

November 3, 2021
Infrastructure Surtax
Advisory Committee
Meeting

The regular meeting of the Okaloosa County Infrastructure Surtax Advisory Committee was called to order at 10:00 A.M. in the Okaloosa County Administration Building, 1st Floor Training Center Room. Members present were Mr. Matthew Turpin, District 4 member (Chairman); Brig. Gen. (Ret) Robert Buhrow, District 2 member (Vice Chairman); Mr. Greg Gattis, District 1 member; and Mr. Jim Foreman, District 5 member. Also present were: Mr. Craig Coffey, Deputy County Administrator; Ms. Faye Douglas, Office of Management & Budget Director; Mr. Ron Adamov, Clerk of Court's Chief Financial Officer; Mr. Jason Autrey, Public Works Director; Mr. Steve Schmidt, Surtax Project Manager; and Mr. John Parisi, Surtax Project Coordinator.

Opening Remarks

The meeting was opened by Mr. Turpin and Mr. Coffey stated that the meeting had been properly noticed in accordance with section 286.011, Florida Statutes on 10-25-2021.

Nomination and Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

The Committee requested that staff draft modification of the applicable bylaws for the nomination and election of the Chair and Vice-Chair to occur every 2 years instead of annually in order to maintain continuity. Mr. Autrey confirmed that this will be submitted for approval.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Mr. Buhrow made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes as written. It was seconded by Mr. Gaddis. Approved unanimously (4-0).

Public Comments

None.

Presentations

A. Getting Our Kids to School Safely

Mr. Coffey discussed the previous efforts to obtain Safe Routes To School Grant funding in 2018 and the current planning to address safety of students walking or biking to/from school on Old Bethel Road in support of Agenda item B, Old Bethel Road Sidewalk Improvements. Mr. Autrey

discussed the intended location of the sidewalk and the application of potential matching Surtax funds from Safe Routes To School Grant. Mr. Gaddis asked when to expect construction to begin and Mr. Autrey hopes that it is started before next school season. Mr. Turpin inquired if there was any opposition to this and Mr. Autrey answered that there was none and this item is of high interest to the community and Commissioner Mixon. Mr. Turpin asked if the entire \$1.5 million requested will be all Surtax and Mr. Autrey reiterated that the initial request is solely for Surtax, with any future Safe Routes To School Grant funding being used in lieu of Surtax funding. Mr. Foreman asked if there were any groups or organizations publicly supporting this grant funding and Mr. Autrey explained that yes, the Safe Routes To School program requires involvement and feedback from key individuals and organizations within or closely associated with the effected schools.

Projects Update

A. Mr. Schmidt covered changes and summarized overall status to the Surtax Project Reconciliation Report since last meeting. Mr. Turpin asked if there were any projects that raised concern for overspending and Mr. Schmidt answered that there are not. Mr. Schmidt noted that overall firms are getting busier and design progress has slowed over multiple projects.

B. Mr. Schmidt covered the annual funding projection.

C. Mr. Schmidt covered the SW Crestview Bypass Funding Summary and recent changes. Mr. Autrey summarized areas of project savings. Mr. Buhrow asked who gets the timber and income from the timber in the project and Mr. Autrey responded that, per the terms of the contract, it stays with the contractor, resulting in lower project costs.

Agenda Items and Discussion

A. Allocation of Funding for Redwood Avenue Sidewalk Improvements-
Mr. Schmidt presented a request to fund construction, Construction Engineering and Inspection (CEI) services, admin and overhead for the Redwood Ave Sidewalk Improvements project. Mr. Foreman made a motion to recommend approval to allocate FY 22 funding in the total amount of \$1,000,000.00 to proceed with the construction and CEI services for the Redwood Ave Sidewalk Improvements project. It was seconded by Mr. Buhrow. Approved unanimously.

B. Old Bethel Road Sidewalk Improvements-
Mr. Foreman made a motion to recommend approval of the request to add Old Bethel Road Sidewalk improvements to the list of approved surtax projects and for funding of \$1,500,000. It was seconded by Mr. Gaddis. Approved unanimously.

C. Expansion and Additional Funding for 6th Street Area Improvements-
Mr. Schmidt presented a request for the addition of pipe replacement on 3rd Avenue between 6th Street and 7th Street and request additional funding. Mr. Turpin asked if this addition just pushes the water to an adjoining property and Mr. Schmidt replied that no, this is the outfall. Mr. Buhrow made a motion to recommend approval of the additional allocation of surtax funding in the amount of \$160,000.00 to include 3rd Avenue stormwater replacement in the 6th Street Area Improvements project. It was seconded by Mr. Gaddis. Approved unanimously.

D. Revised Funding for R/W Purchase at Wynnehaven Beach Road-
Mr. Schmidt presented a request to ratify the Board of County Commissioners' additional funding for acquisition of property and associated appraisal and closing costs. Mr. Autrey spoke to the history and the time-sensitive nature of the request. Mr. Buhrow made a motion to revise the September 9th Committee recommendation of \$570,000.00 in funding to \$610,000.00 for acquisition, appraisal and closing costs of properties located at Hwy. 98 and Wynnehaven Beach Road. It was seconded by Mr. Gaddis. Approved unanimously.

Office of Management & Budget

Ms. Douglas provided an update on the status of Infrastructure Surtax revenues and budget.

Clerk of Circuit Court & Comptroller

Mr. Adamov briefly discussed the draft Summary Financial Report.

Public Comments

None.

Schedule Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 12, 2021, 10:00 am, location TBD.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:39 A.M.

(These minutes were transcribed by John Parisi)