

MINUTES
GPATS STUDY TEAM COMMITTEE
January 29, 2024
Council Chambers – County Square
10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Keith Brockington, Kayleigh Cleek, Tee Coker, Heshia Gamble, David Gray, Asangwua Ikein, Rashida Jeffers-Campbell, Skip Limbaker, Heather Lollis, Casey Lucas, Dyke Spencer, Anna Stewart, and Jim Walden.

OTHERS PRESENT: Senator R. Rice, M. Donahue, B. Groel, C. Hill, J. Mitchell, R. Tolson, and H. Youmans, Jr.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Keith Brockington welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

GPATS PRODUCT STATUS UPDATE

Casey Lucas, Program Manager with the SCDOT, addressed members with a status update on projects within the GPATS area.

- Projects in construction were as follows:
 - Roper Mtn Road (RMR) and Roper Mountain Road Extension (RMRE) - both are currently in construction. RMR crews are working on sidewalk installation and driveway tie-ins throughout. Storm drainage pipe is 90% complete. Curb and gutter 90% complete. RMRE crews continue to work on Phase II of the new bridge construction over Rocky Creek. Bridge beams set for delivery and installation for early February.
 - Garlington Road – Still in PL phase. More to report in Spring of this year.
 - SC-183 & Jameson Road intersection – Scope has been reduced to intersection improvement. Small purchase contract underway for traffic and alternative analysis due to the upcoming widening of SC-183.
 - Pelham Road & Haywood Road Intersection improvements – Small purchase contract underway for traffic and alternative analysis.
 - Pleasantburg Drive & Rutherford Road Intersection improvements – Small purchase contract underway for traffic and alternative analysis.
 - SC-183 – Will progress forward with SC-183 project in Pickens County under one turn-key consultant contract.
- TA Programs were as follows:
 - Woodside Streetscape – In construction with estimated completion in Spring 2025.
 - Woodside Park Connector – In construction with estimated completion in Spring 2025.
 - Riverside Middle School Sidewalk – Being let for construction in March when school is not in session.
- West Georgia Road – Plans completed, waiting to certify ROW and utility.
- SC-183 – Non-guideshare portion. Will progress with SC-183 GPATS project under one turn-key consultant contract.

Ms. Lucas explained the last page of the update show SCDOT, non-guideshare bridges within GPATS boundaries and for provided for information purposes.

Ms. Lucas made herself available for any questions.

Items from October Policy Committee

Mr. Brockington explained due to the lack of a quorum at the October 23, 2023 Policy Committee Meeting, there are items still requiring a vote by Policy Committee in February 2024. The below items are back before the Study Team for recommendation to Policy Committee.

- GPATS By-Laws – being amended to reflect the change in the GPATS Study Area, removing the Policy Committee and Study Team Members from the removed areas of GPATS resulting in a loss of two Policy Committee Members (Mayor of Clemson and Mayor of West Pelzer).
- Transportation Performance Measures – Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments with updates to the measures and targets as requested by SCDOT. The areas are Safety and Transit Asset Management.

Mr. Brockington stated these items are being presented to the Study Team once more to re-affirm their recommendation to Policy Committee.

Recommendation: Mr. Brockington asked for approval, or any objections, from the members to recommend approval of the GPATS By-Laws Amendment to the Policy Committee for their approval. No verbal objections or questions by consensus.

Recommendation: Mr. Brockington asked for approval, or any objections, from the members to recommend approval of the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments with updates to the measures and targets. No verbal objections or questions by consensus.

GPATS Horizon 2045 LRTP Amendment

Anna Stewart addressed the members explaining the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Amendments needed due to the 2020 Census. Updates reflect the new GPATS Study Area Boundary and removing projects no longer in the boundary.

Ms. Stewart stated GPATS lost 21 corridor projects and 16 intersection projects. These projects are now in the Anderson Clemson Area Transportation Study (ACATS) boundary and were added to ACATS Long-Range Transportation Plan.

Ms. Stewart made herself available for questions or comments.

Mr. Brockington displayed the LRTP Amendment pages and reiterated the map showing GPATS Study Area Boundary is the map being updated with highlights showing the removed projects. Mr. Brockington asked Jim Walden, Regional Planning Manager with SCDOT, if GPATS had any other amendment requirements due to the Census and boundary changes.

Mr. Walden replied he believed what was just presented is all that is required from GPATS.

Recommendation: Mr. Brockington asked for approval, or any objections, from the members to recommend this LRTP Amendment to the Policy Committee for their approval. No verbal objections or questions by consensus.

FY 2025-2034 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Keith Brockington explained every two years, GPATS is required to approve a new TIP. He said typically this is done around May however, SCDOT requested all TIPs in the state be updated by the end of February this year. Mr. Brockington explained the new Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) done by SCDOT is for fiscal years 2025-2034 and they have requested all TIPs match with the same years being covered. He stated GPATS will now have a TIP that covers a ten-year period.

Mr. Brockington presented the DRAFT Financial Statement for FY 2025-2034 explaining GPATS will not program any guideshare funds in the fiscal years 2030-2034 at this time. He explained those are mainly for programming SCDOT non-guideshare funded projects.

Mr. Brockington described the main changes made to the TIP which include:

- Increase of the annual Guideshare Allocation – The new changes to boundaries and population, resulted in FY2024 guideshare allocation of approximately \$26.2 million and FY2025 approximately \$29.2 million.
- The combining of FY2022 and 2023 into the Previous Obligations column.
- The addition of FY2029 through 2034 to the back end of the TIP with the funding allocation of \$29.199 million per year was assumed.
- After coordination with SCDOT, allocation of funding for projects and balancing of the Guideshare spending, and clearing completed or cancelled projects, new projects were added per the GPATS LRTP and SC Act 114. Details of these changes are in the Financial Statement, with additions and changes highlighted in blue and removals highlighted in red.
 1. Road Improvement projects added were the Guideshare portion of SC-183 and from the LRTP, Fairview Road project and St. Mark Road project.
 2. Intersection projects added were Main Street/Ann Street/Pendleton Street, US-25/Bessie Road (SC-86)/Sandy Springs Road, and W. Georgia Road /East Standing Springs Road.
 3. The Bicycle and Pedestrian projects are currently being discussed to determine which ones can be added in. The Mauldin Golden Strip Gateway is moving forward at this time and meetings are scheduled to discuss details.
- GTA (Greenlink) funding allocation for FY2024 were increased due to CAT (Clemson) now being in ACATS Boundary Area.

- Traffic Signal Timing – Will be updated after discussions with SCDOT but no changes have been made thus far. The Federal Carbon Reduction Program funds will be allocated towards traffic signal timing and upgrades. GPATS will bolster that amount with 5% of guideshare allocations. Once details are better known, projects will be listed in GPATS TIP Financial Statement.
- Non-Guideshare project additions and removals as requested by SCDOT. One being the SC-183 portion that is not guideshare funded. Another is the Nicholtown Mountain Bike and Hike Trail previously added into the TIP but could not be voted on in October due to the absence of a quorum. Three safety projects (River Street/Richardson Street, US-29 Wade Hampton Boulevard, and US-276 Poinsett Highway). All are highlighted in the DRAFT TIP Financial Statement.
- Bridge projects are highlighted awaiting SCDOT review.
- Transit Section is mostly unchanged and will be updated when the numbers are available.

Mr. Brockington made himself available for any comments or questions.

Recommendation: Mr. Brockington asked for approval, or any objections, from the members to recommend this 2025-2034 TIP Financial Statement to the Policy Committee for their approval. No verbal objections or questions by consensus.

FTA Section 5310 Call for Projects

Asangwua Ikein explained GPATS currently has \$298,990 available for applications. Mr. Ikein said the 5310 funds are to be used for the enhanced mobility of seniors and individuals with disabilities and he encouraged attendees interested in applying to please contact him or if they know of other parties interested to have them reach out to him. Mr. Ikein reminded attendees if the funds are not applied for they will default to the transit providers to keep them from lapsing.

Mr. Ikein made himself available for questions or comments.

Mr. Brockington asked if any of the 2023, or earlier, funds are in danger of lapsing.

Mr. Ikein replied yes, if no applications have come in by summer, the 2023 funds will be in danger of lapsing.

Mr. Brockington noted that 2023 funds will also include Clemson Area Transit.

Heather Lollis, Budget and Grants Manager for Clemson Area Transit, stated they are in the process of applying for some of the funds and will be in touch when they have all the numbers together.

Mr. Brockington asked if there were any more comments or questions for Mr. Ikein.

TAP 2024 Program and Call for Projects

Anna Stewart announced GPATS is issuing a Call for Projects for the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP). GPATS received an allocation of a little over \$1.1 million for FY 2024 and now has a total of approximately \$2.4 million available for new projects or supplemental funding. TAP funds transportation

related bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure projects. Applications are due March 15, 2024 and are available on www.gpats.org. Ms. Stewart stated GPATS is now offering phasing of TAP Grants, to get projects done in a timely manner and prevent funds from lapsing.

Ms. Stewart made herself available for any questions or comments.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program Update

Asangwua Ikein explained the FTA requires GPATS to update the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program to come into compliance with current standards. Mr. Ikein explained without this program, GPATS will be unable to allocate funding.

Mr. Brockington reminded members the survey is still available on www.gpats.org home page and encouraged everyone to review.

Mr. Ikein made himself available for comments or questions.

Recommendation: Mr. Brockington asked for approval, or any objections, from the members to recommend this DBE Program Update to the Policy Committee for their approval. No verbal objections or questions by consensus.

GPATS Congestion Management Process (CMP) Update

Keith Brockington announced the GPATS Congestion Management Process is proceeding on schedule. Kimley-Horn Associates is meeting with stakeholders, and interviewing members of the GPATS Policy Committee.

Mr. Brockington showed members a presentation explaining the MetroQuest Survey conducted as a part of this effort. Mr. Brockington said the survey closed the first week of 2024 and he encouraged all to look over the results provided in the agenda packet.

Mr. Brockington stated Kristina Whitfield will be presenting this information and discussing the next steps at the February Policy Committee Meeting.

Mr. Tee Coker, Greenville County Assistant Administrator for Community Planning and Development, asked Mr. Brockington to share a couple of major points that stood out to him.

Mr. Brockington replied one of the most obvious results was the category of “Safety and Security” as the highest-ranking priority among those who took the survey. He stated another interesting result was the fact that creating better access management was, by far, the most popular congestion mitigation strategy.

Mr. Brockington made himself available for any questions or comments.

Old Business

Keith Brockington asked if anyone had any products or plans they would like to discuss with the Study Team.

Mr. Brockington stated AECOM is conducting a study for GPATS in regards to SC-81 in the Powdersville area. Mr. Brockington shared an update AECOM recently provided saying AECOM held a public meeting on December 12, 2023 at Wren Middle School where 45 people attended. AECOM provided visuals with recommendations and the overall public feedback was positive with the various proposed new turn lanes throughout the corridor. The number one project was signalization of SC-81 at Old Williamston Road which was the highest recommended intersection from the first public meeting held in September. AECOM expects to have a draft report next week for the project team to review. Mr. Brockington stated a final draft should be ready for Study Team review in April and will be sent out to all members at that time.

New Business

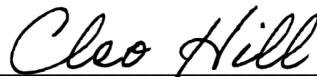
Keith Brockington told members GPATS has a couple of new incoming Policy Committee Members. Mayor of Easley and Mayor of Pickens have changed and there is a new GTA Chair.

Mr. Brockington also stated there are plans for another GPATS 101 Training Session early this year and details will be announced at a later date.

Mr. Brockington said GPATS has an election of officers every two years for Policy Committee and the election will be held at the February 26th meeting.

ADJOURN

Without objection, Mr. Brockington adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.



Submitted by Recording Secretary