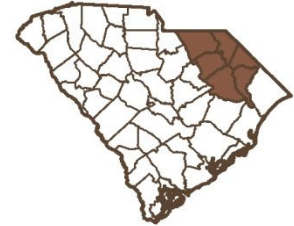


PEE DEE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

*Serving Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon,
Florence, Marion and Marlboro Counties*



Transportation Action Committee (TAC)

Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2023, 10:30 am
2314 Pisgah Road, Florence, SC

Sammie Copeland Chairman	Dunae Shaw	Don Strickland
Leon Johnson Vice-Chairman	Sandy Watford	
Teiyanna Chandler	Lindsay Privette	
Brian Dix	Dr. Carolyn Prince	
David Gray	Tim Harper	
Christina Lewis	Justin Lyles	
Greg Williams	Jared Medlin	

- I. Welcome - Sammie Copeland
 - o Chairman welcomed everyone and determined a quorum was present. All attendees introduced themselves.
- II. Approval of June 8, 2023, Meeting Minutes
 - o The June 8, 2023, Minutes were presented. Leon Johnson made a motion to approve. Dr Carolyn Prince seconded the motion.
- III. Pee Dee Regional Project Updates
 - a. Brian Dix (or representative)
 - o Brian Dix, SCDOT, provided an update on all current Pee Dee COG projects. See attached report for details.
 - b. SCDOT District 4 – Chesterfield County - Greg Williams (or representative)
 - o Greg Williams gave an update on the SCDOT District 4 Projects. Dove Sutton intersection improvement has been completed, with the new signal turn lanes, and striping done. No other construction done on PDCOG Projects
 - c. SCDOT District 5 – Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marion & Marlboro Counties - Kyle Berry (or representative)
 - d. Justin Lyles - RK&K: (P041002 Intersection Improvement US 15/401, SC 385 (W Main St), S-35-56 (Brushy Bay Rd), S-35-376 (Dogwood Ave) & S-35-375 (Sunset Dr)

- Justin Lyles of RK&K gave a brief overview of the scope of work expected with the intersection improvement. He explained that through public meetings and comments, the church and community have no issues with the project as currently proposed. The project is in now the ROW Phase, as additional surveys are needed.
- e. Jared Medlin - KCI: (P041343 SC 9 Bus (Cheraw St.) Bridge over Crooked Creek)
 - Jared Medlin of KCI gave a brief overview of the Bridge Replacement over Crooked Creek. He explained that the bridge will maintain 4 lanes, 2 in each direction and have 14-foot share use lanes with sidewalks and bike lanes. The project is in the conceptual phase. There are 2 Options to maintain traffic. One is to completely close the bridge and reroute traffic for 9-12 months when construction is estimated to be complete. Another option would be to do a staged bride construction with 1 lane in each direction, but this comes with structural concerns, as the bridge was constructed in 1921. Additional strengthening may be needed. ROW acquisition is expected to be completed by March 2025. Construction has an estimated completion date of July 2026. Brian Dix explained that this is a DOT project, not a PDRCOG project, but due to the potential traffic disruptions during construction, he asked Mr. Medlin to provide an update to the TAC. Dr Prince explained that some of the detour roads are in poor condition and may not be able to handle the detour traffic. Dr Prince requested to have an additional meeting in Bennettsville with SCDOT and William Simon, Bennettsville City Administrator, to further discuss.
- f. Marlboro County - Academy Road (P041008) Project Removal
 - Brian Dix reported that there had been opposition to the project at the public meeting and that he had shared this information with Lindsay Privette and Dunae Shaw as information only prior to the meeting. Dix explained to the committee that there were low traffic counts and minimal accidents reported at the intersection. Based on these factors, Leon Johnson made a motion to remove the project from the TIP. The motion was seconded by Dr. Prince.
- g. Dillon County - SC 34 from Dothan Rd to Longstreet Rd Widen to 4-Lane
 - Tim Harper, Dillon County Administrator, explained that the County is seeking assistance for planning to replace the bridge that crosses I-95 on SC 34. He explained that there are already cost estimates and plans to widen a portion of SC 34, as on one side of the bridge SC 34 is already 4 laned. The road would be 4 landed on both sides of the bridge with the 2-lane bridge in between. This is already causing a major bottleneck with truck and regular vehicle traffic and will only continue to get worse. Christina Lewis suggested that speaking with the Office of Local Governments Services to seek funding from additional grant sources would be a good place to start. PDCOG will coordinate with Tim Harper and Roxanne Ancheta to see what could be done.

- h. Pee Dee Region – Highway 9 Corridor Study
 - Brian Dix reported that the project study is still in the planning phase and awaiting results from the consultants. He reported that following feedback at the June 2023 TAC meeting, the consultants were instructed to place on hold studying the portion of Highway 9 that connects Bennettsville to Dillon via the town of Clio, which will save money and help move the process along.

IV. LRTP Updates

- a. Freight Planning Discussion
 - David Gray, SCDOT, explained that creating a Regional Freight Plan will help with the growth of the Pee Dee Region. Says that ACOG has just created a plan and working with them will help us out. Lindsay Privette requested that the TAC add Regional Freight Planning to the LRTP and suggested that in the future, Guideshare funds be used to fund a PDRCOG Regional Freight Plan. Christina Lewis cautioned that while Guideshare funds may be used to fund a regional freight plan, a local match will be required.
- b. Regional Mobility
 - Lindsay Privette explained that with the rebranding of the MPO/COG program to Regional Mobility, funding of transit has been highlighted as a priority for Guideshare fund use. She requested that the TAC add Transit Funding to the LRTP and introduced Don Strickland, Executive Director of PDRTA, to explain the services of PDRTA. Following Mr. Strickland's presentation, Christina Lewis suggested that speaking with others at SCDOT would be the best resource for determining exactly what type of transit project would be eligible for Guideshare funding.
- c. TIP/STIP Update
 - Leon Johnson made a motion to add a Regional Freight Planning and Transit Funding to the PDRCOG LRTP. This motion was seconded by Dr Prince.
 - Lindsay Privette explained that the deadline for updating the TIP is in February and that the changes to the LRTP would enable the TAC to add them to the TIP before the February deadline. Christina Lewis also mentioned that we should reach out to consultants at CDM Smith to help with updating our TIP/STIP.

V. Comments & Questions

- Lindsay Privette told the TAC that the PDRCOG staff is working with the towns of Chesterfield, Jefferson, and Patrick and with Darlington County to develop and submit TAP applications in October.
- Leon Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sammie Copeland seconded the motion.