

RIDE II Committee Meeting
Monday, September 8, 2003 @ 1:00 p.m.
Horry County Administrator's Conference Room

In Attendance: Chairman Mike Wooten, Coupe DeVille, Mitchell Flannery, James Frazier, Gary Loftus, David Norris, Thad Viers and Steve Gosnell.

Absent: Donald Helms, Jim Hulen, John Kost and Tee Hooper

Chairman Wooten called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes from August 12, 2003. Approved as presented.

October 9, 2003 I&R Committee Meeting – Chairman Wooten would like to make a presentation to the I&R Committee on the progress of the RIDE II Committee. Please add to agenda for October 9, 2003.

Public Notice: Verify with Lisa Bourcier, Horry County Public Information Officer, that all meetings are being advertised.

Briefing on Local Option Sales Tax: Janet Carter, Horry County Planning Director and I&R Legal Counsel, informed the committee that Section 4-10-310 of the South Carolina Code authorizes the county governing body to “impose a one percent sales and use tax by ordinance, subject to a referendum, within the county area for a specific purpose or purposes and for a limited amount of time to collect a limited amount of money.” The revenues collected may be used to defray debt service on bonds issued to pay for specific capital projects, including roads. Section 4-10-330 sets forth a complete list of the types of projects that can be funded in this way. The ordinance must specify the purpose for which the proceeds of the tax are to be used and a referendum question must be very specifically worded as outlined in the South Carolina Code. It can be used for highways, streets and bridges.

While this is the best source of revenue available to the County it will take a significant public relations campaign prior to the referendum to obtain public approval.

There is a bill to increase the sales tax by 2% currently being considered to fund education. If this passes there will be very little chance of getting an additional 1% for roads. Timing is everything and this would need to be on the ballot by next November. A six member commission would need to be established – three members from the County and three members from the municipalities to formulate the referendum question and to consider the proposals for capital funding projects.

No action required.

Funding from Tolls: Mr. Stephen R. Ikerd, P.E., Federal Highway Administration, spoke to the committee regarding the potential for utilizing tolls as a funding source. He provided the committee members with a power point presentation that identified several key points regarding toll facilities. While tolls cannot be used to fund an entire project

(Federal Funds cannot exceed 80% of the project) they can be utilized to fund a portion of approved projects. They may be utilized for feasibility studies, new construction of toll facilities (non-interstate) and/or reconstruction of existing toll facilities. Ownership may be either public or private with a toll agreement between Federal Highways, the DOT and the local authority.

Revenues must be used for debt service first. Excess revenues can be used for additional projects if the road is being maintained and additional funds are available. Projects greater than \$150M require a local referendum.

No action required.

Horry County's Top Fourteen Dangerous Intersections: Mr. Rob Hamzy, South Carolina Department of Transportation, provided the committee with a list of the fourteen most dangerous intersections in Horry County. This information was based on a study conducted between 1999 and 2002. The crash rate was determined by the number of crashes per million vehicles entering the intersection and it was found that the intersections are all highly utilized intersections with the majority being signalized.

Action: Chairman Wooten provided the committee with a map showing the locations, but will update the map for the next meeting to include road names.

Discussion Regarding Potential for a Transportation Summit – Sponsored by the SC Transportation Policy and Research Council: Vice Chairman Gary Loftus provided the committee with information regarding the South Carolina Transportation Policy and Research Council's Transportation Summit's that are being presented around the State. Their goal is to increase the funding for the SCDOT and to enlighten the public on what is going on in transportation throughout the state. They would like to conduct a summit at the beach and the Chamber of Commerce has agreed to assist us, but would like the RIDE II Committee to sponsor the event. This group recently held a summit in Greenville and approximately 100 people attended. There is no cost involved and it could be scheduled at HGTC, Wall Auditorium or the Convention Center. They would like to schedule it prior to Thanksgiving. The committee agreed that this would be a worthwhile endeavor and requested that Mr. Loftus check on the availability of the Wall Auditorium for the end of October. He will update the committee at the September 22, 2003 meeting.

Action: Chairman Wooten made a motion to approve scheduling this summit; seconded by Mr. DeVille and approved by the committee.

ADT Map – Discussion:

Please bring the ADT map to the next meeting as it goes with the presentation Mark Howeler will be making regarding the GSATS Traffic model.

Before money is spent on widening roads ADT's must be considered.

Miscellaneous Items:

- The Chamber of Commerce is working to get the word out to the tourists regarding Highway 22 and Highway 31. Maps are being given out at hotels showing the alternate routes for leaving town.
- Mr. DeVille stated that the maps showing the Emergency Evacuation Routes will be ready in 2-3 weeks. He will provide copies to the committee at the October 6th meeting
- The SIB currently has \$58M available, but these funds had previously designated for Aiken County. We are currently \$20-\$25M short on the North Myrtle Beach Connector and could use additional funds if they are available.

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The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m. by Chairman Wooten.

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND AT 1:00 P.M.
HORRY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S
CONFERENCE ROOM