

**BEAUFORT COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING ON January 21, 2015**

A regular meeting of the Beaufort County Transportation Committee (BCTC) was held on January 21, 2015 in the Conference Room of the Beaufort County Engineering Department located at 104 Industrial Village Road, Building 3, Beaufort, South Carolina.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Irv Campbell, Scott Marshall, Patti Cowart

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mark McCain, Jeffrey Gardner, Joseph Stroman Vacant Districts 6-7-8-9-11

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Don Smith, County Construction Manager  
Rob McFee, Director of County Engineering  
Wendell Mulligan, SCDOT Resident Maintenance Engineer  
Isaih Smalls, City of Beaufort Public Works Director  
Darin Shoemaker, Town of Hilton Head Traffic Engineer  
Karen Jarrett, Town of Bluffton Traffic Engineer

Chairman Campbell called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Agenda was reviewed and no additions or deletions were noted.

**Status of C Fund Construction Projects.** Mr. Smith reviewed the C fund construction projects. Huspah Road in Contract 48 will be paved next week. Andrews Engineering has applied for the permit for Wimbee Creek Landing. Contract 49 was awarded to J H Heirs Construction Company. Contract 49 includes Hobcaw Drive, Huspah Court N & S, Gator and Turtle Lane and Major Road. Notice to Proceed should be issued in soon. Originally, Devonwood Drive was included in Contract 49 but property owners did not respond favorability to granting right of way so Major Road was substituted. Engineering Department has asked County Council to approve request for condemnation on remaining parcels on Devonwood. Request for condemnation on Trotters Loop was also requested after a lot of community support was generated by residents to get right of way granted. Devonwood and Trotters Lop condemnations will be presented at Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Mr. McFee reviewed the right of way acquisition process and the conditions for condemnation requests. Generally, generous community support and a demonstration of public benefit are needed to proceed with County's approval of condemnation of right of way. Chairman Campbell was concerned about the consistency with condemnations.

The Engineering Department continues to try to acquire right of way for Johnson Landing Road in Contract 47

**SCDOT Report.** Mr. Mulligan presented an SCDOT update. SCDOT local maintenance office has submitted recommendations for non-federal aid resurfacing. Resurfacing for Mink Pt Blvd and Colonial Avenue should start early spring. Weather delayed the resurfacing of these two roads. SC 170 will be resurfaced from McDonalds to WK Alston Drive. US 21 will also be resurfaced from Keans Neck to Washington Farm Road. For the bridge replacement at Albergetti, resurfacing will occur from Stokes Car Dealership to Rosieda Road.

**New Business.**

**County Vehicular TAG Fee Increase Support Resolution.** Mr. McFee presented the attached resolution from the BCTC to County Council supporting an increase to the County Road Use/Auto TAG Fees from \$10 per vehicle register in the County to an increase of \$7 at a minimum. Beaufort County auto TAG fees were implemented in 1972 at a rate of \$2.00 for every vehicle registered in Beaufort County and have been used to fund improvements for County maintained roads. These fees were last adjusted in 1993 to \$10.00 per vehicle. Since that time, inflation has reduced the ability of these funds to meet the infrastructure improvement demands placed on it. In addition, unfunded mandates requirements such as

Americans with Disabilities Act and roadway signage reflectivity requirements place additional demands on these funds in the form of improved handicap access ramps and upgraded signs. At the present time, auto TAG fee collections are approximately \$1.5million per year. Using the Bureau of Labor and Statistics Consumer Price Index inflation calculator, a \$10 fee in 1993 adjusted for inflation is \$16.38 in 2014 dollars.

For the first 5 dirt road paving contracts let and awarded in the 1994-1996 time period, the construction cost for dirt road paving averaged \$340,444 per mile. For the last 5 dirt road paving contracts, the average construction cost has risen to \$599,598 per mile of dirt road. The dirt road mileage paved in the period of 1994-2002 (2 – four year paving programs) was 39.6 miles. The total mileage for the last 8 years was 28.3 miles. This represents a total difference of 11.3 miles over 8 years or 1.41 miles of dirt road paving deferred each year to future years. As a result of the dirt road paving program and rapid growth over the last 20 years, Beaufort County is responsible for over 200 miles of paved roads as well. These facilities range in size from the 4-lane Bluffton Parkway/Buckwalter Parkways with daily traffic counts of up to 23,000 vehicles per day to local roads with less than 100 vehicles per day. For an average resurfacing cycle of 20 years, approximately 10 miles of County road should be resurfaced per year at a project cost of \$1.6 million annually. Over the last 5 years, Beaufort County has been able to resurface on 11.74 miles of County roadway or 2.34 miles per year. At the present time Hampton County charges a vehicle fee of \$25 per vehicle and Jasper County charges \$20 per vehicle.

With the State House attempt to divest itself from maintaining secondary state roads and possibility give the maintenance responsibility to the County's and also with the lack of an increase in gas tax, the County has to consider increases to fees collected for its roadway maintenance.

The Chairman and the members present endorsed the support resolution which Chairman Campbell signed.

**McGarvey's Corner Lighting Repair.** Over 12 years ago, the BCTC funded the installation of the lights at McGarvey's Corner for the intersection of SC 170/US 278. The residents of Sun City had made a request to the BCTC to light the intersection. There has been conduit failure in several locations for the lights and PEC has quoted a price of \$32,030 to price materials for repairs. The expenditure of the \$32,020 can be used as part of the BCTC's 25% mandatory allocation expenditure on SCDOT roads. This item will be presented to the BCTC at its next meeting for approval.

### **Old Business.**

**City of Beaufort Request for Sidewalk Repair Funding.** Mr. Isaih Smalls, City of Beaufort Public Works Director, presented a request to the BCTC at the November meeting for \$36,000 to repair sidewalks along various SCDOT roadways in the City. The BCTC through the 1994-2004 Special Projects Program provided the funding to build the sidewalks that now need repair. Southside Blvd sidewalks with is the most expensive of the repair sites was built will BCTC funds in 1994/1995. Funding for this request was held over to the January 21, 2015 meeting due to the lack of a quorum.

After further inspection of the sidewalks at Southside Blvd, Mr. Smalls said that the City would like to make a more permanent repair to the underlying problem with the sidewalk. A better repair would be piping in the existing roadside ditch. Mr. Smalls requested that the \$36,000 be reserved/put on hold until he can get an assessment of the work needed and cost for piping ditch area. Due to the immediate need for an emergency repair, it was decided to hold a February meeting instead of waiting until next scheduled meeting in March. Mr. Marshall did ask about the City providing matching funds. Mr. Smalls indicated that the City's Public Works budget did not have any available match funding. Also, the City's stormwater funds were tied up on other drainage projects in the City.

Engineering will check with BCTC members and get a February meeting date.

Meeting Adjourned. February 2015 meeting date to be determined. Next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2015.