

**MINUTES**  
**GPATS STUDY TEAM COMMITTEE**  
**January 30, 2023**  
**Suite 400 – County Square**  
**Remote participation by members**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Amy Blinson, Keith Brockington, Jon Caime, Kayleigh Cleek, David Dyrhaug, Lance Estep, Mike Forman, Gregory Gordos, Matt Hogan, Jason Knudsen, Diane Lackey, Christina Lewis, Heather Lollis, Casey Lucas, Liston Mehserle, Renee Miller-Cotton, Anna Stewart, Heather Stahl, Jim Walden, and Brandon Wilson

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Senator R. Rice, Councilor C. Linvill, A. Bodner, L. Bollinger, L. Bridges, E. Dillion, D. Harding, C. Hill, S. Jackson-Amell, S. Limbaker, and M. Nations

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Keith Brockington 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 brief status update on projects within the GPATS area.

- Projects in construction were as follows:
  - S-164 Batesville Road Widening was completed in October 2022.
  - SC-146 Woodruff Road Widening was completed in December 2022.
  - Roper Mtn Road (RMR) and Roper Mountain Road Extension (RMRE) work is continuing on both. The bridge on RMRE started recently. All utility conflicts have been resolved on both roads.
  - Woodruff Road Congestion Relief – ROW plans in QA review ahead of a May ROW obligation. Additional funds needed for ROW of \$5.7M.
  - S-107 Butler Road plans in QA review ahead of a March ROW obligation. Additional funds needed for ROW (+\$9.4m) and construction (+\$11M). Total additional funds needed for both ROW and construction is \$20.4M.
  - S-564 Garlington Road is in planning phase. SCDOT Planning Office is securing a consultant to continue the feasibility study.
  - SC-183 & Jameson Road intersection project under review to verify current design (roundabout) is still appropriate. Next steps, restart public involvement.

Bridge Replacement Projects are SCDOT and not GPATS related. The updates are included in the agenda packet should they be in your area.

- TA Program were as follows:
  - Woodside Streetscape and Woodside Park Connector plan to let these two together.
  - Woodside Streetscape is awaiting project scope revisions from City of Fountain Inn to reduce construction cost.
  - Woodside Park Connector was awarded additional TAP funds in October 2022. Supplemental FPA being drafted.
  - Riverside Middle School also was awarded additional TAP fund in October 2022 and supplemental FPA is being drafted.
  - Town of Central Connector FPA was executed in August 2022. Surveys have been ordered.

Ms. Lucas made herself available for any questions.

### **GPATS 2023-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, AMENDMENT AC#3**

Keith Brockington addressed members on the proposed Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment AC #3 and advised the following changes:

At the Request of SCDOT, the following changes are being made to the TIP:

- Woodruff Road Congestion Relief Project
  - Increase Right of Way/System Upgrade - Urban/GPATS/STBGP/AC from \$28,250,000 to \$34,460,600 in FY 2023.
  - Increase Right of Way/System Upgrade - Urban/GPATS/STBGP/ACC from \$9,450,000 to \$11,486,867 in FY 2024
  - Increase Right of Way/System Upgrade - Urban/GPATS/STBGP/ACC from \$9,450,000 to \$11,486,867 in FY 2025
  - Increase Right of Way/System Upgrade - Urban/GPATS/STBGP/ACC From \$9,450,000 to \$11,486,866 in FY 2026
  
- Butler Road Widening Project
  - Increase Right of Way/System Upgrade - Urban/GPATS/STBG from \$1 million to \$10,400,000 million in FY 2023
  - Add Construction//System Upgrade - Urban/GPATS/STBG/ACC of \$11 million in FY 2027, increasing the FY2025 AC to \$21 million

Mr. Brockington made himself available for any questions.

**Recommendation:** Mr. Brockington asked for approval or any objections from the members to pass the Transportation Improvement Program amendment AC #3 recommendations to the Policy Committee for their approval. No verbal objections or questions by consensus.

### **FTA Section 5310 Call for Projects**

Keith Brockington offered congratulations to Asangwua Ikein and his wife on the birth of their new baby.

In Mr. Ikein's absence, Mr. Brockington presented the Transit Coordinated Committee (TCC) Report.

The TCC evaluated one project (Senior Solutions) for FTA Section 5310.

Senior Solutions scored an average score of 51.8/100 in their TCC evaluation.

- a. Local Match: \$154,940
- b. Federal Match: \$312,260
- c. Total Application: \$467,200.

Currently there's \$319,073 available for federal match.

Mr. Brockington stated that since the application went through the TCC and scored below required 70/100, Study Team will have to recommend it be rejected.

Heather Lollis, Budget and Grants Manager with Clemson Area Transit stated that at one point the application was for more funding than what was available. Discussion then turned to sending application back and getting Senior Solutions to revise it. Ms. Lollis explained there were several communication issues and the score was not fair to Senior Solutions. It would be better if we could explain why the scores were so low and/or if there was a scale available so that a portion of the funds could be awarded if score is lower. She stated if there were a meeting to explain why they were scored low; it would be nice.

GPATS is currently working with \$100-120,000 that is subject to lapse in October and December if not obligated. Mr. Brockington stated that Senior Solutions are welcome to speak at the upcoming Policy Committee in regards to the rejected application and that we can work with them to assist in re-applying.

**Recommendation:** Mr. Brockington asked for approval or any objections from the members to the TCC's rejection of the application due to the score being below required 70/100.

### **GPATS FY 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program and Special Studies**

In April, GPATS Staff will be presenting its Draft FY2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program, its biennial document for MPO Operations.

As a part of the UPWP, GPATS will be issuing a Call for Projects for Special Studies. GPATS has completed over two dozen Transportation Planning Studies since they began and continues to make its carryover balance of Federal PL Funds available to applying jurisdictions when possible.

Application page was included in the agenda for this meeting and can also be found on the GPATS website. Please return the completed application to Staff by March 17, 2023.

Mr. Brockington explained the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Special Studies are for studies and plans only, non-engineering, non-right of way, non-construction, and they have to have a transportation purpose.

### **TAP 2023 Program and Call for Projects**

Anna Stewart described the 2023 TAP Program. She explained in November, SCDOT released updated TA Program guidelines. GPATS has revised the 2019 TA Program Document to be in compliance with SCDOT's program. These changes include an updated project list defined by SCDOT, a 20% **minimum** local match required, and removal of the funding projection section from the old document. GPATS is also waiting on input from SCDOT and FHWA on the document, so more revisions may occur. Revisions also include general updates to the document, such as changes in dates and funding amounts.

GPATS is also issuing a Call for Projects for the TA Program. GPATS received an allocation of \$1,326,410 for FY 2023. GPATS has a total of \$2,230,145 available for new projects or supplemental funding. Currently, \$404,964 is expected to lapse on 09/30/2023 if the funds are not obligated. Applications are due March 17, 2023. The TAP application can also be found on the GPATS website.

Ms. Stewart asked if there are any questions or comments. Mr. Brockington stated Ms. Stewart will be available if anyone has further questions or needs guidance.

### **GPATS Performance Measures Presentation**

Anna Stewart explained in October, the Policy Committee requested an informational presentation on the meaning and importance of the Performance Measures.

Ms. Stewart presented the importance of the Performance Measures for GPATS, explaining performance measures are mandated by FHWA and Congress by the F.A.S.T. (Fixing America's Surface Transportation) Act. The national goal areas are safety, infrastructure condition, congestion reduction, system reliability, freight movement and economic vitality, environmental sustainability, and reduced project delivery delays.

There are different national goal areas that GPATS monitors and reports on include safety, transit asset management, infrastructure condition, and system & freight reliability. SCDOT has one year to set a target after the final rule is published for a goal. MPOs and COGs have 180 days after that to adopt the state target or create their own.

State safety targets are updated annually and in October 2022, the Policy Committee adopted the state safety targets. These include traffic fatalities, fatality rate, severe injuries, severe injury rate and non-motorized injuries and fatalities. The measure shows

baseline data from 2017-2021 and is based off a rolling average. Each time there is a new year, one year rolls off the back end.

The transit safety targets are provided by CATbus and Greenlink. The mode of transit service is then measured by fatalities, injuries, safety events, and system reliability. The transit asset management targets are updated by the state and transit agencies. It shows the asset category, such as rolling stock and is broken down further by class. The measure shows met or exceeded percentage of ULB (Useful Life Benchmark).

The infrastructure condition is updated either by two or four year timelines. This measures the percentage of infrastructure that is in good or poor condition. This measures interstate, non-interstate roads and bridges.

The last target is system & freight reliability and shows two and four year targets with baseline data, as well. This measures how reliable each category is in getting from point A to point B at any time during the day. This also measures TTTR or Truck Travel Time Reliability.

GPATS is required to monitor and report performance measures in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). SCDOT also comes out with performance reports every two years and it can be found on the GPATS website. The report shows what the targets are and if they were met or not.

SCDOT online performance dashboard shows traffic fatalities broken down by district and counties. The FHWA online performance dashboard shows different performance measures statewide.

Performance measures justify our funding strategy and why one project may be ranked higher than another. It also allows us to track a strategy and see if it is working and change targets when it is not.

Ms. Stewart made herself available for any questions.

### **Old Business**

Heather Lollis, Budget and Grants Manager with Clemson Area Transit, stated they are working on getting the LONO (Low or No Emissions) grant ready for applications.

### **New Business**

Incoming Policy Committee Members: Greenville County Councilor Butch Kirven will be returning to GPATS Policy Committee and new Greenville County Council member Joey Russo.

GPATS 101 Training Session: GPATS planning to have another training session.

GPATS 2022 Meeting Calendar: This is the last Study Team meeting in Suite 400 due to the upcoming move. As of March 1, 2023, Suite 400 will no longer be available.

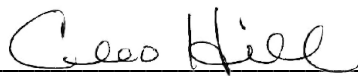
Palmetto Cycling Presentation to Policy Committee request: Mr. Brockington will reach out to them to get more information if a presentation will be provided to the Policy Committee.

Federal Highways Census 2020 Urbanized Areas: Federal Highways Administration has released MPO data from 2020 census. This information can be found at [hepgis.fhwa.dot.gov](https://hepgis.fhwa.dot.gov). The dashboard can be broken down by MPO. The census did away with urban clusters and they are now called urbanized areas.

GPATS has not yet received any guidance from the federal government.

**ADJOURN**

Without objection, Mr. Brockington adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m.



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Submitted by Recording Secretary