

# **CHARLESTON AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (CHATS) POLICY COMMITTEE**

March 27, 2017

**Observer: Sharon Stilwell**

## **Meeting Summary**

1. South Carolina transportation decisions are affected by flood control policies instituted after hurricanes or heavy rains. The review process may take as long as 2-3 years and will often involve the Army Corps of Engineers.

2. The COG (Council of Governments for Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester Counties) has a regional land use plan. Residential, business and industrial developers have the opportunity to utilize this plan but are not required to incorporate any part of it into their land use decisions. (See 'Plan Regionally or Face Regional Chaos,' The Charleston Post & Courier, March 26, 2017.)

3. Freight Corridors includes 75-mile stretch of I-26 from Charleston to Columbia. Dillon is a second inland port and Highway 41 from Mt. Pleasant to Dillon serves 5,000 trucks per day.

***4. The CHATS Policy Committee passed a resolution to support the state gas tax resolution.***

5. State Transportation Project Status Report:

Christy Hall is the current Secretary of the SC Department of Transportation

SC is #1 in the US for road fatalities

Deferred maintenance is driving up road maintenance costs

The SIB (State Infrastructure Bank) is scheduled to make a decision about the Mark Clark (I-526) at their April meeting.

6. The Intermodal Center Project (Amtrak Station area) has gone out for bids. This center will serve Amtrak, Greyhound and Carta.

7. Public comments included a request to proceed with a commuter rail system at a cost of \$600 million over a timespan of 15 years. Another request included a noise prevention project to improve liveability for the neighborhoods along I-26 in North Charleston (first requested in 2010).