



Richland County Council
Transportation Ad Hoc Committee
MINUTES
October 24, 2023 – 3:00 PM
Council Chambers
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Overture Walker, Chair; Jason Branham, Paul Livingston, Don Weaver, and Jessica Mackey

OTHERS PRESENT: Cheryl English, Derrek Pugh, Gretchen Barron, Michelle Onley, Michael Maloney, Angela Weathersby, Anette Kirylo, Patrick Wright, Leonardo Brown, Ashiya Myers, Susan O’Cain, Chelsea Bennett, Stacey Hamm, Tamar Black, Dale Welch, Zachary Cavanaugh, Ashley Fullerton, and Jennifer Wladischkin

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - Chairman Overture Walker called the meeting to order at approximately 3:00 PM.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. September 26, 2023 – Mr. Livingston moved to approve the minutes as distributed, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

In Favor: Branham, Livingston, Weaver, Walker, and Mackey

The vote in favor was unanimous.

3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Mr. Weaver moved to adopt the agenda as published, seconded by Mr. Livingston.

In Favor: Branham, Livingston, Weaver, Walker, and Mackey

The vote in favor was unanimous.

4. **ITEM FOR ACTION**

a. Award of Construction – Dirt Road Package O – The Interim Transportation Director, Michael Maloney, stated this project is taking Dirt Road Package O to construction. Staff is recommending the award of the contract to Cherokee, Inc. based on the bids received in the amount of \$1,359,494.45. This will include a construction contingency of 10% for a total approved amount of \$1,495,443.90. He noted another bid was received, which was \$400,000 higher than Cherokee, Inc.’s bid. The budget is ready for this project, and potentially two more in the next year. This project will pave Howard Coogler Road (District 1), Sara Mathews Road (District 7), Nathan Ridge Lane (District 10, and Jackson Road (District 10).

Mr. Weaver moved to forward to Council with a recommendation to award the construction contract to Cherokee, Inc. based on the bid received in the amount of \$1,359,494.45, to include a construction contingency of 10% for a total approved amount of \$1,495,443.90, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

Mr. Livingston inquired about how many miles we will be paving.

Mr. Maloney responded this is approximately a mile of road.

Mr. Walker inquired if there was any effort on the part of the Transportation Department to ensure the public is aware, especially those in these respective districts, that roads are soon to be paved.

Mr. Maloney replied in the past, the Transportation Department has not. He acknowledged they need to notify the residents who have been a part of the consent/denial and land acquisition processes that we are ready to go to construction. The residents are on the list to inform, but that is as far as they have gone.

Mr. Walker stated in recent weeks, he has had conversations with County residents, and there is this perception the Penny is felt in certain communities and not others. A lot of it is that people are oblivious to what is in the Penny ordinance. Then you some that were expecting a road to be paved. What he would like to see happen is to get the word in the community-at-large about what is happening. If there is a way to let residents know we are not only working on the big projects, like widenings, but also the smaller projects are happening in the communities.

Mr. Brown indicated as a part of the process of informing and educating individuals throughout the County about the projects, there will be a "roadshow" so individuals will have an understanding within their area of livability and what the County has done by way of investments through the citizens' votes during the referendum for the Penny. We will have to talk about how many opportunities we will have to do that.

Mr. Pugh inquired about how the projects were chosen.

Mr. Maloney responded the projects were funded by the population living on the road. The higher the density, the higher the score. They were also given credit for churches and other things on the road. These specific roads were chosen from the funding list because they were available. We either had the right-of-way or the ability to get it quickly.

Mr. Weaver recalls Council discussing the signage at the Strategic Planning Forum in January. It was noted that we could not pay for signage out of the Penny funds. He inquired as to why we could not pay for the signs ourselves.

Mr. Brown noted the Transportation Department will be doing signs.

In Favor: Branham, Livingston, Weaver, Walker, and Mackey

The vote in favor was unanimous.

5. **ADJOURNMENT** – Ms. Mackey moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Weaver.

In Favor: Branham, Livingston, Weaver, Walker, and Mackey

The vote in favor was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:13 PM.