

MINUTES
GPATS STUDY TEAM COMMITTEE
January 27, 2020
Suite 400 – County Square
10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Keith Brockington, Brennan Groel, Ty Houck, Sarah Holt, Asangwua Ikein, Brandon Wilson, Stephen Steese, Rhonda Sloan, Jeff Parkey, Hesha Gamble, Skip Limbaker, Paula Gucker, Dwayne Cooper, Valerie Holmes, Clint Link, Kayleigh Sullivan, Jon Caime, Steve Grant, Patrea St. John, Christina Lewis, Erica Hailey, Casey Lucas, Heather Lollis, Todd Steadman, Stephanie Jackson-Amell, Diane Lackey, Gregory Gordos, and David Dyrhaug.

OTHERS PRESENT: A. Reid, D. Montgomery, B. Dendy, J. Mustar, J. Chasteen, E. Dillon, T. Shumaker, P. Butler, J. Waters, R. Garrett, T. Vinayagam.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Keith Brockington called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Keith Brockington welcomed all in attendance and requested those in attendance to introduce themselves.

SCDOT PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

Casey Lucas addressed members with a brief status update on projects within the GPATS area as was included in their agenda packets.

- SC-164 Batesville Road Widening was let in March 2019, and construction began halfway through the year. She advised bridge construction is ongoing with utility relocations, and that the drainage and retaining wall construction is slightly behind schedule due to the utility delays, but that the project is still on schedule
- SC-183 Ext and Jameson Road Intersection is currently on hold waiting on the results of the submitted State Infrastructure Bank application.
- SC-153 Ext Project bridges are completed, and the roadway, roundabouts, and drainage are approximately 75 percent completed. She stated this project is ahead of schedule and should be completed this summer instead of December 2020.
- SC-146 Woodruff Road Widening utilities are in progress but have caused delays; therefore, the completion date has been moved back to May 2021
- SC-14 Improvements Project walls and sideline drainage are completed. She stated widening and paving are underway with all configurations visible, and the new signal poles are currently being installed.

- Roper Mtn Rd and Roper Mtn Ext utility agreements have been received, and the utility certification has been signed. She advised the project has been placed in April 2020 letting to accept bids.
- Woodruff Rd Parallel Noise Study for the Environmental Assessment (EA) document is being completed, and upon completion of the EA document, it will then be submitted to FHWA.
- SC-153 Intersection Improvements have been added to the May letting. She advised this is a set of projects and that utility agreements have caused a delay.
- SC-107 Butler Rd Project has reached an agreement with a consultant for design services, and the contract has been routed for execution this month. She advised once the contract has been signed, the preliminary engineering can begin on this project.
- SC-164 Gibbs Shoal Rd Project utilities were certified, and the project is scheduled in February 2020 letting.
- S-75 Mt Lebanon Church Rd Bridge is currently in construction, with a majority of the fill-in place between the two bridges and bents, which is continuing to be placed as weather permits.
- S-272 W. Georgia Rd contractor is pouring curb, setting deck framework, and grading in preparation for asphalt paving with an estimated completion date being extended to July 2020.
- S-154 over Huff Creek Bridge Replacement is in negotiations by SCDOT to secure a consultant for this turnkey project.
- City of Fountain Inn Woodside Streetscape is no longer a Local Public Agency (LPA) project. She advised the City of Fountain Inn requested SCDOT to take over this project and that the plans are being finalized. She explained the Design Field Review (DFR) with the Transportation Alternative (TA) project is scheduled for February 2020.
- Minor Street Sidewalk TA project has been moved up and will be included in the February 2020 letting.
- Riverside Middle School Sidewalk TA project has utility conflicts and utility agreements issues. She explained SCDOT is currently working through these issues and that they are trying to avoid moving the let date of May 2020 in order for construction to be completed in the summer to avoid conflict with the school year schedule.
- Pickens Downtown Doodle Connector TA project preliminary plans are finished, and the DFR will be scheduled soon.
- City of Fountain Inn Woodside Park Connector is the TA project which will connect to the City of Fountain Inn Streetscape Project that has a DFR scheduled in February 2020.
- Haywood Rd Sidewalk TA project is an LPA project with the City of Greenville. She advised SCDOT is assisting with the wall design and are waiting for the right-of-way permissions to be able to continue with borings.
- Fairforest Way Phase 2 Project rebid documents have been resubmitted to SCDOT by the City of Greenville for approval in January 2020.
- Fairview St over I-385 Rehab was completed in November 2019.

- West Georgia Rd Improvements is an earmark project for the City of Simpsonville and is waiting on their requested match funds from the Greenville County Transportation Committee (GCTC). She advised these funds will then be submitted to SCDOT for the project to begin.

A question was asked if there was anyone specific holding up the utilities with the Riverside Middle School Sidewalk project.

Ms. Lucas stated because of the new utility bill, the Town of Pendleton Water is requesting funds come from the project instead. She advised SCDOT is assisting them with locating funds elsewhere.

A question was asked about the location of the intersections for the SC-153 Intersections Improvement Project.

Ms. Lucas stated these are two intersection improvements are at S-143 River Rd and S-94 Old Pendleton Rd.

TRANSIT COORDINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Asangwua Ikein addressed members on the recent Transit Coordinating Committee (TCC) report. He stated the TCC evaluated two 5310 Call for Projects applications, one from Senior Solutions, which scored 46.4 out of a hundred and other from Turning Point of SC, scoring 63.4 out of a hundred. He stated there is approximately \$580,000 available, and after the TCC reviewed both applications, they made one of the following recommendations:

- 1) Accept the applications as is,
- 2) Don't reject applications but instead, have applicants redo the application to better illicit answer for the evaluation criteria,
 - i. The TCC will need to redo its 5310 application and policies to better evaluate applications,
- 3) Reject the application due to lack of comprehensiveness,
 - i. The TCC will need to redo its 5310 application and policies to better evaluate applications.

Mr. Ikein advised the two applicant's answers were hard to evaluate to determine if they were meeting the criteria and that it is the TCC recommendation that these two applicants should not move forward but allow the applicants the opportunity to redo their applications. He stated the TCC would also be revising the criteria in the 5310 application to receive better answers to assist with evaluation.

Mr. Ikein made himself available for any questions.

A question was asked to provide a brief overview of each application.

Mr. Ikein explained the services that each applicant provides to the community and individuals they serve and their submitted projects on the application.

After further discussion, members felt the TCC recommendation not to reject the 5310 application, but to have the applicants resubmit these applications with changes is the correct recommendation.

A question was asked if GPATS is working with Carolinas Alliance 4 Innovation (CA4I).

Mr. Brockington advised CA4I has not proposed an applicant who qualifies for the 5310 Program.

A question was asked regarding the 5310 Funds Available and Left Over document submitted in the packet stating the figures are not matching the remaining 5310 balance of \$568,162.90.

Mr. Brockington advised the 5310 Funds Available and Left Over document can be revised.

A question was asked when is the next deadline for 5310 applications and what happens to the funds should the applicants not be awarded the requested funds.

Mr. Ikein stated that should the current 5310 applications not be awarded, the funds will carry over to the next 5310 Call for Projects, and the applicants will have up to three years to spend these funds before they expire.

Mr. Brockington stated a current change to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) reflects Senior Solutions' prior 5310 application. He advised Senior Solutions is requesting to reallocate their match from operating expenses to capital, which allows more federal funds to become available. He stated Senior Solutions' prior 5310 application would increase from \$155,705.57 to \$167,319.57 due to the reallocation of their local match.

After a brief discussion, several members had a concern that the request to increase federal funds to the Senior Solutions' prior 5310 application changes the criteria for which they were approved.

Recommendation: Mr. Brockington asked for approval or any objections from the members on the two 5310 applications. By consensus without an objection, members recommended not to move the 5310 applications forward at this time and have the applicants resubmit their 5310 applications with additional information to the Policy Committee for their approval.

Recommendation: Mr. Brockington asked for approval or any objections from the members to pass along the 5310 reallocations of increase federal match funds for Senior Solutions. By consensus without an objection, members recommended not to grant the federal match increase funds to Senior Solutions to the Policy Committee for their approval.

GPATS 2020-2025 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENT AC 2

Keith Brockington advised members of an amendment AC 2 to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) financial statement. He stated the TIP financial statement was updated after the agenda packets were sent due to a recent SCDOT transmittal request.

- At the Request of SCDOT
 - Bridge Replacements
 - S-931 over Big Creek - Anderson
 - S-140 over Shoal Creek - Pickens
 - S-250 over Doddies Creek - Pickens
 - US-25, I-85 to Lily St - Safety Improvements
 - Add \$50k of ROW to FY2020
 - Add \$1.3mil of Const. to FY2021
 - SC-146 Roper Mtn Rd to Bagwell Rd - Safety Improvements
 - Add \$50k of ROW to FY2020
 - Add \$1.6mil of Const. to FY2021
- Correction of Section 5310 overall Amounts in FY2018 and 2019 to proper amounts

Mr. Brockington advised the last TIP amendment change will be presented to the Policy Committee with the Study Team's recommendation to not move forward at this time:

- Addition of recommendation from TCC for Section 5310 applications for FY2018 and 2019 funding and requested federal increase funds for Senior Solutions' prior 5310 application.

Mr. Brockington made himself available for any questions.

Recommendation: Mr. Brockington asked for approval or any objections from the members to pass TIP amendment AC #2 recommendations to the Policy Committee for their approval. No objections or questions by consensus.

CITY OF GREENVILLE DOWNTOWN TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN

Jonathan Chasteen from HDR addressed the members with a slide presentation on the final results presented to the Greenville City Council on the City of Greenville Downtown Transportation Master Plan (DTMP). He advised the DTMP was approved in 2017 through the fiscal year 2018 – 2019 Unified Planning Work Program, and the last completed study was twenty years ago. He stated HDR coordinated with the City of Greenville, GPATS staff, and SCDOT staff. He advised HDR was also able to coordinate with Urban Design Associates, who completed the Greenville Strategic Downtown Master Plan 2019, as well as including the County of Greenville Comprehensive Plan. He stated the GPATS model was used as a base for this study. The DTMP study used the following to establish existing conditions:

- Review of Previous Studies
- Traffic: Data Collection
- Crash Analysis
- Travel Demand Modeling
- Origin-Destination Trip Assessment
- Intersection Capacity Analysis
- Inventory of Transit, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Infrastructure

Mr. Chasteen advised from reviewing previous plans they found that most of them were accomplished and successful. He explained during the DTMP study, it was found that a third of the traffic is coming from I-385, but that twenty percent is entering and exiting from August Rd. He advised an online survey was created and that nearly 800 responses were received. He stated from the online survey they found Stone Ave, I-385, Academy St, and August St are other areas the public has concerns about.

He stated, from the data collected, traffic is going through the City of Greenville and not stopping. He advised there is a lot of economic development and growth anticipated in the downtown area of the City of Greenville and that the GPATS model did not anticipate population growth. He stated one such area is Heritage Green and to make a better connection with Heritage Green to the downtown City of Greenville.

Mr. Chasteen presented slides of proposed short term and long term projects suggested from the DTMP study. He explained from the DTMP study there are approximately sixty-six projects and the next steps are:

- Incorporated prioritized project list into future GPATS Long-Range Transportation Plan updates
- Develop a prioritization framework for short-term and long-term,
- Continue to maintain public involvement as the project continues.

Mr. Chasteen made himself available for any questions.

There was a brief discussion regarding the improvement of the level of service for downtown.

Mr. Brockington advised the DTMP Phase 1 full report will be posted on the GPATS website.

Recommendation: Mr. Brockington asked for approval or any objections from the members to pass the City of Greenville Downtown Transportation Master Plan to the Policy Committee for their endorsement. No objections or questions by consensus.

TITLE VI PLAN UPDATES

Asangwua Ikein addressed the members regarding updates to the existing Title VI Plan to be in compliance with FTA standards are as followed:

- 1) Public Notice to include reporting directly to FTA and how to report on the GPATS website,
- 2) Public Participation Plan (PPP),
- 3) Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan,
- 4) GPATS Advisory Team (Study Team)
- 5) Monitoring of Sub-recipients,
- 6) Demographics Data with the latest US Census data,
 - i. Non-White,
 - ii. Hispanics or Latino,
 1. Those of Hispanic origin can be of Any Race, of which the US Census defines five races. Within the GPATS region, a large portion of the Hispanic population identifies as white, and some census block data has medium reliability – between 12% - 40%, but most have low reliability. The US Census block data projects that there are sizable amounts of Hispanics that identify as “Some Other Race” – a sixth category of people who don’t identify as one of the five race defined by the US Census – or “Two or More Races,” but this data has low reliability - $\geq 40\%$.
 - iii. Average Median Income (AMI) of \$54,799 within GPATS’ region,
 - iv. Environmental Justice Area (EJA) – these are places where the populations is 50% Non-White, and the (AMI) of \$54,799 is $\leq 80\%$,

Mr. Ikein made himself available for any questions.

Mr. Brockington stated the Title VI Plan, PPP, and LEP Plan are documents to be presented to the Policy Committee for their adoption of these amendments. He advised these documents are available to view online and from the links provided in their agenda packets.

Recommendation: Mr. Brockington asked for approval or any objections from the members to pass the Title VI Plan, PPP, and LEP Plan amendments to the Policy Committee for their approval. No objections or questions by consensus.

GPATS INTERACTIVE MAPPING PROJECT

Asangwua Ikein addressed members with an update to the GPATS Interactive Mapping Project that is made up of three interactive maps:

- Corridor, Bridge, and Intersection Projects
- Crash Data (2014-2018)
- Transit Services

He advised the projects placed in the Interactive Mapping are continually being updated and will show what stage these projects are currently at, but should anyone see a need for a correction to contact him.

Mr. Brockington advised members that these maps are expanding and should anyone like to see a project added from their area to contact Mr. Ikein. He stated soon, there will be a link added, providing the viewer with more information about the project.

Mr. Ikein made himself available for any questions.

Members thanked Mr. Ikein for his hard work creating this project.

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FY 2020 CYCLE

Brennan Groel addressed the members that there was a threat of rescission written into the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, which was to take place in January 2020. She stated this rescission has gone away, but GPATS has yet to receive a formal allocation in the form of a letter and have been told to expect the same amount for allocation as last year. She advised the SCDOT Transportation Alternatives (TA) office is waiting to send these letters until after they have calculated all of the lapsing funds. She stated SCDOT is reviewing projects that may have lapsed or need to move allocated funds to another project. She advised GPATS has two TA projects that may be in threat of lapsing; therefore, GPATS currently will not issue a call for projects at this time until all information has been received for the SCDOT TA office.

Ms. Groel made herself available for any questions.

A question was asked which two projects are in threat of lapsing.

Ms. Groel advised the City of Simpsonville TA project Swamp Rabbit Trail was delayed due to the right-of-way regarding the railroad, and the City of Easley Brushy Creek was delayed due to environmental.

OLD BUSINESS

Keith Brockington gave an update on the Appalachian Council of Government (ACOG) Freight Study for Lance Estep, who was not able to attend the meeting. He stated ACOG received the notice to proceed from SCDOT and is close to finalizing a contract with the vendor. He advised there is a plan to create a Steering Committee that will consist of regional partners and major stakeholders; there will also be a Freight Advisory Committee that will consist of mostly the private sector. He stated this study should take twelve to fifteen months to complete, and individual presentations will not be made by the vendor to the Policy Committee until the study is finished. He advised ACOG will present to the Study Team and the Policy Committee to explain the process.

Keith Brockington provided an update on the FTA Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Study. He stated GPATS received the secured match from the County of Greenville last week. He advised GPATS is currently getting the final Request For Proposal (RFP) approved with the City of Greenville, City of Mauldin, and Greenville Transit and then will submit to the County of Greenville Procurement Department. He stated this TOD study is a land-use study and will focus on Laurens Rd area between the downtown of Greenville and the City of Mauldin.

A question was asked if Greenlink has developed a plan for Fountain Inn extension.

A representative with Greenlink advised not at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

INCOMING GPATS POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Keith Brockington addressed the members that there will be new voting members to the Policy Committee. He stated these new Policy Members are:

- Mayor Butch Womack of Easley (replacing Larry Bagwell)
- Mayor Paul Shewmaker of Simpsonville (replacing Janice Curtis)
- Mayor G.P. McLeer of Fountain Inn (replacing Sam Lee)
- Mayor Fletcher Perry of Pickens (replacing David Owens)
- Mayor Terry Merritt of Mauldin (replacing Dennis Raines)
- GTA Chairperson Dick O'Neill (replacing George Campbell)

He requested any support staff members to reach out to these new members and encourage them to attend the upcoming GPATS 101 Training Session to be scheduled in early February. He stated anyone from the Study Team or others may attend this training.

Keith Brockington was advised by GPATS Chairman Kirven to inform everyone that Secretary Hall or her designee will be attending the February Policy Committee meeting to present the SCDOT statewide update.

Keith Brockington asked members that submit quarterly reports and invoices to GPATS for Transit or Transportation Alternative projects to send them shortly after the quarter ends or before to avoid any delays with reports needing to be sent to the FHWA, FTA, and SCDOT. He stated if there are no invoices or a report for the quarter to advise GPATS that there is nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, Mr. Brockington adjourned the meeting at 11:28 a.m.


Submitted by Recording Secretary