

Traffic Committee
MINUTES
September 22, 2015

Committee Members

Present:

Chairman Susan Ruinen, Vice-Chair Clyde Smith, Secretary Karen Hanner, Mark Churchill, Bob Ferrell, Rosemary Wilson, Pat Melton, Larry Yon, Police Major Matt Davis, Parks and Sanitation Director Dan Walker, Lexington County Public Works Engineer Jeff McNesby, Planning Commission Liaison Frank Berry

Attending:

Councilmember Ron Williams, Town Administrator Britt Poole and Patrolman Ryan Whitlock

Call to Order:

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

July Minutes:

Chairman Ruinen asked if there were any corrections or comments regarding the July 20, 2015 minutes. Bob Ferrell made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Rosemary Wilson seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

Insync Signal:

Chairman Ruinen relayed a report from Transportation Director Randy Edwards stating the traffic cameras for the Insync system are being installed. A press release regarding the cameras will go out later today.

Vision Plan:

Administrator Britt Poole said the Traffic and Tourism page with details about the traffic improvement plan has been placed under the Vision Plan home page on the Town website.

A groundbreaking was held for the Project Ice House Amphitheater on September 1 and work is underway on the site.

The Shirey's building at 101 West Main Street has been sold and upgrades should be started soon. There are plans for a professional office on the top floor with a possible restaurant site on the ground level.

Geotech engineering work is underway on the trail at the Old Mill. Water levels for the pond have been lowered for repairs to a pipe at the dam.

Two welcome signs for the Town have been approved at US 1 and at the intersection of Old Cherokee Road and Highway 6. The iron sign at US 1 will be replaced by a new smaller version of the welcome sign at US 378.

Mr. Poole added the old Coventry Wastewater Treatment Plant was being closed today and the new line is operational.

Crosswalk at Old Chapin Rd: Chairman Ruinen reported that Randy Edwards has been in touch with the apartment complex. SCDOT indicated they were waiting for the complex to complete a sidewalk to connect to a crosswalk. There was discussion of the possibility of installing a flasher for pedestrian crossings.

Gibson at S Lake: An in-house signal warrant study at this intersection has not been completed. Mr. Poole commented that since the Town has assumed responsibility for the traffic signals in the Town limits, a left turn signal could possibly be installed if warranted.

Crosswalk for Judicial Ctr: Dan Walker reported a cost of \$1500 for a gate to close the mid-block access at Lexington Square. Mr. Poole added that there are discussions with the Lexington Beautification Foundation. Chairman Ruinen commented that the cost could possibly be shared between Lexington County, the Town of Lexington and the Beautification Foundation. Larry Yon reported that recently the court called 462 people which resulted in a lot of pedestrians trying to cross South Lake Drive. Clyde Smith noted that the planned one-way pairs may make it easier for pedestrian crossings at that location.

Fence at Butler St: Clyde Smith said he drives through this intersection often and the construction of a new fence around the cemetery has created a problem for line of sight when turning off of West Butler Street onto North Church Street. Mr. Poole stated there were some conflicts concerning the right of way. Ron Williams added that he had difficulty seeing around the fence even in a large truck. SCDOT is looking at the problem.

SCDOT Items

N Lake at Roundknob: Chairman Ruinen commented that the plans for construction of a roundabout near this intersection will change the issues with it. She suggested deleting this item from the agenda until that time. There was no objection.

US 378 at Ginny Ln: A report from Randy Edwards said SCDOT plans to do road striping improvements and the Town Police are increasing enforcement at this location. Ron Williams asked about the No Right on Red and the bump out at this intersection. Susan Ruinen noted that traffic turning right is directed into the through lane rather than the right turn to I-20 lane. She added that improvements planned for the Corley Mill Road roundabout will probably help this side of the intersection.

US 378 at Old Cherokee: SCDOT is reviewing this interchange.

Park Rd No Right on Red: There is no sign for No Right on Red at this time.

Clyde Smith asked about the plans for education regarding roundabouts. Britt Poole responded that there are plans for more public hearings. Presentations created by other areas introducing a roundabout and information from the Federal Highway Administration are being researched to formulate public education strategies.

Chairman Ruinen distributed copies of the letter sent to Mayor MacDougall from John Hardee at SCDOT regarding funding for road improvements (attached).

The next Traffic Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, 2015, at 8:00 AM in the Third Floor Conference Room at the Lexington Municipal Complex, 111 Maiden Lane, Lexington, SC.

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

Respectfully submitted by Karen Hanner,

Approved By:

Susan Ruinen, Chair



John N. Hardee
SCDOT Commissioner
Second Congressional District
P.O. Box 131
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

August 31, 2015

Steve MacDougall, Mayor
Town of Lexington
111 Maiden Lane
Lexington, SC 29072

RE: Potential Road Improvement Project – Lexington County

Dear Mayor MacDougall:

Thank you for your inquiry concerning the potential road improvement projects in Lexington that we discussed. I know that Lexington is experiencing a great deal of growth, along with the pains that come with that growth. As much as SCDOT would like to help, the Department currently has approximately a billion dollars a year in unmet needs. Also, capacity type projects such as these are actually selected by the Central Midlands Council of Governments. I serve on the board of directors of the Council of Governments, and I do not believe that the uncommitted funds that the projects would need are available in the short term from the Central Midlands COG.

As I mentioned before, there is a tremendous amount of unmet needs for transportation infrastructure in South Carolina with the current level of funding. I hope that you will join me in asking the General Assembly to increase state funding to meet the needs of rapidly growing communities such as Lexington. If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John N. Hardee", is written over a faint circular stamp.

John N. Hardee
SCDOT Commissioner for
Second Congressional District

INH:tpg

