

Traffic Committee
MINUTES
July 20, 2015

Committee Members

Present:

Chairman Susan Ruinen, Vice-Chair Clyde Smith, Secretary Karen Hanner, Mayor Pro-Tem Hazel Livingston, Mark Churchill, Bob Ferrell, Rosemary Wilson, Pat Melton, Larry Yon, Town Engineer Rosemarie Nuzzo, Police Major Matt Davis, Parks, Streets and Sanitation Director Dan Walker

Attending:

Mayor Steve MacDougall, Councilmembers Kathy Maness and Ron Williams, Town Administrator Britt Poole, Police Chief Terrence Green, Sergeant Thomas Stowe, Special Projects Manager Wesley Crosby, Planning Building and Technology Director John Hanson, Municipal Clerk Becky Hildebrand, Town Attorney Brad Cunningham, Economic Development Catalyst Johnny Jeffcoat
One member of the news media

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 AM in the Third Floor Conference Room by Chair Susan Ruinen.

June Minutes:

Chairman Ruinen asked if there were any corrections or comments regarding the June 16, 2015 minutes. Clyde Smith made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Larry Yon seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

Susan Ruinen reminded members that there will be no Traffic Committee meeting in August.

The next Traffic Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 22, 2015, at 8:00 AM in the Third Floor Conference Room at the Lexington Municipal Complex, 111 Maiden Lane, Lexington, SC.

Council Announcement:

Town Administrator Britt Poole told the committee that a Press Release is scheduled for 10:00 AM this morning to announce the Traffic and Transportation Projects being proposed. He stated these three projects have been discussed previously.

The first project is part of Phase III of the Unified Traffic Plan which established one way pairs along South Lake Drive (SC 6) and North and South Church Street. Combined with the Adaptive Signaling System, it should increase the green time on US 1. The Timeline is projected to be 15 months and the cost is expected to be \$1,905,000. This project includes some improvements at the Harmon Street intersection.

The second project is the relocation of Dreher Street and with a roundabout at SC 6 and US 378. The first stage would realign Dreher to Azalea adding a new signal at the intersection with North Lake Drive (SC 6). Lexington District One will determine the location of driveways into Lexington Middle School. Rosemary Wilson asked if the driveways would intersect with the roundabout. Britt Poole responded no, the middle school access would be from Abby Lane or Dreher Street. Susan Ruinen added that the center of the roundabout would be mountable to accommodate a large vehicle's turning radius. She encouraged committee members to visit the similar new roundabout on Piney Grove Road near I-26. The cost estimate for this project is \$5,975,000 with a 45 month timeline.

The third project is the roundabout at Corley Mill Road and Riverchase Way. A new connector would lead to US 378 on the west side near the Murphy station. The cost estimate on this project is \$5,727,000 with a timeline of 45 months.

A Hospitality Tax funding model is under consideration. The Town feels these projects directly relate to tourism and Council wants public input on the proposal. Mr. Poole announced Public Information Sessions will be held on August 10 and August 24. There will also be opportunities for the public to comment at the August 17 Council meeting when there will be a first reading and at the September 8 Council meeting for the final reading.

Susan Ruinen asked about the Accommodations Tax. Mr. Poole responded that that is already in place and does not generate that kind of revenue. Wesley Crosby commented that roughly \$150,000 was collected last year.

Pat Melton asked if there were other possible projects for Hospitality Tax funding. Mr. Poole responded that a lot of study was done to determine these projects. Some proposed projects couldn't be used as they must relate to tourism. In combination with the Adaptive Signal system there will be significant improvements to traffic.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Bob Ferrell and second by Clyde Smith with unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Hanner,

Approved By:

Susan Ruinen, Chair

FOIA COMPLIANCE – Public notification of this meeting was posted in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Town of Lexington requirements.