



**Government Services**  
**Project & Planning Committee Meeting via Zoom**  
**January 28, 2025, 10:00am**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86815638514?pwd=8WJU5il4V0ewsNQe8dQrvwNuj0u8JP.1>

**Meeting ID: 868 1563 8514**

**Passcode: 456263**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Jeffrey Graham (Chairman Pro Tempore), Jim McCain, Chuck Wilson, Julia Nelson, John Thomas

**Guests:** Ken Martin (SCDOT)

**Staff Present:** Lisa Mann, Dennis Cyphers, Jeff Parkey, Linda Jackson, Esmonde Levy

1. **Welcome and Call to Order:** Chairman Pro Tempore Jeffrey Graham called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.
2. **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:** Jim McCain provided the invocation.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance:** All attendees participated in the pledge.
4. **Determination of Quorum:** Executive Director Dennis Cyphers determined that there was a quorum.
5. **Approval of Agenda:** Chairman Pro Tempore Graham called for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Jim McCain made the motion, and it was seconded by Mr. Chuck Wilson. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.
6. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Chairman Pro Tempore Graham called for a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes. Mr. Wilson made the motion, and it was seconded by Mr. McCain. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.
7. **New Business:**
  - a. **Black River Road:** Mr. Ken Martin stated we have come to some realizations regarding the Black River Roads project. During the preliminary stages, we addressed concerns from various communities by converting open ditches to closed drainage to minimize impacts on yards. The HOA president of Chestnut Hill neighborhood is now requesting similar treatment, which was not originally scoped for by the consultant engineer. This may require additional time and redesign, as well as evaluation of utility challenges. The proposed changes aim to minimize damages to neighboring properties, as seen in the visual representation provided. I seek the COG's input on further investigation with the consultant engineer to potentially reduce impacts

on Chestnut Hill residents. The status of the project and potential solutions for addressing the proximity impacts raised by our ROW staff. One option is to proceed with the current course, which may lead to condemnation court actions and additional costs. Alternatively, we are considering evaluating drainage to provide equitable treatment to Chestnut Hill HOA. While we cannot guarantee a complete reduction of impact due to the existing sanitary sewage system, exploring this option could help mitigate future issues. This may result in schedule delays and increased costs, but could potentially prevent legal disputes and damages. We urge the committee to consider the benefits of investigating the possibility of implementing a closed ditch for the Chestnut Hill area. Feedback from community members has been positive, and we believe exploring this option could be in the best interest of all stakeholders.

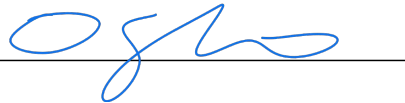
- b. Traffic Safety Grant Opportunities:** Jeff Parkey brings to the committee's attention a federal opportunity for traffic safety improvement funding that we are considering pursuing. This opportunity has provided \$3 billion over the past three years for such projects. The first phase involves developing a safety action plan, followed by implementation grants for recommended improvements. Applications for the safety action plan will open in March, with the goal of achieving zero traffic fatalities. Additionally, there will be opportunities in 2026 for further funding based on completed action plans. This project will require an 80/20 match between federal and local funds. The support in pursuing this funding would greatly benefit our community and enhance traffic safety measures.

8. **Other Business:** N/A

9. **Chairman's Remark:** Chairman Pro Tempore Graham did not have any remarks.

10. **Adjourn:** Chairman Graham called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Wilson made the motion, and it was seconded by Mr. McCain. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dennis Cyphers  
Executive  
Director: