

**BEAUFORT COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING ON JULY 20, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Beaufort County Transportation Committee (BCTC) was held on July 20, 2016 in the Executive Conference Room of the Beaufort County Administrative Complex located at 100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort, South Carolina.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kraig Gordon, Bob Arundell, Joe DeVito, Craig Forrest, Mark McCain, James Morrall, Paul Runko, Joseph Stroman, Stephen Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Steve Miller, Vacant District 7

OTHERS PRESENT: Councilman Jerry Stewart, Beaufort County Council District 6
Rob McFee, Beaufort County Division Director for Construction, Engineering & Facilities
Wendell Mulligan, SCDOT Resident Maintenance Engineer
Darrin Shoemaker, Town of Hilton Head Traffic Engineer
Van Willis, Town of Port Royal Manager

Notification. An audio recording of this meeting is available from the Beaufort County Engineering Department. Please contact the department at 843 255-2700 and request an audio copy. Power Point presentations given to the BCTC are available from the County Engineering Department.

1. **Call to Order & Members Roll Call.** Meeting was called to order at approximately 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Gordon and an attendance roll call was taken.

2. **Public Comment.** No public comment given.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the May 18, 2016 and June 22, 2016 meetings. Motion passed unanimously.

4. **Treasurer's Report.** The BCTC Financial Statement at June 30, 2016 was presented by Mr. Arundell.

5. **Old Business**

A. **Beaufort County Road System Evaluation.** Mr. McFee presented to the committee a power point on the County's roadway system and approaches pavement evaluation. The County has County, State and municipality maintained roadway systems on which C funds can be allocated. There are several ways to analyze pavement evaluation. One system is the surface condition survey another is the pavement condition index (PCI). The surface condition survey is a subjective system where the PCI is an intense, technical driven system. Charleston County had a pavement evaluation service conducted 2 years ago that cost approximately \$211 per mile for the County's state and county roadways. The scope of the service provided right of way imagery to identify assets and pavement distress analysis on type of severity and extent. This evaluation that was used to develop maintenance and repair protocols in priority order. For Beaufort County pavement analysis, Mr. McFee estimated a cost of \$500 per mile for the 209 miles of County roads. Total program would cost approximately \$80,000 to 105,000. It is estimated that the subjective survey would cost \$40,000 to \$60,000. Of course, cost is dependent on what the scope of the evaluation the CTC would include. Shelf life for the evaluation cycle is estimated at 3 to 5 years for County roadways. Per Mr. Mulligan, SCDOT conducts an evaluation every 2 years on their primary roadway system. Mr. Forrest stated that he felt the subjective system is the best system to justify especially since it is effective on small systems like Beaufort County. Chairman Gordon reminded the committee that the County has never had an inventory analysis of the County roadway system. No benchmark has been created for the County engineers to work from. Does the committee want to go out with a request for proposals for County roadway evaluation so the committee and the County engineers have a starting point for selection of roads for resurfacing and improvements? Mr. McCain indicated that

in-depth data from an evaluation could be linked to SCDOT's analysis and any municipality evaluation in order to spend C funds wisely. Mr. Forrest suggested using a system to build a baseline that then the subjective evaluation could use. Traffic impact fee expenditures for resurfacing and improvement decisions would also be determined from the pavement evaluation survey. Mr. McFee feels that the more objective survey which provides a higher evaluation and expandability is the more favorable choice. The County does not currently have comprehensive analysis.

MOTION: Motion was made by Mr. Forrest for an RFP for a Pavement Evaluation Survey to be prepared and advertised on both the subjective and PCI surveys and once the costs are received by the County Engineering Department to present the submitted scope of services and costs to the BCTC for decision on the approach to move forward. Motion was seconded by Mr. Arundell. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. DeVito suggested that the municipalities be asked if they wished to participate in the survey.

B. Alternate Paving Dirt Road Methods. Mr. McFee presented to the committee a power point on the alternatives to dirt road paving. Mr. McFee indicated that it was hard to obtain reliable information for comparing alternate paving methods for expanded asphalt and polymers. There is information on Portland cement modification that he did not include in this presentation but Portland cement cost is comparable to rock cost within \$10,000 a mile. Rock in the presentation could be changed to Portland cement stabilization but there is no data on maintenance of Portland cement stabilization. Mr. McFee presented cost data for annual maintenance by County Public Works. Rock/stone application to dirt roads has a relatively low initial cost compared to asphalt paving and annual maintenance cost. Per Mr. McFee, County would not establish a rocking program without including roadside drainage improvements. A rocking program could be funded by C or TAG funds. Mr. McFee concluded that stone life has a better cost ratio to asphalt application. Initial cost is lower at 20% of paving. Maintenance cost for gravel roads is at least 50% higher but the comparison of initial cost keeps the overall rocking cost lower. County does have several County maintained dirt roads that have been rocked/stoned. Most of the rocked roads are in the Lands End area on St. Helena. Old Country Road in Burton has also been rocked. Right of way still has to be obtained. Community expectation and quality of life could be issues for a rocking program.

Chairman Gordon discussed with Mr. Kubic that if the CTC changed its approach to the paving process to another form would it require County Council approval. Mr. Kubic indicated that the CTC would not need to get prior approval. Chairman Gordon is proposing that if residents/property owners want a road paved it would be their responsibility to acquire the necessary right of way and then present their request to the committee and the CTC would determine if road should be paved or stoned based on procedures set forth by the CTC.

Mr. McCain recommended that the committee accept the presented information on alternate paving methods and use for future discussions.

C. Status of Transportation Plan. Mr. McCain is finalizing the updated transportation plan and will submit a draft version to the Chairman and County staff for review and then to the entire committee for comment. The final version should be presented at the September meeting for discussion. Mr. McCain maintained the theme from the prior BCTC transportation plan as a skeleton but policies will be changing along with process. Some of the changes could include use of TAG funds and development of a PMS program.

D. Future Road Program. Discussion on the future road program was included in the old business items for road system evaluation and alternate paving methods for dirt roads.

6. New Business

A. SCDOT Primary System Funding. The SCDOT C Program Manager has released the State Fiscal Year 2016/2017 C Fund Revenue authorization. Beaufort County will be receiving \$1,296,700 in non-recurring funding which should be spent on primary and secondary roadways. Mr. McFee and Mr. Mulligan have been discussing which primary roadways to consider. Beaufort County will receive an estimated \$1,926,800 in recurring C Funds and \$391,088 for their portion of the donor bonus funds.

B. **Town of Port Royal Sidewalk Request.** Mr. Van Willis, Town Manager for the Town of Port Royal presented a request to the BCTC to fund a match of \$39,451 for a grant application with SCDOT to construct two sections of sidewalk. The Town has been awarded a grant of \$197,257 for sidewalk improvements along two corridors connecting existing sidewalks. The first location is along the north side of Waddell Road between Tailbird Road and Robinson Street. The second location is along Shell Road and Ribaut Road adjacent to the Naval Hospital fence line. These sidewalk upgrades will improve pedestrian access to commercial and recreational areas. These 2 corridors are heavily traveled by pedestrian traffic and safety is an issue.

Motion: Mr. DeVito made a motion to fund the match of \$39,451 requested by the Town of Port Royal for the 2 corridor sidewalk projects for Waddell Road and Shell/Ribaut Road that has been awarded a grant by SCDOT. Mr. McCain seconded the motion. Motion was discussed.

Mr. Forrest felt in his opinion that it was wrong to use matching funds from one state program to match funds in another state program. Mr. Arundell indicated he was concerned that it would divert funds from road improvements and sidewalk improvement would not be as important. Mr. DeVito indicated that pedestrian connectivity and alternate transportation other than vehicles for communities is an important issue. Sidewalk improvement funds were previously given to the City of Beaufort last year by the previous BCTC. Mr. Arundell did note that there were existing dirt paths where the sidewalks would be constructed.

Mr. Willis indicated that the SCDOT C Fund Manager recommended to the Town that they request the match funding from the local CTC. The Town is also providing improvement funding. Mr. Willis added that this corridor has been re-designated as the US 21 Business corridor which will increase truck traffic along Ribaut Road in the Town of Port Royal. The Town is trying to provide a safer pedestrian corridor along with and connecting to the Lady's Island Bridge corridor. The dirt paths that exist now are not handicap accessible.

Chairman Gordon called for the vote on the motion. For: Mr. McCain, Mr. DeVito Opposed: Mr. Arundell, Mr. Forrest, Mr. Morrall, Mr. Runko, Mr. Stroman, Mr. Wilson. Motion did not pass.

C. **MPO Lowcountry Regional Update.** Chairman Gordon stated that an MPO meeting will be held next week. Regional demand models are being prepared by CDM-Smith. Chairman Gordon will report back on this subject when more information is available. After last meeting, Senator Davis sent an email to state officials to discuss the BCTC's concerns for the Jasper Port, lack of connectivity and funding for Exit 3. Chairman Gordon indicated that he has not heard back yet from the Senator but will follow up.

7. **Public Comment.** No public comment given.

8. **Meeting Adjourned.** The next regular meeting is scheduled for on Wednesday, September 21, 2016 at 4:00 p.m., and will be held in the Executive Conference Room, County Administration Building, Robert Smalls Complex, Beaufort, SC.