



The Town of Hilton Head Island Intergovernmental Relations Committee Regular Meeting

**Monday, June 15, 2015
10:00 a.m. – Conference Room 3**

AGENDA

As a Courtesy to Others Please Turn Off All Cell Phones and Pagers during the Meeting

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Freedom of Information Act Compliance**
Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and mailed in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Town of Hilton Head Island requirements.
- 3. Approval of Minutes**
 - a. Regular Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting of April 20, 2015
- 4. Chairman's Report**
- 5. Unfinished Business**
None
- 6. New Business**
 - a. Consideration of a Recommendation to Town Council for Approval of a Resolution Identifying the Direct Recipient for MPO Public Transportation Funds
- 7. Adjournment**

Please note that a quorum of Town Council may result if four (4) or more of Town Council members attend this meeting.

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Monday, April 20, 2015
Regular Meeting

Members Present: Bill Harkins, *Chairman*, John McCann and Thomas W. Lennox, *Council Members*

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Kim Likins, *Council Member*; Joe Croley, *Lowcountry Inside Track*; Stu Rodman, *Beaufort County Council Member*; Hannah Horne, *Hilton Head Island – Bluffton Chamber of Commerce*; Debbie Szpanka, *Town of Bluffton Public Information Officer*

Staff Present: Greg DeLoach, *Assistant Town Manager*; Faidra Smith, *Administration Manager/Public Information Coordinator*; and Lynn Buchman, *Senior Administrative Assistant*

Media Present: Zach Murdock, *The Island Packet*

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Chairman Harkins.

2. Freedom of Information Act Compliance

Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and mailed in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Town of Hilton Head Island requirements.

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2015 meeting of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee was made by Mr. Lennox and seconded by Mr. McCann. The motion was adopted by a vote of 2-0, with Chairman Harkins not voting since he was not in attendance at that meeting.

4. Chairman's Report

None.

5. Unfinished Business

None.

6. New Business

a. General Discussion with Invited Legislative Delegation Member, Senator Tom Davis

Chairman Harkins introduced and welcomed Senator Tom Davis and briefly outlined the topics the Committee and Senator Davis would be discussing.

Senator Davis noted that budget considerations were the most consuming items at this point in the legislative session for the General Assembly, and in particular for the Senate, occupying the next 2 to 3 weeks of the Senate's time.

Senator Davis outlined his priorities in the budget process is to focus on maintaining and increasing the funding streams for K-12, USC-B, and Technical College of the Lowcountry by closely watching for any provisos to the budget that might alter funding. He indicated the Senators from Charleston and Horry Counties would be doing the same, as these coastal counties have similar demographics and assessed property tax base.

He noted the next bill of significance would be the gas tax bill to repair roads and bridges. He reviewed various components of the bill requiring public awareness, including the aggregate amount of new revenue, reform needed to move away from a politically driven system directing where the money goes towards a more objective system that ranks capital projects by rational need, and the possibility of diverting increasing existing recurring general fund revenues to roads and bridges. For a gas tax bill or roads bill to be passed not only in the Senate, but to have any chance of surviving a gubernatorial veto, Senator Davis indicated expenditure reform and using existing revenue sources to supplement new revenue would be needed. A discussion among the Committee members and Senator Davis followed concerning whether substantive reforms to expenditures was possible, where the increased general fund revenues are being spent, and strategies to be developed to implement real reform.

Chairman Harkins and Senator Davis discussed the sources of State and local government revenues, the glaring weaknesses in the tax code, and the exemptions that in most cases bear no rational relationship to a compelling State purpose.

Senator Davis estimated that upgrading of existing road and bridge infrastructure and putting in new infrastructure would cost between \$400 Million indicated by the Governor and \$1.4 Billion indicated by SCDOT in additional revenues.

Senator Davis reviewed the inherent inequities and the history of Act 388, the ways equity among classes of property could possibly be achieved, but he noted the political will is not there, nor are major groups or the general public insisting on reform of Act 388. Senator Davis and Beaufort County Councilman, Stu Rodman, briefly discussed the bill proposed by Representative Herbkersman which would allow a local county council with voter referendum approval to impose a 1% sales tax to provide property tax relief. Mr. Rodman indicated Beaufort County Council had passed a resolution of support for the legislation.

The business license bill filed by Representative Quinn in the House, as well as other iterations of the bill, were discussed. Senator Davis predicted no movement of this legislation during the current session. However, he noted that if and when it does move, everyone should be mindful of the compelling equitable arguments made by those paying the business license fees, and also be mindful of the local economic impact it would have, so it should be coupled with revenue coming back to the localities.

Senator Davis reported that permits for the Port in Jasper County would be filed this fall, beginning its 5-year process of obtaining the various regulatory approvals it needs. He pointed out the Port is now a reality that is going to happen within 8 to 9 years, and how transformative it will be to this region. A brief discussion followed concerning the size of the port, the advantages of its location, its impact on the SC coastal region, and the road structure needed to support it.

Senator Davis noted that one item talked about by the General Assembly, although no specific proposal has reached the Senate, is taking some of the less traveled, non-primary, or non-arterial roads in the system and devolving their ownership and maintenance responsibilities down to the County level. He indicated that money for maintenance and decision making authority for road maintenance that is currently held by the Delegation should also be devolved down to the County level.

Council Member, Kim Likins, and Senator Davis discussed continued funding for alternative education for special needs, which was begun last year by a budget proviso started by Senator Davis and Kevin Bryant. He noted how successful this has been, and predicted an expansion of the program is likely this year.

Greg DeLoach, Assistant Town Manager, and Senator Davis discussed federal and state funding options that might be available for the long-term regional projects Town Council has identified in its annual workshops, e.g., adding a lane on I-26, I-95, and bridge replacement to Hilton Head Island.

Senator Davis responded to questions from the public, confirming for Joe Croley that he would run for re-election next year, citing the progress that had been made and more to be accomplished as he gains seniority. Hannah Horne thanked Senator Davis for his concern for USC-B and K-12 funding and asked for his assistance in protecting the destination specific funding, and he briefly discussed the impact such funds have on not only the local area, but the State as a whole. Debbie Szpanka and Senator Davis discussed the general concept of Uber in the State of South Carolina, the actions being taken by the Public Service Commission, and the status of legislation being introduced. Senator Davis outlined for Zach Murdoch the legislative steps being taken to authorize and regulate the growth and medical uses of cannabis in South Carolina, as prescribed by physicians.

Chairman Harkins thanked Senator Davis for his excellent report.

6. Adjournment

At 11:05 a.m. Mr. Lennox moved to adjourn and Mr. McCann seconded. The motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Respectfully submitted:

Lynn W. Buchman
Senior Administrative Assistant

Approved on May _____, 2015:

Bill Harkins, Chairman

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND

Community Development Department

TO:	Intergovernmental Relations Committee
FROM:	Jill Foster, Deputy Director
CC:	Charles Cousins, Director
DATE	June 2, 2015
SUBJECT:	Resolution Identifying the Direct Recipient for MPO Public Transportation Funds

Recommendation: Recommend to Town Council the approval of the enclosed Resolution which designates Lowcountry Regional Transportation Authority (LRTA) as the entity to receive Federal public transportation funds on behalf of the Metropolitan Planning Organization known as the Lowcountry Area Transportation Study (LATS).

Summary: To receive Federal monies for public transportation, each participating local government in the urbanized area (Hilton Head Island, Bluffton and Beaufort County) and the LATS Policy Board must designate a public transportation entity to apply for and receive Federal monies to promote regional transportation for LATS. Local matches from each of the urbanized area governments will be requested by LRTA in order to provide service to those areas.

Background: As a result of the 2010 census, the Bureau of the Census designated the Town of Hilton Head Island, the Town of Bluffton, and portions of southern Beaufort County to be an 'Urbanized Area' because their combined population (68,998) reached over 50,000. This required the creation of a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to carry out a transportation planning process on a regional basis. The municipalities of Beaufort, Port Royal, Hardeeville, Bluffton, and Hilton Head Island, and both Jasper and Beaufort Counties have joined the new MPO. These governmental entities have approved a resolution defining MPO boundaries, identifying Policy Board membership, delegating the lead agency to the Lowcountry Council of Governments, and naming the MPO organization as the Lowcountry Area Transportation Study.

In February 2013, the Governor officially created LATS as the newest of eleven MPOs in South Carolina. In order to receive Federal funding for public transit in the LATS area, a Direct Recipient must be identified. Lowcountry Regional Transit Authority (known as Palmetto Breeze) serves our LATS area, and is qualified to be the Direct Recipient of such Federal funds.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF APPLICATIONS WITH THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION, AN OPERATING ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FOR FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED BY 49 U.S.C. CHAPTER 53; TITLE 23, UNITED STATES CODE, OR OTHER FEDERAL STATUTES ADMINISTERED BY THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION; AND IDENTIFYING LOWCOUNTRY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY AS THE DIRECT RECIPIENT TO APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE FEDERAL URBAN TRANSPORTATION FUNDS FOR THE LOWCOUNTRY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY AREA.

WHEREAS, in March 2012, the Bureau of the Census defined a new Urbanized Area, based on the 2010 Census, when the combined population of the Town of Hilton Head Island, the Town of Bluffton, and parts of unincorporated Beaufort County reached over 50,000; and

WHEREAS, 23 CFR Section 450.310(a) requires that a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) be designated for each Urbanized Area with a population of more than 50,000 individuals as determined by the Bureau of the Census; and

WHEREAS, On August 7, 2012, the Town Council of the Town of Hilton Head Island adopted a Resolution providing for the approval of geographical boundaries and policy board membership to the Metropolitan Planning Organization; and

WHEREAS, on February 11, 2013, the State of South Carolina created the Lowcountry Area Transportation Study (LATS) to be the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Bluffton/Hilton Head Island Urbanized Area to carry out a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive multimodal transportation planning process; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administrator has been delegated authority to award Federal financial assistance for a transportation project to MPOs; and

WHEREAS, a Direct Recipient must be so identified by the LATS Policy Board and each participating local government in the urbanized area to act as the Applicant for financial assistance in public transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, the grant or cooperative agreement for Federal financial assistance will impose certain obligations upon the Applicant, and may require the Applicant to provide the local share of the cost; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant has or will provide all annual certifications and assurances to the Federal Transit Administration required for the project; and

WHEREAS, the Town will work with the other local governments and the state within the urbanized area to provide matching funds for the urban funds from the Federal Transit Administration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA, THAT:

1. The Executive Director of the Lowcountry Regional Transit Authority (LRTA) is authorized to execute and file an application for Federal assistance on behalf of LRTA for the LATS as its Direct Recipient; and
2. The Executive Director of LRTA is authorized to execute and file with its applications the annual certifications and assurances and other documents the Federal Transportation Administration requires before awarding a Federal assistance grant or cooperative agreement; and
3. The Executive Director of LRTA is authorized to execute grant and cooperative agreements with the Federal Transit Administration on behalf of the LRTA for LATS; and
4. The Town will work with the other local governments and the state within the urbanized area to provide matching funds for the urban funds from the Federal Transit Administration.

MOVED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2015.

David Bennett, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____
Victoria L. Pfannenschmidt, Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Gregory M. Alford, Town Attorney

Introduced by Council Member: _____