



**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
SUMMARY MINUTES**

**February 28, 2025 – 12:00 p.m.
Rock Hill Operations Center – Room 132**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Guynn Savage; Chris Gray; John Gettys; Jose Luis; Christi Cox; Michael Johnson; Tom Audette; Derrick Lindsay; Ben Hudgins; Watts Huckabee; Health Sessions (P); and Jim Reno(P).

ADMINISTRATIVE / TECHNICAL / MANAGEMENT STAFF PRESENT:

Patrick Hamilton (York County); Tony Edwards (SCDOT); Penelope Karagounis (Town of Fort Mill); Josh Meetze (SCDOT); Chris Herrmann (City of Rock Hill); Diane Dil (York County); Tommy Feemster (SCDOT); Christopher Stephens (York County); Nick Cauthen (Tega Cay); Jimmy Bagley (City of Rock Hill); Josh Edwards (York County); Jason Johnston (SCDOT); Cary Vargo (Town of Fort Mill); Leah Youngblood (City of Rock Hill); Jonathan Buono (York County); Rob Ruth (City of Rock Hill); Steve Allen (Catawba Regional); Shamika Peterson (SCDOT); and David Hooper (RFATS).

CITIZENS / VISITORS PRESENT: John Marks (Herald); Lamaur Stancil (Post & Courier); Scot Couchenour (Lancaster County Resident); Cleopatra Allen (CAC); Jim Van Blarcom (CAC); Sherri Williamson (HDR); Frank Myers (CAC); David Speer (HDR); Chris Guido (HDR); Tim Popelka (McAdams) and Stephen Comer (Lancaster County);

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- a. **Welcome** – Chair Savage called the meeting to order at 12:00 P.M. and welcomed all in attendance.
- b. **Citizen Comment Period** – Mr. Couchenour highlighted four items of concern: (1) the designation of “overlay districts” and the relationship to property valuation and related mortgage financing terms / conditions; (2) the role of public advocacy defender programs; (3) time and costs considerations in land use decision actions; and (4) Right-of-Way acquisition companies and real estate licensing requirements.

2. REVIEW / APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Savage asked if there were any changes, deletions, or comments to the minutes of the January 28, 2025 meeting. Mr. Audette made a motion to approve; this was seconded by Mr. Luis and unanimously approved.

3. REPORTS:

- a. **SCDOT Project Status Report** – Mr. Meetze & Mr. Edwards reviewed principal decision-points on all existing projects that SCDOT is working on within the planning area; specifically, US 521 / Marvin Road and the Celanese / India Hook Road Intersection Improvement Projects as well as the SC 160 / I-77 Interchange Reconfiguration Project. Ms Savage then mentioned a notification she received regarding the contractor construction team coming into contact with an area gas line; and importantly, stressed the need for close monitoring / reporting of such occurrences.

b. **Celanese / I-77 Interchange Evaluation Study (Follow-up Re Non-Project Specific Variables)** – Mr. Hooper provided a follow-up report covering the range of key land use decisions and related operational variables (i.e., number of commercial driveways along key corridors as well as the utilization of access management islands, etc); and how they favorably impact system safety, reliability, and the extension of the useful life of project specific improvement activity.

4. PROPOSED POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS

a. **2050 LRTP Amendemnt** – Mr. Hooper briefly reviewed the latest state safety information; and then requested adoption of the 2025 Annual Safety Performance Targets for the planning area contingent on any comments received during a 30-day public comment period. The Policy Committee then granted unanimous approval of this action.

b. **FY 24-33 TIP Amendment (Dave Lyle Blvd Pedestrian Flyover Bridge)** – Mr. Hooper requested final approval to reflect \$10,109,073 federal funding award through the Reconnecting Communities Grant Award in the FY 24-33 TIP. The Policy Committee then granted unanimous approval to this action and authorized submittal to SCDOT for processing.

c. **FY 24-33 TIP Amendment** – Mr. Hooper requested approval of an amendment to re-incorporate the Cel-River Road Widening Project into the FY 24-33 TIP. As a point of reference, Mr. Hooper noted that while this project is substantially complete, one component remains active, and our federal partners need this to be present as they complete a few remaining steps they’re working on. The Policy Committee then granted their unanimous approval to this request contingent on any comments being received during a 21-day public comment period.

d. **FY 24-33 TIP Amendment (Rowells Road Bridge Replacement)** – Mr. Hooper briefly noted that SCDOT has requested the programming of funding in the amount of \$3,685,000 to undertake the Rowells Road Bridge Replacement Project. Mr. Hooper then requested preliminary approval and authorization to initiate a 21-day public comment period. The Policy Committee then granted their unanimous approval to the rquest.

5. OTHER BUSINESS:

a. **Administrative Report** – Mr. Hooper briefly reviewed administrative adjustments to project funding / implementation schedules; area planning initiatives; as well as process / procedural changes at the federal agency level; and resulting adjustments that may be requested during the year. Lastly, Mr. Hooper noted that he will provide more information as it becomes available

b. **Next Meeting** – Ms. Savage noted that the next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for March 28, 2025.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

The motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Savage and seconded by Mr. Gettys; the motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 12:58 P.M.