

Newberry County Transportation Committee
Minutes
May 20, 2025

Present: Mr. O. L. Johnson, Mr. Randy Cannon, Mr. Tim Carroll, Mr. Glenn Hamm, Mr. Arnold Hiller

Absent: Mr. Harry Werts

Others in Attendance: Mr. Herb Cooper, Mr. Josh Rowe, Mr. Keith Suber, Mr. Jeremy Knight, Mr. Joe Kitchen, Mr. Brent Ruis, Mr. Mac Bartley, Mr. Jason Taylor, Mr. Ed West, Ms. Karen Livingston, and Ms. Teresa Ball

Call to Order-Invocation

Mr. Carroll called the meeting to order, and Mr. Hamm led the invitation.

1. Additions, Deletions, and Adoption of the Agenda

A motion was made to approve the agenda for May 20, 2025. Motion was second and all were in favor.

2. Approval of Minutes from Prior Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes for the meeting to be held on April 15, 2025.

Financial Report from Treasurer

Mr. Cannon reported that the cash balance for April 30, 2025, was \$6,518,273.61. The funds received were \$179,357.16. Total withdrawals were \$2,144.73. The total cash balance is \$6,695,486.04. Total funds committed are \$4,906,965.06 and the uncommitted balance is \$1,788,520.98.

Mr. Cannon reported that the cash balance for proviso (118.19) was \$3,644,832.87. Total withdrawals were \$36,463.79. The total cash balance is \$3,608,369.08. Total funds committed are \$3,608,369.08.

Mr. Cannon reported that the cash balance for proviso (118.20) was \$318,000.

Mr. Cannon reported that the cash balance for proviso (118.22) was \$3,172,100.00.

Motion made to accept as information only. Motion second and all were in favor.

3. Old Business/New Business

Old Business

Mr. Rowe said he wanted to present a couple of things. When Mr. Knight had submitted stuff from the SCDOT side, there were two roads in Little Mountain that were going to be left from being paved. One road is North Boundary Street and the other is Mill Street. I received a quote on these two roads. North Boundary Street is around \$60,860 and Mill Street is \$51,860.

The other two roads are ones that we have previously discussed from the county side of things. One is Henry Longshore that is in horrible condition. We have tried to patch it but it's beyond patching at this time. We would do a mill and 2-inch overlay. Right now, the road is about twelve feet wide. The contractor told me that they feel like they can get the road widened to fourteen feet. The cost is \$67,000.

We have previously discussed Scurry Church Road at a few meetings. There would be significant cost paving the entire road. We went with a full depth patch quote which is \$255,000 from SC 39 to Cypress Point Lane.

The total cost for all four roads is \$434,720 base off of the quote. I was going to request \$450,000 for all four roads. I don't think the roads in Little Mountain are in dire need if we want to leave them off.

Mr. Rowe said that there are eleven recycling sites. The estimated cost is \$260,000 to pave the entrances from the intersecting road to the gates.

Mr. Carroll asked if they could do half of the sites. Mr. Rowe said that they could. Little Mountain is the worst one and a little larger than the others. The estimate would be \$20,000 to \$23,000.

Mr. Carroll said when they vote they will include the recycling center at Little Mountain.

Mr. Johnson said that if you are going to pave the road in Little Mountain, you should pave the one between them, which is West Church Street out to the crossing. I don't think you need to add the Little Mountain recycling center. They need to do a utility cut at Hwy 202, where there is a pothole.

Mr. Carroll said he would like to do the two roads.

Mr. Rowe said he wasn't sure if West Church Street is a county road. I have no problem with getting some information on that road. It wasn't a road he had on the list.

Mr. Carroll said to include West Church Street if it is a county road and we will approve the \$500,000.

Motion was made to approve, motion carried, but not further discussion.

Motion was made to discuss this at the special meeting on May 29th.

Mr. Hamm said that as they pave School Drive, there is an opportunity to expand the base to cover some street parking. They are actively paving the project right now. I would like for us to consider utilizing funding that has already been set aside for the over runs as a part of that project. That goes back to PO #42223. I wanted to ask that we permit the town of Prosperity to spend \$15,000 to cover the street parking, which would be a huge cost savings, verse coming back and asking for money later.

Motion was made to approve of adding the street parking to the project. Motion seconded and all approved.

New Business

Mr. Senn thanked the committee for the work that they do across Newberry County.

Mr. Senn said that they are looking at applying for a grant for \$30 million from the state. We are asking for the committee's help. The SC transportation infrastructure bank has put in place the rural infrastructure fund, which set aside \$250 million over the next 10 years to help rural counties pay for major road projects. To be eligible, projects must be located in counties with fewer than 115,000 residents and cost between \$25 million to \$50 million and provide public benefits. We found out about his program in March from Mr. Ruis, who recently retired from SCDOT as deputy secretary of planning. Mr. Ruis told me about the grant and it's a \$25 million minimum. Mr. Ruis said it could be multiple projects grouped together in a problem corridor. I told him we have a problem corridor, which is US 76 and Wilson Road. It has multiple intersections that are rated near the top of the chart that need to be improved. The top one is Wilson Road and Winnsboro Road, number 4 is Wilson Road at Main Street, number 6 is Winnsboro Road at Mt. Bethel Garmany, and number 8 is Wilson Road at Adelaide Street.

We are going to apply for this grant, which has a June 13th deadline to repair these four intersections. There will be added turning lanes, access management, and beautification along the stretch of Wilson Road. This is important to the county because this is the

heavy traffic area of the county. It is the most important for businesses and commerce in the county. It generates the most capital project sales tax, when benefits the entire county.

This grant will be the only opportunity to create this much improvement in the near future. We will need the committee's help to make it work.

Mr. Ruis said that the scope of the project is from Adelaide Street to College Street, which includes four major intersections. At some of the intersections, you may end up with dual left turning lanes and designated right lanes. All of these intersections are already in the long-range plan for the CMCOG. The estimate for the county is \$32.7 million. The request for CTC is \$2.75 million.

Mr. Carroll said that the committee does not have that kind of money. It would wipe the account out.

Mr. Ruis asked if the committee could help if he added an additional year.

Mr. Carroll said that \$300,000 is possible. It would take funds away from everyone else.

Mr. Ruis asked if they were able to reduce the scope of the project and get it within the period, would the committee be willing to have that conversation.

Mr. Carroll said that they would.

Mr. Hamm asked if the \$25 million requirement was the total project price or do they have to award a \$25 million minimum.

Mr. Ruis said that they can reduce the scope of the project, we can't change the \$25 million.

Mr. Senn said that they need two things from the committee. We need a letter of support from the chairperson and a commitment based on us getting the grant with the numbers we talked about. I hope we can make this work.

Mr. Carroll said that everyone still can get to Walmart and other places right now. Turning lanes are nice, but potholes on the other roads will not get repaired unless we pave them.

Mr. Senn asked if the committee would consider holding a special meeting so that we can come back after we have studied this for a few days.

Mr. Carroll said they will schedule a meeting on Thursday, May 29 at 3 p.m.

4. Public Works Report

A. Josh Rowe - Newberry County Public Works Director

B. Jeremy Knight - SC Department of Transportation

Mr. Knight said that he did get a list from the district for the pavement improvement preservation program. I know which roads I can select for the committee's project. I will have the list and estimates at the next meeting.

The big project is underway, and they have not extended the date for completion, it is still June 30th for the bulk of the project. One exception, there are a few roads behind the town of Prosperity that have a drainage issue. I am working with headquarters to find some money to repair them, so it may hold those roads up.

C. Joe Kitchen – City of Newberry Public Works Director

5. Public Comments

6. Executive Session

7. Consideration of Actions on Matters Discussed in Executive Session

8. Adjournment

Motion made to adjourn. Motion second and all were in favor.

_____ Minutes Prepared By:
Teresa Ball, Newberry County Public Works Approved