

Greenville County Capital Projects Sales Tax Commission Minutes
April 23, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
Committee Meeting Room at 301 University Ridge Greenville, SC 29601

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting date, time, place and agenda was posted online, at 301 University Ridge, Greenville, SC 29601 and made available to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Members Present: R. Lattimore, Chair; T. Epting, Vice Chair; L. Stevens; K. Smith; H. Howard; G. Sprague

Members Absent: None.

Councilors Present: A. Mitchell

Staff Present: K. Wunder; H. Gamble; T. Coker; K. Brockington; A. Ikein; A. Stewart; N. Miglionico

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

2. Invocation

Ms. Stevens provided the invocation.

3. Approval of Minutes – April 8, 2024

Motion: by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Epting, to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2024 Commission meeting, as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

4. Staff Presentation of Proposed Projects

Tee Coker, Assistant County Administrator for Community Planning and Development, detailed the history and goals of the Capital Projects Sales Tax Commission. Mr. Coker stated staff was instructed by County Council Resolution 1958 to conduct “a county-wide inventory and assessment of roads, bridges, and thoroughfares maintained by Greenville County, the State of South Carolina and the Cities of Fountain Inn, Greenville, Greer, Mauldin, Simpsonville and Travelers Rest.” Mr. Coker explained that a list of high-priority projects was formed after analyzing existing roadway and bridge systems throughout Greenville County and meeting with mayors and managers from the six cities and the SCDOT district engineer. Mr. Coker listed the overall project goals to create a safe, efficient roadway network, prioritize practical projects, consider potential funding matches, improve existing infrastructure, and build onto the list of high-priority projects.

Hesha Gamble, Assistant County Administrator for Engineering and Public Works, provided an overview of the project types, tiers, and conceptual plans. Ms. Gamble detailed the eight project types (roadway resurfacing, intersection improvements, roadway safety, congestion relief, bridges and stormwater, pavement preservation, road safety enhancements, and transportation-related drainage), providing a total of 542.5 centerline miles of repaving and 109 roadway or bridge improvement projects.

5. Discussion

Chairman Lattimore asked if the project construction would extend beyond eight years. Ms. Gamble explained that the funding would be collected for eight years, but the projects would continue until the funding ran out. Ms. Gamble stated the projects would be completed in order of their tier priority; tier one projects would be completed first.

Chairman Lattimore asked if Woodruff Road would be included. Ms. Gamble stated no, not for this project, but there are some approved intersection improvements. Mr. Coker stated there is a \$135

million congestion relief project separate from this project and a planned SCDOT road safety assessment.

Ms. Stevens asked how many closed bridges are addressed in the projects. Ms. Gamble stated there was only a handful because SCDOT had passed legislation enabling them to aggressively pursue their bridge program and take care of the closed bridges. Ms. Stevens asked if the bridges would be back up at the end of the eight years. Ms. Gamble stated yes, for the most part.

Ms. Sprague asked if the conceptual designs were the basis for the estimates. Ms. Gamble stated yes.

Mr. Epting asked if the funding would be used for interstate highways. Ms. Gamble stated no, but some projects may improve a ramp onto the interstate.

Mr. Howard said the presentation was impressive and asked how staff compiled the data. Ms. Gamble explained that they worked with their municipal partners, SCDOT partners, and GPATS to analyze the community priorities and ensure they were being met.

Mr. Smith congratulated the staff and stated it looked like something the Commission could move forward with. Mr. Smith asked if tier 4 projects would be completed as long as funding was received. Ms. Gamble stated that the funding would be collected for eight years, but the work could continue until the funding ran out.

Mr. Howard asked who determined the use of the funds in the safety, drainage, and pavement allocation. Ms. Gamble explained that they may encounter additional challenges as they start scoping out the projects, which is where that funding would be utilized. Mr. Howard clarified that the safety, drainage, and pavement allocations supported the projects. Ms. Gamble stated yes.

Ms. Gamble provided a reminder about the upcoming public meetings, which would be held in an open-house format.

Ms. Sprague asked if there would be an online opportunity for comments. Ms. Gamble stated yes. Ms. Sprague asked when the comments would be provided to the Commission. Ms. Gamble stated they would be available for the meeting on May 13th.

Ms. Stevens stated that the public workshops should open with a presentation on how and why the projects were developed and how the tax would be used. Ms. Stevens suggested explaining how this type of tax has worked in other areas.

Ms. Sprague suggested the presentation be on a continuous loop throughout the workshop.

Chairman Lattimore thanked staff and the Commission for making Greenville County a better place.

6. Adjourn

Chairman Lattimore asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Sprague made the motion. Mr. Smith seconded, and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Miglionico

Nicole Miglionico
Recording Secretary