

## **Appendix 5**

# **Public Participation Outreach & Comments**

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OUTREACH

## 1. PROCESS OVERVIEW

The public participation process for the 2035 LRTP update began with staff development of a comprehensive public participation / outreach plan in December 2007. In January 2008, the RFATS Study Team and Citizen's Advisory Committee reviewed the proposed schedule and public participation activities to be implemented; both committee's supported the draft outline and recommended forwarding the document to the Policy Committee for their endorsement at the January 25, 2008 meeting.

Staff then assembled a comprehensive stakeholder list and sent notification letters out on February 6, 2008 announcing the initiation of the 2035 LRTP update and inviting their comments and participation. Written comments were received from two South Carolina Environmental Resource Agencies (Dept of Natural Resources, U.S. Dept of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service), York County, the Trust for Public Land, the Carolina Thread Trail as well as the Nation's Ford Land Trust.

Staff then mailed public meeting notices to the stakeholder list as well as placed a newspaper advertisement about opportunities to participate in community meetings to learn about the process involved in updating the long range transportation plan (LRTP), as well as provide their input and comments. The first meeting was held on February 21, 2008 in the City Council Chambers at Rock Hill City Hall; the second meeting was held on February 28, 2008 in the Council Chambers for the Town of Fort Mill.

As a part of our directed outreach effort to transportation disadvantaged and individuals with special transportation needs, staff made a presentation to the York County Interagency Coalition (which is primarily comprised of the area's human services agencies). At this meeting, staff distributed a survey requesting their assessment of the existing transportation system as well as a list of the transportation needs and priorities for those they serve.

Staff then assembled all of the information gathered during the public outreach process and reviewed the information with the Study Team, CAC and Policy Committee (April and May 2008) during the initial stages of developing a draft project list. At the June 2008 meeting of the Policy Committee, the 2035 draft project list was endorsed and then made available for public review and comments. In November 2008, the Policy Committee endorsed the 2035 LRTP Project List, which was then modeled for air quality conformity and made available as a public review draft in an effort to secure additional public input and comments.

After additional rounds of review by the Study Team, Citizen's Advisory Committee and Interagency Partners, a public hearing was held on April 24, 2009 where staff outlined and discussed the LRTP, Air Quality Conformity Report, and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in the Council Chambers of Rock Hill City Hall. Staff then summarized all comments received for the Policy Committee and requested their approval of the LRTP, AQ Conformity Report, and TIP as well as authorize staff to submit these documents to the US Department of Transportation for further evaluation and approval.

## STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION & OUTREACH

- A. A comprehensive mailing to all stakeholder groups was undertaken on February 6, 2008 announcing the initiation of the 2035 LRTP update as well as requesting their input and participation.

A representative sample of those contacted includes the following:

- Local Government(s)
- Federal Highway Administration
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Freight & Rail Providers
- Employers & York County Chamber
- Transit Agencies / Providers
- SCDOT
- Federal Transit Administration
- SCDHEC
- Transportation Disadvantaged
- Educational Institutions
- Bicycle / Pedestrian Organizations

Responses / Input was received from the following stakeholders:

- SC Dept of Fish & Wildlife Services Re: Potential impacts on Wetland habitats.
- SC Dept of Natural Resources – Outlined the availability of resources (GIS data, etc.).
- Carolina Tread Trail – Re: Consideration of CTT Planning Activity.
- Rock Hill Bicycle Club – Pedestrian access and safety concerns.
- SC Trucking Association – Provided freight carrier contact information for York County.
- York County Convention & Visitor’s Bureau – Need for focused study near Exit 90 Area.
- United Way of York County – Referenced the need for increased public transit options.

## COMMUNITY MEETING(S)

- A. Two community meetings were held (City of Rock Hill: Feb 21, 2008 & Town of Fort Mill: Feb 28, 2008) discussing the process for updating the LRTP as well as requesting input and information from all interested parties and stakeholders in identifying area transportation needs and priorities. Common themes from the meetings included the following:

- Need for improved Traffic Flow / Congestion Mitigation
- More East / West Connectors
- Bicycle / Pedestrian Access & Safety
- More Pedestrian Friendly Signage

- Additional Public Transit Options
- Increased attention to the US 21 Corridor & Exit 90 area.

## **TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED/SPECIAL NEEDS:**

A. Staff has met with the following agencies / organizations as a targeted outreach effort to secure input from those with special transportation needs as well as those human service agencies (York County Interagency Coalition) that serve as their advocate. Common themes from the survey included the following:

- Increased Public Transit Options
- Employment Related Transportation Options
- Transit Options that operate after regular business hours

### Participating human service agencies:

- Rock Hill Family Resource Center
- United Way of York County
- Tobacco Free York County
- Pilgrim's Inn
- York County Vocational Program DSN
- York County Dept of Social Services
- Catawba Care Coalition
- A Place for Hope
- Keystone
- Power Team, Inc.