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Meeting Minutes
Rural Technical Committee
Wednesday, September 13, 2023
In-Person Meeting

Members Present:

Kerri Kellahan, WRCOG
Stacey Johnson, SCDOT
Lyle Lee, SCDOT
Wayne Montgomery, Town of Lane
Mayor Brown, Town of Stuckey
Randy Plummer, Horry County
Mauretta Dorsey, Town of Andrews
Holly Richardson, Georgetown County
Ray Funnye, Georgetown County
Andre Dorsey, WCT Transit

Members Absent:

Jessica Hucks, City of Conway
Keonta Moore, Williamsburg County
John Gardner, Town of Aynor
Candace Brown, Coast RTA
Alvin Chambers, Town of Kingstree
Joey Skipper, SCDOT
John Collins, Town of Hemingway
Clay Young, City of Loris
Williamsburg County (vacant)
Williamsburg County (vacant)

Other Attendees:

Leigh Kane, WRCOG
Sarah Smith, WRCOG
Mark Howeler, WRCOG
Brooke Morrell, WRCOG
Elizabeth Tucker, WRCOG
Chelsea Cogliano, WRCOG

Welcome and Introductions- Ms. Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced changes of staff roles for the RTC. Ms. Smith stated that RTC manuals have been provided for all members. Ms. Kellahan introduced herself and asked everyone else to do the same.

Meeting Minutes- Ms. Kellahan asked for an approval of the meeting minutes from June 25, 2023. Ms. Kane asked if there was a quorum and Ms. Kellahan stated that six (6) members were required for a quorum and the requirement had been met. Ms. Kellahan asked for a motion to approve the minutes. *A motion was made by Wayne Montgomery and seconded by Ray Funnye and approval of the minutes passed unanimously.*

SCDOT Project Update

Mr. Johnson updated the committee on the following projects:

- SC 41, Big Dam Swamp intersection project is progressing with design and purchasing of ROW. Construction is estimated to begin around 2025. Mr. Johnson stated that they have been trying to make contact with a church located in the project area but cannot reach anyone and asked that if anyone was familiar with the church to please reach out to him.
- US 52 at Eastland Ave, finishing up design and hope to acquire ROW by early next year. Construction is estimated to begin in Summer of 2025.
- Easler/ Holliman/OGR intersection preliminary design work is nearing completion, ROW is scheduled to be acquired by the end of 2023, with construction planned for early 2025

Ms. Kellahan asked if anyone had any questions for Mr. Johnson. There were no questions.

SCDOT Accident Data

Ms. Kellahan stated that Leigh Kane and the planning staff put together heat maps of accident data all three counties. Digital copies were offered to anyone who requested them. Ms. Kellahan stated that from looking at the maps, it is obvious that we need to prioritize safety in our region. Ms. Kane explained that the maps include injuries and fatalities and from a comparison standpoint to other COG regions, our region is the worst. Ms. Kane continued to explain that if you are going to get in an accident in any of our three counties you are more likely to experience serious injury or fatality. The maps include driving under the influence, but Ms. Kane stated that if anyone would like to see the maps without this factor she could take it out since it does not affect roadway design. The goal of providing this information is to help you provide recommendations within the rural LRTP. Ms. Kane also covered bike and ped accidents and although the majority of accidents occur in the GSATS area, the rural area still has concerning areas because of no shoulder and low visibility. Ms. Kane concluded by stating that we will be taking information from public input meetings, one-on-one stakeholder meetings, and online surveys to help identify future project needs within the rural LRTP.

Ms. Kellahan asked if there were any questions. Randy Plummer asked how often the GSATS boundaries get updated. Ms. Kane stated that they should be updated by the end of the year. Mark Howeler stated they have already presented them to DOT. Ms. Smith stated that it is important to have projects in both long range plans since you can spend rural money in the urban area. Lyle Lee agreed with Ms. Smith. Ms. Smith discussed Jeanette Street project as an example.

Long Range Transportation Plan Update

Ms. Kellahan presented current information regarding the LRTP. The online survey closed on this day and as of September 11th there were 164 responses. Ms. Kellahan asked Chelsea Cogliano if anymore surveys were received and she was not sure but stated that the survey was open until the end of the day. Ms. Kellahan continued to provide information regarding the public input meetings in each county. Georgetown County had four (4) attendees, Williamsburg County had fourteen (14) attendees, and Horry County had nine (9) attendees. The planning department is working to synthesize this data and have a draft prepared by November 1st. Ms. Kane reminded the committee that they would have to make a recommendation to the board to accept the plan once it is finalized.

There were no further questions regarding this information item.

Ranking Criteria for Projects

Ms. Kellahan explained that our ranking process will be slightly different for this plan than what we have done in the past. Meetings will be held with stakeholders from each county to receive projects that are of priority. Once this is completed, we will then rank all of the projects according to our ranking criteria that has been sent to the SCDOT commission for approval. The criteria is the same as GSATS and was developed using SCDOT's planning directive 15. Proposed criteria is traffic volume and congestion-twenty (20) points, safety-thirty (30) points, livability-twenty (20) points, financial viability and maintenance cost- ten (10) points, environmental impact and resiliency- ten (10) points, functional class- five (5) points, consistency with local land use plan- five (5) points. Mr. Hoeweler stated that GSATs requested a variance from SCDOTs criteria to include livability and prioritization of safety. Ms. Kane discussed the importance of having all types of projects listed in this plan for other funding options. Ms. Smith explained that TAP funding can be a resource for streetscape funding that may be identified in the LRTP and that there is funding in the TIP to program projects. Ms. Kellahan asked if there were any questions. Ray Funnye asked if improvements could only be done to state roads, or if local and county roads and bridges are included. Mr. Hoeweler responded that bridges are a separate pot of money. Ms. Smith included that the local bridges could be mentioned in the LRTP.

Next Meeting- The next scheduled meeting will be December 13, 2023. Ms. Kellahan stated that we may need to call a special meeting in order to get the LRTP approved by December.

Other Business- Ms. Kellahan asked if there was any other business to discuss. Member of the public expressed a desire for the City of Georgetown to have parking meters as a source of revenue.

Adjourn- Ms. Kellahan asked if there were any other questions or comments. Receiving no questions of comments, the meeting was adjourned.