

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
JULY 26, 2011**

The Public Works Committee met on Tuesday, July 26, 2011 in the Committee Room, located on the second floor of the Administration Building beginning at 1:30 p.m. Mr. Cullum, Committee Chairman, presided.

Members Attending:

M. Todd Cullum, Chairman

K. Brad Matthews

James E. Kinard, Jr.

Bobby C. Keisler, V Chairman

William B. Banning, Sr.

Also attending: Katherine Hubbard, County Administrator; Joe Mergo, III, Deputy County Administrator; Larry Porth, Finance Director/Assistant County Administrator; 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.

S-48, Columbia Avenue, Local Public Agency Administration (LPAA) (Goal 2) - Public Works - John Fechtel, Director - Mr. Fechtel introduced Mr. Ron Patton with the SC Department of Transportation (SCDOT) and Mr. Norman Whitaker with the Central Midlands Council of Government (COG). Mr. Patton, Chief Engineer for Planning, Location and Design at SCDOT oversees the LPA agreements and qualifications, and manages planning, environmental and preconstruction. He described the process for the LPA program and the qualifications for the management of a federal project. Mr. Patton reported that for FY2011 the project has \$2.8 million for design funds, FY2012 \$2 million for right-of-way funds and FY2013 \$6 million for right-of-way. He said it would take several months for the County to get qualified for the LPA Administration. He emphasized one of the most important things for a LPA project, and what SCDOT will be looking during the application process, is for a project manager with a background in working with federal projects. The County can hire an outside engineer to assist with the project but would need to have a three party agreement between the County, SCDOT and the engineering firm. SCDOT is required to review all plans, documents and permits during the project. The County will only manage one project at a time under the LPA Administration and have to reapply for the future projects. No cost is associated with the application process. Mr. Fechtel suggested Council may want to talk with other counties who have gone through the LPA Administration process and ask about the advantages and disadvantages. Mr. Cullum requested Mr. Jeffcoat and other Committee members meet with Public Works staff and the engineering firm then return with a formalized report for the full Committee at the next meeting. Ms. Hubbard confirmed the meeting with the engineering firm would be to discuss advantages and disadvantages of the County becoming a LPA Administrator. Mr. Whitaker reported on the funding aspect of

the LPA project and said \$10.8 million has been programmed for the S-48, Columbia Avenue project. Ms. Hubbard indicated it was heard if the county entered into a LPA contract it could speed the project up because of SCDOT's workload and that there may be the opportunity to insure local contractors the job. Mr. Patton said the procurement would be just as if SCDOT was doing the bidding and it could not be restricted to a certain area because it is federal funds. Bids are conducted for each project separately. Staff to return to the August 23, 2011 Committee meeting with a formal report on the LPA Administration process with the advantages and disadvantages if the County's chooses to participate in the program. For information only, no action taken.

Revenue Sources for Flooding Issues (Goal 2) - Public Works - John Fechtel, Director -

Mr. Fechtel presented three possible revenue sources for the County's flooding issues. Staff researched potential revenue sources and have included an outline of three available options: 1) General Fund, which is not a viable option; 2) Special Tax District, would need consent of at least 66 percent of the property owners; and, 3) Stormwater Utility, can be done in certain areas like a special tax district, watershed or countywide. The County does not have the power to enforce within a municipality unless the municipality agrees. Mr. Fechtel said the County can only impose a stormwater utility in the unincorporated areas of the County. Mr. Cullum said the County does not have a complete comprehensive countywide stormwater management program. Ms. Hubbard replied the County does has a countywide comprehensive stormwater management program that is divided into two categories, the MS4 area and the rest of the county are covered through our land disturbance permit plus there are some municipalities that participate in the MS4. There is no structured funding for any management or solutions other than the money allocated in the general fund to Public Works. The seven municipalities that participate with the MS4 program do pay a fee. Mr. Fechtel said the County has the option of imposing a fee by ordinance for the unincorporated areas or allow the public to vote on the fee countywide or by special district. Ms. Hubbard reported that before anything can be done about the flooding issues a study needs to be completed, estimated at \$250,000, to determine all the problems involved as well as the cost. The Committee recommended prioritizing the flood areas similar to the "C" Fund road paving list. Ms. Hubbard suggested that if a stormwater utility fee and a priority listing could be accessed countywide, the property owners in the problem flood areas could accelerate their position on the list by electing to have a special purpose district. The Committee asked staff to inform the municipalities of the direction the County is heading towards a possible stormwater utility fee. For information only, no action taken.

Green is Good for Business Conference Co-Sponsorship (Goal 2) - Public Works - Synithia Williams, Environmental Coordinator -

Ms. Williams presented a request for \$1,500 for co-sponsorship of the Climate Protection Action Campaign and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control's statewide conference Green is Good for Business Conference. The conference is scheduled for September 13, 2011 at the Metropolitan Convention Center. Funds will come from the \$5,000 budgeted in the air quality supplies account #521215.

A motion was made by Mr. Kinard, seconded by Mr. Banning to recommend to full Council to approve staff's \$1,500 request for co-sponsorship of the 2011 Green is Good for Business Conference.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Summer Celebration of Water - Public Works - Synithia Williams, Environmental Coordinator - Ms. Williams presented a request to approve a resolution recognizing August as National Water Quality Month and the joint efforts of Lexington and Richland counties and the City of Columbia. Lexington County has partnered with the City of Columbia and Richland County for the second annual Summer Celebration of Water scheduled for Saturday, August 6, 2011 at the Riverfront Park in Columbia. Council members from Lexington and Richland counties and the City of Columbia have been invited to participate in the "Canoeing with Council" event scheduled for 10 a.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Matthews, seconded by Mr. Kinard to recommend to full Council to approve the resolution request.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Approval of Minutes - Meeting of June 14, 2011 - A motion was made by Mr. Matthews, seconded by Mr. Banning to approve the June 14, 2011 minutes as submitted.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Old Business/New Business - Traffic Congestion, Alternate Material for Road Swells, New Road - Corley Mill/Riverchase, Flooding Issues-Kinley Creek Criteria, Stormwater Land Development Manual Chapter 7 - None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy R. Busbee
Assistant to the Clerk

M. Todd Cullum
Chairman

Diana W. Burnett
Clerk