

Transportation Penny Advisory Committee
September 24, 2018 – 5:30 PM
4th Floor Conference Room
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia 29204

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Frank Anderson, Malcolm Gordge, Richard Brown, Phillip Simoneaux, Larry Funderburk, John Epting, Tia Evans, Lee Mashburn and Norman Jackson

OTHERS PRESENT: Michelle Onley, Kimberly Toney, Bryant Davis, and Mohammed Al-Tofan

CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Phillip Simoneaux called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: No Quorum

PUBLIC COMMENT – No one signed up to speak.

THE COMET PROGRAM UPDATE

- ◇ **Service Changes** – The COMET is proposing an extensive list of service changes to be implemented over the next 8 months, starting on October 22. Among the proposed services are:
 - *Increase service on the 2 Lexington County Routes (26 & 28) and extend Rout 28 to the Airport;*
 - *Increase frequencies on the 101 to 20 minutes during peak and 30 minutes on weekends;*
 - *Restructure routes to serve grocery stores: Route 17 to Lowe’s Foods and Publix on Forest Dr.; the 301 to Piggly Wiggly on N. Main; Route 31 to Piggly Wiggly on N. Main; and Route 32 to Piggly Wiggly on N. Main; and*
 - *Add on-demand service to the Riverbanks Zoo on Route 84.*

- ◇ **Service Agreement** – The COMET signed a memorandum of understanding with the Richland One School District to allow unlimited access to all Richland One high school students. The agency already had a similar agreement with Richland Two School District, and are getting ready to have discussion with Lexington-Richland Five about a similar partnership.

- ◇ **Shelters and Benches** – In the last 2 months shelters have been added at the Village at Sandhills serving the Richland County Library and R2i2, Two Notch and Windover, Two Notch and Atrium, and a connection protection zone was completed at the Harbison Walmart, which included a 16’ and 30’ shelters, benches, cart corral, and bike racks. Staff also submitted a proposal to Richland County to build a connection protection zone similar to the one at Harbison at the Columbia Place Mall on property the county now owns.

- ◇ **OTR II** – The COMET provided service to the OTR II concert featuring Beyonce and Jay Z. Due to the high cost of parking at the event (\$40, \$85), demand was exceedingly high; people were lined up at the State Museum at 3:00 p.m. for a service that did not begin until 5:30 p.m. The COMET charged \$3.00, the cost of an All-Day pass or two one-way rides. We had 1,783 boardings for the evening and collected \$4,844.50 in pass sales.

- ◇ **Ridership** – The month of August saw almost 255,000 boardings, a record high for the agency for at least a

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decade. The high ridership can partly be attributed to the half price 31-day cards sold during the months of May, June, and July. July was the last month the half-price cards were available with predictably high sales. A dip in August was equally predictable.

◇ Cash –

- The COMET has collected \$75,478,162 in Penny Revenue since 2013
- Operating: \$10.28 million
- Reserve Funds: \$4.86 Million
- Spent 1/12 of the annual budget

◇ Pursuing a fee increase

◇ Proposal for pursuing electric bus

- Pursued a grant, but were not successful.

Prior to Mr. Andoh joining the organization, the previous Director stated it was more affordable for them to purchase diesel fuel buses, but they like the idea of going toward the electric buses.

Mr. Andoh stated he will bring the analysis of diesel vs. electric back to committee.

Mr. Andoh was asked if he had any experience with electric buses.

Mr. Andoh stated he was involved with an electric bus pilot, a diesel hybrid pilot and a compressed natural gas pilot.

Mr. Andoh was asked if the cost effectiveness of operating the solar powered buses is based on the electric company reducing their rates.

Mr. Andoh stated the cost effectiveness is based on when they charge the buses. If they charge them during the peak periods that will lead to a higher costs.

Mr. Andoh was asked how often the buses are charged.

Mr. Andoh stated the buses can run for 450 miles or 8 hours. It also depends on the type of surface the routes are running on.

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES UPDATE

- ◇ **Executive Summary:** This report is submitted pursuant to Ordinance(s) 049-13HR and 058-16HR to ensure that the OSBO team provides support to the County to ensure that the SLBE has equal opportunity to participate in County contracts for all six (6) Industry Categories: Construction Services, Professional Services, Non-Professional Services, Engineering Services, Architectural Services, and Wholesale Operations.
- ◇ **Purpose:** The purpose of this report is managing the ongoing requirements of the Ordinance(s), improving and creating new Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and ensuring payments to contracted SLBEs.

◇ **Analysis:** SLBE Certified Firms (Active Certification) – 82 Firms

- The amount of certified businesses that have received contracts are tracked through the B2G Program

◇ **Contract Participation:**

- Payments to SLBE Certified - \$40,243,182
- Total - \$138,930,141

◇ **Department Outlook:**

- i. Facilitating increase in County wide SLBE utilization in County wide contracts*
 - OSBO staff is collaborating with RC Directors to identify current vendors to become certified SLBEs
- ii. Continued review of PDT SLBE Contractual Compliance*
 - PDT SLBE Participation Update and Payment Invoices
- iii. Scheduling a meeting with Steering Committee of Small Businesses to review*
 - Sheltered Markets, Mentor Protégé Program, NAICS Codes (size standards) and Joint Venture Opportunities
- ***Business Development***
 - i. OSBO Website Highlights*
 - ii. Highlighted Articles*
 - ❖ *Firms's Featured Stories*
 - Premier Care Services, LLC – District 7
 - P & B Promotionals, LLC – District 11
 - SLC Hauling and Trucking Company, LLC – District 2
 - Shady Grove Construction, LLC – District 1
 - iii. Coordinated OSBO participation in USC 2018 Small and Minority Contractors Matchmaking Event, August 2, 2018*
 - iv. Negotiated and coordinated Partner of the Month with 1 Million Cups for the month of August*
 - v. Attended the OSBO Ad Hoc Committee Meeting*
 - vi. Coordinated and hosted Small Business Focus Group on August 22, 2018 in response of the July 10, 2018 OSBO Ad Hoc Committee Members meeting to obtain the recommendations of the OSBO SLBE/ESLBE Community as it pertains to the Sheltered Market Program, NAICS Codes/Size Standards, and Mentor Protégé Program*
 - vii. Attended the Pedestrian Improvements at Intersection SLBE Goal Setting Percentages Meeting*
 - viii. Attended and participated in the PDT Contracts/SLBE Participation goals meetings*
 - ix. Attended Pre-Construction meetings for Dirt Road Package G and H*
 - x. Attended the Pre-Construction meeting for Sidewalk Packages S-8 and S-6*
 - xi. Attended a pre-bid meeting for Sidewalk S-9*
 - xii. Attended and participated in the OSBO Staff meeting with City of Columbia Office of Small*

- Business Opportunity (OBO) on building a stronger partnership*
- xiii. *Participated in approximately 4 site visits with certification and compliance*
- xiv. *Sent out approximately 6 Outreach Campaigns via B2G*
- xv. *Conducted a door to door business outreach campaign*
- xvi. *Approved one new SLBE Certification*

- **Financial Resources Coordinator:**

(Projects Completed)

- i. *Attended Pre-Construction meeting with Dirt Road Package G and H and Sidewalk Packages S-8 and S-6*
- ii. *Meeting was held during the Month of August with PDT staff to discuss SLBE participation goals*
- iii. *Attended pre-bid meeting for Sidewalk S-9*
- iv. *Attended opening bid meeting for Sidewalk Package S-9 on September 5, 2018*
- v. *Reconciled multiple undocumented payments (time and month information is pulled)*
 - ❖ *Number of payments due to prime – 55*
 - ❖ *Number of payments not confirmed by subcontractors – 29*

- **Certification & Compliance:**

(Projects Completed)

- i. *Completed three (3) new certifications and one (1) re-certification and three (3) new certifications pending and one (1) re-certification pending*
- ii. *Amended USC Small and Minority Contractors Matchmaker Event on August 2, 2018 where there were more than 60 firms in attendance*
- iii. *OSBO was Partner of the month for the 1 Million Cup at Richland Library*
- iv. *OSBO met with the City of Columbia Staff to discuss building a stronger partnership between the City Office of Business Opportunity (OBO) and Richland County OSBO*
- v. *On August 22, 2018 OSBO held a Small Business Focus Group. The purpose of the focus group was a follow up on the July 10, 2018 request from the OSBO Ad Hoc Committee Members for OSBO staff to meet with certified SLBE firms from each of the industry categories listed in the SLBE Program Ordinance (No. 049-13HR) to obtain input and recommendations on the OSBO SLBE Program (1) Sheltered Market Program, (2) Size Standards, and (3) Mentor Protégé Program. OSBO staff will be following up with the focus group members on their recommendations*

- **Work with CGS Staff to implement a Small Business Expo for Spring 2019**

TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM UPDATE

- ◇ **Council Approvals:**

- **Resurfacing Package P** – Council approved September 11, 2018 a contract in the amount of \$3.2 Million consisting of 80 roads, which was under the engineering estimate.

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◇ Preconstruction Update:

- Blythewood Widening Phase 1 – The PDT submitted 70% complete Right of Way Plans to SCDOT and requested authorization to begin acquiring Right of Way on August 28, 2018
- Blythewood Area Improvements – The PDT and OET conducted a kick-off meeting for the design on August 27, 2018
- Clemson Road Widening – The PDT submitted the request for Construction Authorization to SCDOT on August 29, 2018. The project is planned to be advertised for construction in October/November 2018
- Lower Richland Boulevard Widening – A completed Service Order to begin design was fully executed on September 13, 2018. A kick-off meeting will be scheduled for late September.
- Polo Road Widening – The PDT and OET conducted a kick-off meeting for the design on September 6, 2018.
- Bull/Elmwood Intersection – Approval from the SCDOT was received on August 30, 2018 to initiate Right of Way acquisition. 95% complete plans are scheduled to be delivered to the PDT in late September.
- Garners Ferry/Harmon, North Springs/Harrington, and Screaming Eagle Percival Intersections – 95% complete plans were submitted to SCDOT on August 23, 2018 for initial review. Right of Way acquisition continues.
- Shop Road Extension Phase 2 – The design has begun and a kick-off meeting was conducted August 7, 2018. A public meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 6, 2018.
- Greene Street Phase 2 – Design remains approximately 99% complete. Detailed design is being coordinated with the railroad and one drainage outfall location. Project critical items remain Railroad Agreements and Right of Way acquisition/coordination of the USC Facilities building.
- Broad River Corridor Neighborhood Improvement Plan – The PDT and OET conducted a kick-off meeting for the design on September 4, 2018.
- Broad River Neighborhood Plan – The project is planned to be advertised for construction in late September 2018.
- Candlewood Neighborhood Plan Phase 3 – The project is planned to be advertised for construction in late September 2018.
- Decker/Woodfield Neighborhood Plan – 95% complete plans for Chatsworth Connector and Faraway Sidewalks are under review by the PDT. A public meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2018 from 5-7 at Decker Center.
- Southeast Richland Neighborhood Plan (SERN) – The PDT submitted the request for Construction Authorization to SCDOT on August 29, 2018. The project is planned to be advertised for construction in October/November 2018.
- Trenholm Acres/Newcastle Neighborhood Plan – The PDT and OET conducted a kick-off meeting for the design on August 30, 2018.
- Crane Creek Greenway Section A, B, C – A completed Service Order to begin design was fully executed on August 30, 2018. A kick-off meeting will be scheduled for late September.
- Gills Creek Greenway – Phase 2 design continues. A completed Service Order to begin design for Phase 3 was fully executed on August 29, 2018. A kick-off meeting will be scheduled for late September.
- Dutchman Blvd., Polo Road/Windsor Lake, Woodbury/Old Leesburg Greenways – A completed Service Order to begin design is expected to be executed in late September. A kick-off meeting will then be scheduled.

- Smith/Rocky Branch Greenway Sections A, B, C – A completed Service Order to begin design was fully executed on August 28, 2018. A kick-off meeting will be scheduled for late September.
- Pedestrian Intersections – The project has been advertised for construction and bids are due October 3, 2018.

◇ Construction Update

- North Main Street – Both the SCE&G and Joint Use utility duct banks are essentially complete. The waterline relocation and sewer line rehabilitation are also essentially complete. Removal of overhead utilities and installation of storm drainage has begun from Anthony Street to near Sunset Blvd.
- Shop Road Extension Phase 1 – Resurfacing of the existing intersection of Shop Road and Pineview is now complete. Concrete pavement from the intersection with Pineview is essentially complete, but shoulder grading continues in this area. Approximately 3,000' of the eastbound lanes was paved with asphalt in preparation for future placement of concrete.
- Farrow Road/Pisgah Church Intersection – This project is now complete.
- 3 Rivers Greenway – Installation of the concrete pathway is now 95% complete. The 900' section of elevated boardwalk in the vicinity of the rapids is 60% complete. Work continues on the bathrooms, ranger station, and parking lot.
- Magnolia/Schoolhouse Sidewalks – The Construction Notice-to-Proceed has been issued for October 1, 2018.
- Dirt Road Packages G and H – The Construction Notice-to-Proceed has been issued for October 1, 2018.
- Pelham/Tryon Sidewalks – The Construction Notice-to-Proceed has been issued for October 1, 2018.
- Resurfacing Package O (39 roads) – The Construction Notice-to-Proceed has been issued for October 1, 2018.

◇ Miscellaneous

- A Transportation Ad Hoc Committee meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2018.
- SCDOT deadlines have been extended approximately 2 – 3 weeks due to the hurricane.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Simoneaux suggested dividing the committee members up into subcommittees to focus on certain aspects of the program. He requested feedback from the committee members.

Mr. Beaty stated if any of the members would like for him to attend community/HOA meetings, rotary clubs meetings, etc. to provide information, he would be glad to do so.

- Next Scheduled Meeting: October 22, 2018 – 2020 Hampton Street

ADJOURN – The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:13 PM