



Commission Members:

- Tony K. Cox, Chairman
- Pamela L. Christopher, Vice Chairman
- David E. "Gene" Branham, Commissioner
- William B. Dukes, Commissioner
- J. Barnwell Fishburne, Commissioner
- TJ Johnson, Commissioner
- Max Metcalf, Commissioner

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Commission Meeting
Minutes and Actions

South Carolina Department of Transportation

Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 9:00 AM
5th Floor Auditorium

Commissioners present at the meeting were:

- | | |
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| Tony K. Cox | Chairman |
| Pamela L. Christopher | Vice Chairman (via telephone) |
| David E. "Gene" Branham, Sr. | Commissioner |
| William B. Dukes | Commissioner |
| J. Barnwell Fishburne | Commissioner (in person and via telephone) |
| T.J. Johnson | Commissioner |

Commissioners not present at the meeting were:

- | | |
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| Max K. Metcalf | Commissioner |
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The Chairman declared that a quorum was present.

Also present at the meeting were:

- Christy Hall, Secretary of Transportation
- Justin Powell, Chief Operating Officer
- Maggie Hendry, Acting Deputy Secretary for Finance and Administration
- Randall Young, Interim Deputy Secretary for Engineering
- Brent Rewis, Deputy Secretary for Intermodal Planning
- Barbara Wessinger, Chief Counsel
- Mark LaBruyere, Director of Internal Audits
- George Kennedy, State Auditor

Action Taken:

1. Call to Order—Chairman Cox

Chairman Cox called the December 7, 2023 Commission meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

2. Roll Call—Chairman Cox

Chairman Cox called the roll of the Commissioners and declared a quorum was present. He noted that Commissioner Dukes had been delayed. (Note: Commissioner Dukes arrived to the Commission meeting at 9:10 a.m.) Commissioner Fishburne attended the first 30 minutes of the meeting in person and participated via telephone for the remainder of the meeting. Commissioner Christopher also attended the meeting via telephone. Commissioner Metcalf was not in attendance and had submitted a letter asking for the Commission to excuse his absence.

3. Approval of Meeting Agenda (Action Required)

[A 69/2023](#)

Motion by: Commissioner Fishburne

Seconded by: Commissioner Johnson

The Commission approved the December 6, 2023 Commission Meeting Agenda.

4. Prayer—Commissioner Johnson

5. Pledge of Allegiance—Commissioner Branham

6. Approval of Minutes and Actions (Action Required)—Chairman Cox

6.1 September 21, 2023 Commission Meeting Minutes

[A 70/2023](#)

Motion by: Commissioner Fishburne

Second by: Commissioner Johnson

The Commission approved the September 21, 2023 Commission Meeting Minutes.

6.2 Report Out from the September 21, 2023 Audit Committee Meeting

[FIO 12/2023](#)

Commissioner Fishburne read the Audit Committee Report Out from the September 21, 2023 Audit Committee Meeting.

6.3 September 21, 2023 Audit Committee Meeting Minutes

[A 71/2023](#)

Motion by: Commissioner Branham

Second by: Commissioner Fishburne

The Commission approved the September 21, 2023 Audit Committee Meeting Minutes.

7. Public Comment—Chairman Cox

Secretary Hall stated that there was one public comment. Mr. Robert Danford spoke to the Commission regarding a visionary proposal aimed at the future of transportation in South Carolina. He advocated for a high-speed, maglev rail system running between Inland Port Dillon in Dillon, SC to Atlanta. The system would run along Interstate 95 from Dillon to the interstate's junction with Interstate 20 west of Florence. From there, the line would run from Interstate 20 to Atlanta. He asked the Commission to support this initiative. Mr. Danford stated this would be a transit system for goods and people and would help South Carolina's economy and industry. Chairman Cox thanked Mr. Danford for speaking and encouraged him to reach out to South Carolina legislators for their support of funding for such a project.

8. Resolutions—Chairman Cox

8.1 Resolution Recognizing Harry Green for 50 Years of Service

[RES 6/2023](#)

Motion by: Commissioner Branham

Second by: Commissioner Johnson

The Commission approved a Resolution honoring Harry Green for his 50 years of service to the agency. Mr. Ted Creech presented the resolution to the Commission and noted that Mr. Green had served in the Roadway Design, Preliminary Design group and most recently as a Roadway Designer in the Midlands Regional Production Group. Mr. Green thanked the Commission for their approval of the Resolution.

8.2 Resolution for Road Naming in Richland County

[RES 7/2023](#)

Motion by: Commissioner Dukes

Second by: Commissioner Fishburne

The Commission approved a Resolution to name the new connecting road between US 21 and Blythewood Road as the "Scout Motors Drive." Mr. Ted Creech presented the resolution to the Commission and noted the construction of the new connector road will be constructed by the SCDOT to support the new Scout Motors manufacturing plant. The new connector road will be constructed to connect between US 21 and Blythewood Road and designated as S-40-1960.

9. Presentation of the Perpetual Pavement Awards—Secretary Hall

[P 23/2023](#)

Secretary Hall introduced Jayson Jordan, the Executive Director of the South Carolina Asphalt Pavement Association. Mr. Jordan presented the SCDOT with the following awards: 2021 PPA: By Performance Award to I-95 (MM 0 to 4) in Jasper County and 2022 PPA: By Design to I-26 Volvo Interchange in Berkeley County. He thanked the SCDOT Office of Materials and Research Staff Merrill Zwanka, Eric Carroll, Kimberly Lyons and Dahae Kim and former State Design Engineer Jay Thompson for their work.

10. Secretary of Transportation Report—Secretary Hall

FIO 11/2023

Secretary Hall presented the Secretary of Transportation Report. She acknowledged the LEAD participants in attendance at the meeting: Alex Bennett, Megan Groves, Wei Johnson, Bruce McLamore, Tyke Redfearn, and Mark Staton. Secretary Hall also introduced Jennifer Necker who was the Acting Director of Intermodal and Freight Programs. She reported there had been 876 traffic fatalities in 2023 through November 26, 2023. There were 148 pedestrian fatalities, 20 bicycle fatalities, and 24 moped fatalities through November 26, 2023.

SCDOT had dramatically increased its Work Program. The current active construction program was approaching \$5 billion. She projected the number would continue to grow for the construction program throughout 2024. She reviewed the On-Time and On-Budget numbers for the Construction Program: 83% of the projects were on time, 11% to be determined and 6% had been assessed a penalty for not being on-time. The agency was tracking at 6% of the project bid amounts and well within contingencies on the projects.

There were approximately \$17.5 million in Change Orders greater than \$250,000 associated with approximately \$4.7 billion in active contracts for the months of September, October and November 2023. The two large Change Orders for this period were for additional costs associated with Right-of-Way costs for Tracts 105 and 106 as well as utility prior rights in Richland and Newberry Counties and for indirect costs associated with time extensions due to in-contract waterline relocations associated with the S-83 Hardscrabble Road Widening.

Secretary Hall authorized two emergency procurements which were repairs to the US-52 Eastbound Bridge over the Lynches River in Florence County with a contract value of \$716,601 and repairs to SC 9, SC-31, and SC 31 Connector in Horry County with a contract value of \$1,143,382. Combined total was less than \$2 million. The repairs in Florence County were due to steel pile deterioration and spalling of interior bent caps, and the repairs to a concrete box culvert and slope protection required due to damage sustained from Tropical Storm Idalia.

Secretary Hall reviewed the 10-Year Plan Accomplishments. She reported 965 miles had been addressed in the Rural Road Safety program with a 24% reduction in fatal and serious injury crashes. More than 7,700 miles of paving had been addressed in every county of the state, and 314 bridges had been advanced to construction working toward the agency's 10-year target goal of 500 bridges by 2027. It was also noted that 101 of the 215 interstate miles targeted had been advanced to construction.

The Commission reviewed the report on the Bridge Program. There had been 314 bridges advanced to construction to-date, including 22 emergency replacements, 20 major rehabs completed, 199 bridge replacements, 40 major rehabs and 33 bridge replacements were currently under construction. There were approximately 200 bridges in the pipeline with design underway and an additional 117 bridges where the design had not begun yet. Secretary Hall provided an overview of the current Interstate Widening Program.

Secretary Hall provided an overview of the New Gas Tax Trust Fund through October 31, 2023. She stated \$3.7 billion of revenue had been generated since July 1, 2017, and \$192 million had been transferred to the CTCs and the Department of Revenue based on statutory requirements, leaving \$3.5 billion to support the program. Secretary Hall also reported on the funding from the New Gas Tax Trust Fund as of October 31, 2023: \$3.1 billion in pavements, \$291 million in interstates, \$347 million in rural road safety, and \$22 million in additional bridges.

There were 17 surplus properties conveyed since the September 2023 Commission meeting, totaling \$194,094 in property sales.

Secretary Hall reviewed some of the agency's recent completed projects which included D1 Richland Maintenance Forces recently completed an in-house paving project on Heyward Street in Columbia and a resurfacing project was recently completed on I-26 in Berkeley and Dorchester Counties. She also reported on several agency accomplishments. The SCDOT Equipment Operators took 3rd place overall at the Southeastern Regional RoadEO in September. Public Engagement had recently received two

awards from the TransComm competition sponsored by AASHTO's Communications committee. SCDOT had also hosted the Conference of Auditors for Southeast Region Departments of Transportation in October.

Secretary Hall recognized Chris Gaskins as the Interim Deputy Secretary for Engineering for the month of December.

11. New Business

11.1 21-Day Public Comment Period—Deputy Secretary Rewis

[A 73/2023](#)

Motion by: Commissioner Dukes

Second by: Commissioner Johnson

Deputy Secretary Rewis requested the Commission's approval to initiate the 21-day Public Comment Period on four items: A) Addition of the Preliminary Engineering, Right of Way and Construction phases of work for Traffic Safety Road Safety Audit Implementation, Statewide, total value \$109 million; B) Addition of the Construction Phase for I-77 Exit 26 New Scout Interchange and Connecting Roads in Richland County, total value \$187 million; C) Addition of the Preliminary Engineering, Right of Way, and Construction phases of work for the Bridge Replacement-S-59 over Thicketty Creek in Cherokee County, total value \$3 million; and, D) Addition of the Preliminary Engineering, Right of Way, and Construction phases of work for the Bridge Replacement-Horseford Road (S-56) over Four Hole Swamp in Dorchester County, total value \$11 million.

11.2 Revision of the 2021-2027 STIP—Deputy Secretary Rewis

[A 74/2023](#)

Motion by: Commissioner Dukes

Second by: Commissioner Johnson

Deputy Secretary Rewis requested the Commission's approval of the revision of the 2023-2027 STIP. The Commission was requested to approve the inclusion of A) ACATS MPO System Upgrade (Urban) access road improvement funding through Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Local Access Road Program totaling \$10 million; B) Catawba COG System Upgrade-Rural intersection improvement project funding through Regional Mobility Program totaling \$2.5 million; C) GPATS MPO System Upgrade-Urban corridor improvement funding through Regional Mobility Program totaling \$28 million; D) GPATS MPO Clemson Area Transit Mass Transit-Large Urban Capital project type funding through FTA Section 5339 Low or No Emission Grants for buses and bus facilities totaling \$3.17 million; E) GPATS MPO Greenville Transit Authority Mass Transit – Large Urban Capitol project funding through FTA Sections 5310 and 5339 totaling \$160,000; F) GPATS MPO Pickens County Meals on Wheels Mass Transit Large-Urban Capital project funding through FTA Section 5310 totaling \$95,300; G) Berkeley Charleston Dorchester COG TriCounty Link Mass Transit-Rural Planning project funding through FTA 5311 totaling \$342,000; H) CHATS MPO CARTA Mass Transit, CHATS MPO Charleston Dorchester Mental Health Mass Transit, CHATS MPO Trident United Way Mobility Management Program, CHATS MPO BCDCOG Trident Smart Ride Mobility Management Program, and CHATS MPO Berkeley Dorchester Charleston COG Mass Transit projects funded through 5310 totaling \$779,299; and I) LATS MPO Programs for Exceptional People Mass Transit Small Urban Capital project funded through FTA Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities totaling \$70,000.

11.3 Changes to the State Highway System—Deputy Secretary Rewis

[A 75/2023](#)

Motion by: Commissioner Dukes

Second by: Commissioner Johnson

Deputy Secretary Rewis requested Commission approval of the additions, deletions, and revisions of the State Highway Systems and the authority to convey right of way to appropriate entities. This request included 7 segments of the Secondary Road System resulting in a reduction to the Secondary System of 1.44 centerline miles equating to 2.88 lane miles. The Commission approved the Changes to the State Highway System.

11.4 Commission Consideration of SIB Approved Projects—Deputy Secretary Rewis

A 80/2023

Motion by: Commissioner Christopher

Second by: Commissioner Fishburne

Deputy Secretary Rewis reported the SIB Board had approved the SC 183 Widening project in Pickens County, US 601 and US 21 in project in Orangeburg County was withdrawn, and Low Battery Seawall project in the City of Charleston was withdrawn. The Commission was asked to approve a resolution that approved the October 17, 2023 decision by the South Carolina State Transportation Infrastructure Bank Board of Directors to provide other financial assistance to various applicants.

11.5 Ratification of Extensions—Interim Deputy Secretary Gaskins

R 6/2023

Motion by: Commissioner Branham

Second by: Commissioner Johnson

Interim Deputy Secretary Gaskins requested the Commission to ratify 11 extensions totaling \$2.5 million. The Commission approved the Ratification of Extensions. Mr. Gaskins noted this included 5 SCDMV locations, bridge beam and pile repairs at 4 locations, 2 patching and resurfacing projects on two secondary routes.

12. Old Business—Chairman Cox

Secretary Hall stated there was no Old Business to discuss.

13. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Fishburne delighted with the progress of on I-26 widening project. Vice Chairman Christopher congratulated Mr. Green on his 50 years of service and the Lead participants for their involvement in the LEAD program. She thanked Ms. Necker for her work and congratulated the Public Engagement and Maintenance Forces on their recent awards. Commissioner Dukes thanked the workers on the I-26 project and thanked everyone on agency staff for what they did in support of the agency. Commissioner Branham thanked SCDOT for their hard work. Commissioner Johnson praised the SCDOT for the collaboration within the agency for being proactive and reactive. Chairman Cox thanked Secretary Hall for her leadership and all of the staff at SCDOT for their hard work.

14. Meeting Adjournment (Action Required)

A 78/2023

Motion by: Commissioner Branham

Second by: Commissioner Johnson

The meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m. Chairman Cox announced that the Audit Committee Meeting previously scheduled for the day was cancelled. Note: Notice of the cancellation was given by 9:00 a.m. on December 6, 2023.

The December 7, 2023 minutes were approved by the Commission at the January 18, 2023 Commission meeting.

Tony K. Cox, Chairman