

**BEAUFORT COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING ON March 18, 2015**

A regular meeting of the Beaufort County Transportation Committee (BCTC) was held on March 18, 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, Joseph Stroman, Jeffrey Gardner

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mark McCain Vacant Districts 6-7-8-9-11

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Rob McFee, Director of County Engineering  
Lamar Taylor, City of Beaufort Public Works Director  
David Coleman, City of Beaufort Senior Project Manager  
Karen Jarrett, Town of Bluffton Traffic Engineer  
Lynn Russo, Sun City Resident

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

Agenda was reviewed and no additions or deletions were noted.

Motion to approve agenda and Minutes from Sep 17, 2014, Nov 19, 2014, Jan 21, 2015 and Feb 11, 2015 meetings was made and seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Status of C Fund Construction Projects.** Mr. McFee reviewed the C fund construction projects. Huspah Road in Contract 48 is paved and 95% complete. Construction should be finished next month. Wimbee Creek Landing is under construction. Paving is planned for May. Contract 49 Notice to Proceed has been issued. Survey work has been completed and design is underway. Permit applications for Hobcaw Drive and Major Road have been submitted. Turtle and Gator Lanes permit applications should be submitted for in April. Huspah Court N & S permit application is 25% complete and should be sent in by end of May. Pritchard Street in the Town of Bluffton was removed from County maintenance by County Council on 3/9/15. Karen Jarrett said that town will work with property owners to keep right of way open.

Trotters Loop is in dirt road contract #47 that is approximately 1.2 miles. County Engineering has been trying to obtain right of way for over a year. Three mailings have been completed to property owners. It has been determined to improve the northern most end of Trotters Loop for 3600 feet of roadway. Council has approved condemnation for the remaining parcels adjacent to the 3600 feet of roadway.

Mr. McFee reviewed the right of way acquisition process and the conditions for condemnation requests. Legal services for the condemnations are turned over to the County's right of way attorney. Appraisals are completed as required. Value assigned to any condemnation is very rare for the dirt roads. Legal services and condemnation expenses are paid from the County's TAG funds. There are generally 3 criteria before moving forward with the recommendation to condemn needed right of way. The dirt road is a rated dirt road, community support by a majority of the property owners and a demonstration of public benefit. Discussion continued on the right of way acquisition and condemnation process. Members of the BCTC were concerned about the consistency with condemnations and objectivity when decisions are made by the County to condemn property. Chairman Campbell indicated that the BCTC has tried to remove political influence from dirt road paving and feels that the BCTC should be included in condemnation decisions. Mr. McFee pointed out that in a lot of cases the right of way parcels are heirs property and condemnation is necessary tool to determine ownership. If as a last resort, condemnation is not done for hold out parcels, then the County will remove the road from the County maintenance inventory and the property owners will be responsible for the road's upkeep.

Future condemnation recommendations will be sent by the Engineering Department to the BCTC members for comments and/or recommendations prior to submission to the County's Public Facilities Committee for action.

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

**Public Comment:** Several residents of the Wimbee Landing Road section that is not under construction asked if the entire length could be paved. It was pointed out that the remaining 1.9 miles is programmed for paving FY 2017. Mr. Stroman asked about the status of Twickenham Road. He gets a lot of complaints about its condition. Twickenham Road is also scheduled for paving in FY 2017. The Engineering Department has not started yet on right of way acquisition.

**SCDOT Report.** There was no SCDOT Report.

**Old Business.**

**City of Beaufort Request for Sidewalk Repair Funding.** At the February 11, 2015 Special Meeting, the BCTC made a motion to extend the BCTC's general support for the more extensive sidewalk repair project at Southside Blvd & once a more permanent price is determined by the City then the BCTC would consider funding. Lamar Taylor the City's Public Works Director and David Coleman, City Senior Project Manager presented an update on the repairs. Mr. Coleman advised that engineering design with an estimate has not been completed yet. A rough estimate to repair the existing sidewalk would be  $\pm$  \$112,000. The city would provide demolition, concrete removal & disposal, fill material, barriers, survey and engineering services. The city would like to build back a strong sidewalk with control joints. City's main concern is safety for sidewalk users. Maintenance trucks have parked on the sidewalk when working on the overhead power lines and have caused the concrete to break. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Coleman are requesting \$56,000 in C Funds to begin the project and then receive reimbursement up to \$112,000 after completion of the repairs.

**MOTION.** Mr. Marshall made the motion to approve \$56,000 in funding with no additional funding guarantee until the City gets a completed engineering analysis. The BCTC then can entertain an additional request for funding for sidewalk repairs on Southside Blvd. Ms. Cowart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The cost of the sidewalk repairs on Southside Blvd can be applied to the BCTC's 25% mandated allocation. The local SCDOT maintenance office has not indicated that any funds could be provided for the sidewalk repair.

**New Business.** Chairman Campbell has gotten a request from SCDOT to have the BCTC vote on dropping Spanish Wells Road from the recommended roads for SCDOT resurfacing. Spanish Wells Road will be resurfaced after SCDOT completes the bridge replacement at Jarvis Creek. Also, SCDOT indicated that the \$1.14 million, FY 14/15 25% allocation sent to the C Program Manager in February 2015 would only cover the paving of Broad River Drive and Joe Frazier Road.

**MOTION.** Mr. Gardner made the motion to delete Spanish Wells Road from the BCTC's SCDOT 25% resurfacing programmed roads. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned. Next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2015.