

BEAUFORT COUNTY TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

MEETING MINUTES

FROM APRIL 19, 2022

The regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee was held on April 19, 2022, at the County Chambers, recorded by [Beaufort County's County Channel](#).

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Joseph Kline, Untron Solomon, Ginnie Kozak, Jerry Reeves IV, Craig Forrest, Penny Ellingsworth, Charles Perry, Bill Fuge, Morris Campbell, Frank Turano, Rob McFee, Dean Moss, Charlie Wetmore, Peter Kristian

**MEMBERS ABSENT (EXCUSED):**

**MEMBERS ABSENT (UNEXCUSED):** Paul Nowlin, Carol Ruff

**MEMBERS TARDY:**

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mr. Eric Greenway, County Administrator, Beaufort County  
Mr. Joseph Passiment, Chairman, Beaufort County Council  
Ms. Alice Howard, Councilwoman, Beaufort, County Council  
Ms. Carol Puryear, Executive Assistant, Engineering  
Ms. Brittane Fields, CIP Coordinator, Engineering

**Notification.** A recording of this meeting is available from the Beaufort County's County Channel.

- 1. Call to Order & Members Roll Call.** The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Moss.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance.** Chairman Dean Moss led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3. Opening Remarks.** Chairman Joseph Passiment gave opening remarks. From Council's perspective: Looking for TAC committee to tell Council what the County will need in order to deal with Infrastructure (roads, bridges, ferries, service transportation, pathways). Restructuring the districts allowed us to find out where the growth was in the County. Areas are growing faster in Southern Beaufort County and will continue to do so. We must have projects in all areas of the county. TAC committee must focus on which projects will garner the most support and impact. Sun City has a few chokepoints on Hwy 170, Hwy 278, Argent Blvd, and Del Webb Blvd. Hwy 278 has difficulties starting at exit 8 to the bridges. Some other problem areas are Hwy 462, Argent Blvd, and Hwy 21. The last sales tax referendum had a lot of support from taxpayers for the bridges, Lady's Island Corridor, and the Pathways. Council approved last night to put an additional \$16m into completing the 24 pathways on the original list. Council looking for a quality product from TAC committee. Council would like Dean Moss to present at the April 25<sup>th</sup> County Council meeting. Desire from many Councilmembers to have a sales tax referendum on the 2022 ballot. Council is looking for 1. Can it be done and what TAC wants to do. 2. Do they believe it's the right thing to do. 3. Is it the right time for a sales tax referendum? Questions presented by committee members. Mr. Campbell asked where Council stands on the sales tax referendum. Chairman Passiment says Council is looking for projects that are sustainable for the next 25 years. Comfortable with a program that lasts more than 4 years. Chairman Passiment expressed concerns about the next hurricane disaster and citizens having only a few ways to exit and enter the county and how most of those roads are failing or failed. Mr. Turano asked what

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we can expect from the State to help. Chairman Passiment stated that we need to have “skin in the game” in order to receive help from the SIB. We are in a unique position due to BIL. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law bill that was passed and now has Federal dollars behind it to support Infrastructure projects. We have an opportunity to tap into that money as well. Mr. Turano asked about many of the roads mentioned being a part of Jasper County. Chairman Passiment stated that it is essential to speak to Jasper County and work with them and the state, and LCOG. Councilwoman Howard stated that she believes the sales tax referendum needs to be longer than four years. She specifically mentioned paving all dirt roads and Ribaut Road project. Chairman Passiment agreed and said that he is aware that we have 67 miles of dirt roads and that currently it would take 30 years to pave and that is too long. TAC has an opportunity now to shorten that time. Mr. Kline asked if the additional \$16m being put into the pathways be sufficient to finish the projects. Ms. Fields stated that 14 of the 24 pathways will be able to be completed and that the process is the same as a roadway. Mr. Reeves stated that something should have been done for Argent Blvd long before all the new homes in Sun City were built. Ms. Fields said that Hardeeville is actively working on Shortcut Road and Argent Blvd improvements. Chairman Passiment says that Hwy 462 needs to be widened. The Sgt Jasper Blvd will be reconstructed so a golf cart bridge can be used for Sun City residents to access restaurants, amenities, etc. On the New River side of the road, USCB wants to find a way to get their students across Highway 278 safely. Mr. Kristian asked if Council wants to know if this is the right time for a sales tax referendum. Chairman Passiment agreed and said they will need the projects, timeline, and money needed for those projects. Chairman Passiment thanked committee members for volunteering their time and expertise.

4. **Approval of Agenda.**

**Motion:** It was moved were moved by Rob McFee and seconded by Untron Solomon

**The Vote:** The motion was approved without objection.

5. **Approval of Minutes.**

**Motion:** Both March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 7<sup>th</sup> minutes were moved by Peter Kristian and seconded by Untron Solomon.

**The Vote:** The motion was approved without objection.

6. **Project Discussion.**

7. **Remarks by Chairman Dean Moss.**

8. **Meeting Adjourned.** The next regular meeting of the TAC will be on Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at 5:30 p.m., held in the County Council Chambers, County Administration Building, Robert Smalls Complex, Beaufort, SC.