

## TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

February 22, 2022

A meeting of the Traffic & Transportation Committee was held this date beginning at 1:02 p.m., by video conference.

Notice of this meeting was sent to all local news media.

### PRESENT

**Committee Members:** Councilmember Brady (Chair), Councilmember Seekings, Councilmember Parker, Councilmember Gregg, and Mayor Tecklenburg

**Also Present:** Michael Mathis, Sharon Hollis, Melissa Cruthirds, Amy Wharton, Rick Jerue, Velvett Simmons, Patrick Carlson, Mallary Scheer, Julia Copeland, Robert Somerville, and Matt Frohlich

#### 1. Invocation

The meeting was opened with a moment of silence led by Councilmember Seekings.

#### 2. Approval of Minutes

On a motion of Mayor Tecklenburg, seconded by Councilmember Seekings, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting.

#### 3. Lowcountry Rapid Transit Municipal State Highway Project Agreement

Ms. Hollis said the Lowcountry Rapid Transit was the region's first mass bus rapid transit system. The 30% design, environmental documents, and project development were complete. As they moved into the engineering phase, SCDOT would be taking over the management of the design and the construction of the project in partnership with BCDCOG, the County, and municipalities. The agreement was the standard municipal agreement they used to ensure a city was in agreement with the work that was being done. Mayor Tecklenburg asked if it was the only agreement needed to proceed, or if there would be something more specific for them to approve further down the line. Ms. Hollis said it was the only agreement they required, but there would be continued cooperation as they moved through design and construction.

On a motion of Councilmember Seekings, seconded by Mayor Tecklenburg, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the item above.

#### 4. Intergovernmental Agreement Municipal Golf Course and Fleming Road

Ms. Dees said this was an agreement between the City and Charleston County to accept the matching funds for the Municipal Golf Course crossing and the Fleming Road sidewalk project. She said it was the standard IGA agreement they used with other municipalities. Councilmember Gregg verified that the match amounts were \$71,000 and \$100,000. Mayor Tecklenburg said they had been getting requests for decades from the Municipal Golf Course to make the crosswalk safer and that they had wanted to get a sidewalk along Fleming Road for quite a while. He told Ms. Dees they considered this phase 1 because

they wanted to keep adding sidewalk along Fleming Road to make it safer. He also told the Committee that the funds for the matches came from a development agreement with the folks that did the Avalon Apartments. Originally, the thought was that the funds would go towards a traffic light at Fleming and Maybank, which they still wanted to do, but upon request to DOT, the warrants were not met, so DOT didn't approve putting a light at the intersection. They thought the next best thing to do was to add sidewalks and improve the crosswalks. Councilmember Brady clarified that it would be a HAWK signal. Mr. Somerville explained that a HAWK signal was a push button activated signal, so when golfers or pedestrians arrived to the signal, they would push a button and it would act as a traffic signal to stop vehicles. Councilmember Parker asked if the funds were just for the study. Ms. Dees said they were, and the results of the study would determine how they moved forward. Councilmember Brady asked if the funds for the sidewalk were just for the study. Ms. Dees said it was for the design, installation, and construction. Councilmember Parker asked where the Fleming Road sidewalk would start and end. Ms. Dees said it would run from the intersection of Maybank and Fleming to Standard Way.

On a motion of Councilmember Seekings, seconded by Councilmember Gregg, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the item above.

#### **5. Pedicab Ordinance Amendment**

Ms. Cruthirds said, currently, when companies submitted an application they also filled in an address for the physical storage of their pedicabs, which meant, by default, they needed to have storage for their pedicabs before they were approved for decals. In September 2021, the City put out pre-qualifications for additional nighttime decals, and some applicants had raised concerns about needing to have storage before they were approved. This amendment corrected that by removing the requirement that the applicant provide a physical address for storage prior to being awarded the decals. However, getting decals was still contingent upon the applicant meeting all the requirements, which included physical storage. Councilmember Seekings said the change didn't make sense to him. Mayor Tecklenburg said when they had the most recent procurement some folks were unable to meet the requirements because they weren't already in the business and didn't have existing storage, so the purpose of the change was to create a level playing field. Being in the pedicab business was kind of specialized, so they didn't want to preclude people who felt like they could aspire to be in the business. He said this amendment made it a bit more inclusive. Councilmember Parker said she wanted to hear Councilmember Seeking's thoughts. Councilmember Seekings said he thought this put another level of government intervention into the process and that, if you were prepared to bid, you should be prepared to meet the qualifications of the bid. He said it didn't seem to be a heavy burden to require that applicants meet the requirements at the time of bidding.

On a motion of Mayor Tecklenburg, seconded by Councilmember Gregg, the Committee voted to approve the item above. The vote was not unanimous. Councilmembers Seekings and Parker voted nay.

#### **6. MOU Berkeley County, Seven Farms Road Pedestrian Crosswalk Improvement Project**

Mr. Somerville said the previous director, Mr. Benjamin, had been working with the public on a mid-block pedestrian crossing on Seven Farms between Island Park and River Landing. As part of the agreement, they had done a study that showed pedestrian RRFB signals, bulb-outs, and high visibility

crosswalk markings. He said now was the perfect time to do this because Berkeley County was resurfacing Seven Farms, so they were working with the County's contractor, Banks Construction, to do the work at the same time. Councilmember Gregg said he saw that they were removing some parking along Seven Farms and said that a major concern for his district was the renovation of Credit One Stadium and what the parking plan would be moving forward. He asked if they would be replacing the parking spaces they were removing. Mr. Somerville said the parking agreement with Credit One Stadium was to utilize the Blackbaud parking lot and transport people back and forth. Mayor Tecklenburg said there was limited parking on the stadium side of the street, there was a lot of pedestrian traffic, and with the way Seven Farms curved, there wasn't a long sight-line before the crosswalk, so safety was the priority. Councilmember Gregg said he had noticed they were being charged \$11,000 for mobilization by the contractor. He asked if that was typical, or if there was any room for negotiation. Mr. Somerville said the mobilization fee was lower than the Kimley-Horn estimate, which was \$15,000.

On a motion of Councilmember Seekings, seconded by Mayor Tecklenburg, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the item above.

Mr. Somerville introduced Michael Mathis, his new deputy director. Mr. Mathis had worked for the City for 19 years and had left to work for Charleston County, but now he was back. Councilmember Seekings, Councilmember Brady, and Mayor Tecklenburg all welcomed Mr. Mathis back.

Councilmember Parker asked what the process was when a constituent had a concern. Mr. Somerville said all requests should be submitted to him and then his department would vet it and see what could be done. If it came to the point that it needed to be addressed by the Committee, he would speak with the chair, vice-chair, and the Mayor to get it on the agenda. Councilmember Brady said that he would like to get an update from CARTA at the next meeting and also an update on actions that had happened following the public hearing they'd held in January. Councilmember Seekings said he would check Ron and Sharon's schedules to figure out a time that one of them could give a CARTA update. Councilmember Seekings asked the Mayor if there was a plan to go back to in-person committee meetings. Mayor Tecklenburg said that was the pleasure of Council.

Having no further business, the Committee adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Andrea Derungs  
Clerk of Council's Office