

**COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (CTC)  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
MINUTES  
JUNE 26, 2013**

The County Transportation Committee (CTC) held a special called meeting on Wednesday, June 26, 2013 to provide information regarding the C-Fund Program. The meeting was held in the Committee Room, located on the second floor of the Administration Building, beginning at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Banning, Chairman, presided.

Members Attending:

William B. Banning, Sr., Chairman	Johnny W. Jeffcoat, V Chairman
James E. Kinard	Frank J. Townsend, III
*M. Kent Collins	Bobby C. Keisler
K. Brad Matthews	M. Todd Cullum

Absent: Debra B. Summers

\*Mr. Collins arrived after the meeting was already in process.

Also attending: Joe Mergo, III, County Administrator; Randy Poston, Chief Financial Officer; Jeff Anderson, County Attorney; other staff members, citizens of the county and representatives of the media.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda was sent to radio and TV stations, newspapers, and posted on the bulletin board located in the lobby of the County Administration Building.

**Introduction/Meeting Purpose - Wrenn Barrett, Director of Public Work** - Mr. Barrett and staff provided information regarding the County's C-Fund Program. He reported the County has 675 miles of dirt roads with funding that paves approximately five miles a year. Mr. Barrett said one important action item that the CTC will need to address in the very near future is the Projects Phase III Right-of-way Issues process. He said he wanted to provide information to distinguish between a 5-year program and a long range plan. Also, staff suggested that the Committee revisit the annual C-Fund distribution for municipal projects

**C-Fund Program Overview - Joey Derby, C-Fund Project Manager** - Mr. Derby provided an outline of the C-Fund Program basics. He reported C-Funds are generated from the state gas tax allocated through the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) at 2.66 cents per gallon. He explained the formula used to allocate funding to the County totaling \$4.08 million (Total breakdown; SCDOT Distribution - \$2.77 million, Donor County Settlement - \$1.27 million, and Investment Interest -\$40,000). Mr. Derby said per the C-Fund statute that 25 percent of the County's C-Fund apportionment must be used on the state highway system and the CTC may expend up to 75 percent for qualified public transportation related projects. Mr. Derby outlined the County's Dirt Road Paving Program

that is determined by a project ranking formula for petitioned roads. For information only, no action taken.

**C-Fund Distribution - Public Works - Joey Derby, C-Fund Project Manager** - Mr. Derby provided a pie chart illustration of the annual C-Fund distribution reflecting the project funding amount totaling \$4,082,000 with project percentages. Chairman Banning asked about the largest percentage shown of 46.4 percent “Dirt to Pave” Construction. Mr. Derby responded that amount or the other percentages shown have not changed over the past few years. The Committee discussed the possibility of changing the percentages and amounts set aside for the projects listed. Staff was asked the cost per mile to pave a dirt road. Mr. Barrett replied as a budgeting item staff uses \$500,000 per mile which includes everything. However, contract numbers have been coming in at approximately \$350,000 per mile for just construction and based on these numbers, the County is able to pave approximately four and half to five miles per year. Mr. Derby reviewed the second pie chart illustrating the actual road projects with distribution of C-Funds. The Committee expressed concerns about a road swap with SCDOT, i.e., the A.C. Bouknight Road project. Staff requested to research why the County would pave a dirt road with the County’s funding allocation then give it to another organization for another dirt road to be put into the County’s road system. Mr. Barrett said the state has set a cap on the number road miles they maintain and the C-Fund Program is set up so they cannot increase their mileage. He reported the County’s maintenance time costs associated with maintaining roads are not being captured now, especially every time it rains. Mr. Randy Edwards, County Engineer, reported previously all that was looked at was the actual dollar cost to maintain a dirt road versus a paved road, and so dollar for dollar it cost less to maintain a dirt road than a paved road. He said the County’s true costs are time, effort, energy, meetings, and addressing the different complaints depending on the dirt road. Mr. Edwards said for the past 20 years it has been a mile for mile even swap for a SCDOT dirt road for a newly paved County road (previous dirt road). He said staff would like to propose expending the SCDOT match on SCDOT roads for improvements that would benefit the County and its citizens. For example, the Bush River and Ball Park Road improvements, which are both on SCDOT roads that the County would have to expend Solid Waste funds for gets zero credit for it. Mr. Edwards explained if the County expends C-Fund monies on these two projects we would get in return 100% of everything spent on the projects. He reported staff plans to compile a list of small road projects eligible for C-Fund allocations that would improve the County’s road network in lieu of a swap with SCDOT and present to Council for review. He said SCDOT has 18 miles left in their system which are the worse in their system. Currently, the County is working with SCDOT with a swap for A.C. Bouknight Road that is expected to go to construction next spring. He reported staff wants to get in front of the two-year commitment as opposed to being behind the two-year commitment. Mr. Edwards said by having the various \$200,000-\$400,000 road projects already in the system, the County could expend C-Funds before the two year period expires instead of having to spend the remaining balance just for resurfacing projects toward the end of the commitment period. The Committee discussed the different road treatments used and the costs involved. For information only, no action taken.

Mr. Barrett moved to the Project Ranking Formula to be followed by the Local Match Proposal.

**Project Ranking Formula - Public Works - Randy Edwards, County Engineer** - Mr. Edwards briefly reviewed the current ranking formula. He reported the old formula was based on five criteria; 1) Maintenance Cost - based on average annual cost per road, 2) Average Daily Traffic - based on daily traffic count; 3) Density - based on the number of houses per mile, 4) Credits School Bus Routes, and 5) Age - based on length of time the road has been petitioned. He presented staff's proposed new ranking formula based on a fixed factor of 100 points: 1) Value - Average annual cost per road at 40%; 2) ADT - average daily traffic count at 35%; 3) Density - number of homes per mile at 10%; 4) School bus route at 10%; and 5) Age - Length of time the road has been petitioned at 5% (the sheet presented prior to meeting was incorrect). Staff also recommended future considerations in the dirt road ranking formula by developing; 1) a road safety factor, 2) asset inventory, 3) road condition factor, and 4) GIS based asset management/inventory. Mr. Mergo reported if Council approved the proposed ranking formula then the entire inventory would need to be reworked for the new ranking formula. Mr. Edwards explained there is currently not enough data to get past this formula for the 675 miles of dirt roads. It would cost approximately \$225,000 to evaluate all the dirt roads to provide the data needed for this system. Staff presented the current top 50 ranked dirt roads and how they would rank based on the new formula system. The Committee discussed giving consideration to the current top 25 ranked roads. Mr. Edwards said the \$225,000 for the evaluation is eligible for C-Funding (County roads were last evaluated in 2003). Mr. Cullum said in order to reclassify the whole County road system we would have to give up three-quarters of a mile of paving for one year. Staff was asked to provide a list by percentage breakdown of the dirt roads including the number of miles per Council district. Mr. Barrett reported that the County's GIS staff was currently working on a county-wide road map.

Mr. Barrett presented a list of road complaints from FY2011-12 and explained how it was ranked based on the number of phone calls received. He said that after compiling the list, he found that one caller represented 98 percent of the calls. Staff requested to provide a copy of the list by County district to the Committee. The Committee discussed including the road complaints in the formula as a maintenance factor and how it may impact incoming phone calls. Staff will look at this as a possible internal factor. For information only, no action taken.

**Local Match Factor Proposal - Public Works - Wrenn Barrett, Director of Public Works** - Mr. Barrett asked for the Committee's feedback on the local match idea in terms of the percentages to see if there was a way to stretch C-Funds. Mr. Cullum asked if staff was referring to the local match for people with property on the roadway to contribute to some of the costs. Mr. Barrett replied it would be any source of money that would go toward funding the project. Mr. Jeffcoat reported at one time there was a program in place that allows individuals to buy the materials and the County would do the work. He asked if this process was still in place. Mr. Edwards replied that the County has a public-private partnership process in place but said when the true project costs were presented to the individual it never came to fruition and has not been done in the last five years. Mr. Keisler asked why should an individual pay the County to pave their dirt road when there are other people on that road paying taxes and then turn around and give the paved road to the County. The Committee

discussed the process. Mr. Mergo said he wanted to clarify that this is a different program than the one you are talking about. This is taking the total cost to pave the road showing it to the property owners for them to decide on what percentage of the total cost they would be willing to pay and then that road can go up from two percent to 80 percent based on the agreed percentage and elevates it up the list based on that process. Mr. Cullum said so the property owner is basically buying his way up the list bypassing roads that may have a more legitimate need. He said he has no problem with the current program buying materials and the County paving the road but has concerns about buying your place on the listing. Mr. Mergo said staff has been approached by some County residents about the options. The Committee discussed setting aside a certain amount of funding for the public private partnership program from C-Funds (of the \$1.8 million allocated for the C-Fund Dirt to Pave Construction) and if it is not expended by a given timeframe returned to the Dirt to Pave Construction. Staff asked to look at the costs of the top 50 dirt roads to provide a status list and return with recommendations. For information only, no action taken.

**Current Status of Top 25 Road Projects & Right of Way Update/Required Actions-  
Joey Derby, C-Fund Project Manager and Terry Kimley, Engineering & R/W Associate**

- Staff provided illustrated maps that included the ranking and project status for the top 25 road projects. Mr. Derby went through each and highlighted their current status. Mr. Edwards reported Council and staff worked out a right-of-way process dealing with contacting unresponsive property owners and, due to success of the process, it has significantly cut back on the right-of-way issues. The Committee discussed issues specific to some of the roads during staff's review and possible resolutions. For information only, no action taken.

**Conceptual 5-Year Plan - Public Works - Wren Barrett, Director of Public Works - Mr.**

Barrett asked the Committee to review the Conceptual 5-Year Plan submitted for feedback. He reported the 5-Year Plan lists the road projects and balance of the C-Funds with costs and expenditures. For information only, no action taken.

**Old Business/New Business - None.**

**Executive Session** - A motion was made by Mr. Jeffcoat seconded by Mr. Townsend to go into Executive Session to discuss one contractual matter.

In Favor:        Mr. Banning                Mr. Jeffcoat  
                      Mr. Townsend               Mr. Keisler  
                      Mr. Cullum

Absent:            Mr. Kinard                    Mr. Collins  
                      Ms. Summers                Mr. Matthews

Mr. Banning reported out of Executive Session with no motions to be considered.

A motion was made by Mr. Townsend, seconded by Mr. Jeffcoat to adjourn the County Transportation Committee.

In Favor:     Mr. Banning           Mr. Townsend  
                  Mr. Jeffcoat           Mr. Keisler  
                  Mr. Cullum

Absent:        Mr. Kinard            Mr. Collins  
                  Ms. Summers        Mr. Matthews

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy R. Busbee  
Assistant Clerk

William B. Banning, Sr.  
Chairman

Diana W. Burnett  
Clerk