time. The projects are:

Sheep Farm Road, Oconee County – Preliminary Engineering is currently underway. Right-of-Way funds were obligated in July 2009, and acquisitions are nearing completion. The project is currently scheduled to be let for construction in June 2010.

SC 133 College Avenue Bridge, Pickens County – Preliminary engineering has been underway for some time and construction plans are complete. Right-of-way funding was obligated in August 2009, and construction is set to begin in April 2010.

US #25/SC11 Interchange, Greenville County – Preliminary engineering is underway and right-of-way funds are scheduled to be obligated in April 2010. Construction is planned to begin in April of 2011.

Mr. Jordan explained he was filling in for Rob Perry, who is the Program Manager for projects in the COG planning area. His contact information was Rob Perry, 803-737-1440, perryre@scdot.org.

Legislative Preview

Mr. Newton provided a preview of potential legislation to be considered by the General Assembly during its 2010 term, with emphasis on issues of importance to local governments, which included: FY 2011 budget, local government fund, cigarette tax, point of sale – property tax, and tax changes – Act 388.

Request for Executive Session to Discuss a Personnel Matter

Mr. Pelissier requested that the Board go into Executive Session. On motion by Mr. Culbreth, seconded by Ms. Smith, the Board voted unanimously to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Chair

THE SOUTH CAROLINA APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS HAS
COMPLIED WITH THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IN SCHEDULING
AND CONDUCTING THIS MEETING.

