

**MINUTES**  
**GPATS POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

**February 24, 2025**

**County Square – Council Chambers**

**10:00 a.m.**

**In-person and remote participation by Committee members**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Senator Turner, Senator Elliott, Senator Rice, Representative Beach, Representative Collins, Representative Vaughan, Councilor Collins, Councilor Davis, Councilor Saitta, Councilor Seman, Commissioner Christopher, Mayor Amidon, Mayor Danner, Mayor McLeer, Mayor Merritt, Mayor Shewmaker, Mayor Talbert, Mayor White, GTA Chair Amanda Warren, and Keith Brockington.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** D. Beaty, T. Brown, P. Butler, J. Chandler, T. Coker, B. Conner, S. Davis, E. Dillon, W. Flake, B. Groel, M. Groves, C. Hill, A. Ikein, J. Keel, C. Lewis, C. Link, G. McMahon, B. Olson, A. Stewart, R. Tolson, J. Walden, and B. Wilson.

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Chairman Senator Turner called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and announced a quorum had been established.

Chairman Turner welcomed all in attendance with special recognition and welcome to new members: Greenville County Councilors, Rick Bradley, Garey Collins, and Curt McGahhey; Pickens County Councilors, Dale Holloway and Alex Saitta; and Anderson County Representative, Thomas Beach.

**APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 21, 2024 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Turner asked if anyone had any amendments to the minutes. None were voiced.

**MOTION:** By Mayor Danner, seconded by Mayor Amidon, to approve the October 21, 2024, minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no objections.

**POLICY COMMITTEE ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

Chairman Turner opened the floor to nominations for Vice-Chair.

Mayor Terry Merritt, City of Mauldin, nominated Mayor G.P. McLeer, City of Fountain Inn, as GPATS Policy Committee Vice-Chair.

Chairman Turner asked if there were any other nominations. None were voiced.

**MOTION:** By Mayor Merritt, seconded by Representative David Vaughan, to nominate Mayor McLeer as GPATS Policy Committee Vice-Chair. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no objections.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no individuals signed up for public comment.

## **SCDOT PROJECT STATUS UPDATE**

Megan Groves, Lead Program Manager with SCDOT, addressed Committee members and introduced Senior Assistant Program Manager, Trey Brown, and Assistant Program Manager, Gavin McMahon.

Ms. Groves then gave an update on projects.

- Upcoming Projects:
  - Garlington Road Corridor Improvement – The Feasibility Study is complete. Funding approval in STIP, will start project specific selection. The PE will begin this year.
  - Haywood & Pelham Intersection – Alternative analysis is complete. Partial Continuous flow intersection recommended. PE and design begin in fiscal year 2026.
  - Pleasantburg & Rutherford Intersection – Alternative analysis is also completed on this project with partial median U-turn intersection recommended. PE will begin in fiscal year 2026.
- Projects in Design:
  - S-107 East Butler Road (Bridges to US 276) – Right of way (ROW) plans completed, and ROW acquisitions are approximately 90% complete. Construction will begin in the fall of 2025. Currently in June letting but still awaiting on Duke Power to acquire their easement and final utility package. SCDOT Utilities office has reached out to Duke to see if they can finalize everything to have by March 3 to make it into the June 2025 letting.
  - Woodruff Road Congestion Relief (WRCR): Right of Way (ROW) plans have been completed, and funds have been obligated. ROW acquisition is about 55% complete; and construction is anticipated to begin in spring 2027.
  - SC-183 Corridor (GPATS) – IGA with Pickens County has been executed. Holt was issued a LNTP to perform initial survey, aerial mapping and field delineation of wetlands. SCDOT and Holt have finalized scope and moving forward with negotiations to get under contract, could be a couple months before full NTP will be issued. ROW set in FY 27 but will develop schedule as design progresses.
  - SC-183 & Jameson Road Intersection – Working on getting additional survey for the old Dacusville realignment. Anticipating letting in FY 2026. It is recommended to move forward with a signalized intersection. The project will continue to be developed in-house to construction with current let date expected in December 2025.
  - Town of Central Connector: 30% Plans developed and looking at doing a design field review in March. Letting currently scheduled in July 2026.
- Projects in Construction:
  - US 29 Church Street Bridge Rehabilitation – Pre-construction meeting with contractor held February 18<sup>th</sup>. Project awarded to Cerka, Inc. Construction expected to begin in April with estimated completion date of July 2026.
  - West Georgia Road Intersection Improvement – Project awarded to Thrift Development Corporation. Construction will start in March with estimated completion date of October 2025.
  - Roper Mountain Road (RMR)/Roper Mountain Road Ext. (RMRE): RMR – Final paving to take place this spring with estimated completion date of July 2025.

- Woodside Park Connector & Streetscape – Substantial work was completed in December, awaiting a few punch list items and estimated completion date is March 2025.
- Bridge Projects:
  - S-154 (McKelvey Road) over Huff Creek – Bridge was opened to traffic on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Slope work and other final touch up items underway.

Ms. Groves made herself available for questions.

Mayor Knox White, City of Greenville, commented that, due to its lengthy timeline, whatever can be done to expedite the right-of-way acquisitions on the Woodruff Road Congestion Relief project would be appreciated.

Ms. Groves agreed the timeline is lengthy and the project has many phases.

### **LRTP AMENDMENT – 2024 STAMP SYSTEM PERFORMANCE REPORT**

Anna Stewart, GPATS Transportation Planner, addressed members on the amendments to GPATS Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) in reference to the STAMP (Strategic Ten-Year Asset Management Plan) System.

Ms. Stewart explained in November 2024, SCDOT released the 2024 STAMP System Performance Report. This report contains SCDOT's progress towards statewide performance measures and FHWA and SCDOT requested this item be amended into the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) as an Appendix. Ms. Stewart provided hard copies at the meeting and reminded everyone the report can be found on the GPATS website. Ms. Stewart showed a brief presentation with examples and national goals.

Ms. Stewart made herself available for questions.

**MOTION:** By Mayor Danner, seconded by Senator Elliott, to approve the Amendment to the GPATS Horizon 2045 LRTP as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no objections.

### **GPATS TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FY2025-2034 AC#4**

Keith Brockington, GPATS Transportation Manager, addressed members on the proposed FY2025-2034 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment AC#4 Financial Statement.

The following changes are being made to the TIP:

- Update actual guideshare carryover to FY2025 (as provided by SCDOT) \$30,941,028.95 (decrease of \$1,226,405.15).
- Addition of RAISE Grant for Sans Souci Connector in the amount of \$20,335,170.
- Addition of SCRTP Grants
  - River Falls Access Trails - \$100k
  - Paris Mtn Hughes Tract Trail Expansion - \$100k
- Addition of US-276 over North Saluda Bridge Replacement - \$14.9 mil
- Addition of Highway Safety Program Projects
  - Sulphur Springs @ Hunts Bridge - \$1.15 mil
  - Blue Ridge @ W. Parker - \$1.15 mil
  - White Horse @ Farris Bridge - \$1.15 mil

- Verne Smith Pkwy @ Buncombe - \$2.4 mil
- Addition of FTA Section 5310 Funding
  - GTA/Greenlink - \$359k (Lapsing)
  - Non-Profit Set-Aside - \$379k
- Addition of FTA Section 5339 Funding to GTA/Greenlink - \$1.213 mil
- Addition of identified Projects for GTA Guideshare Capital Allocation of \$2.021 mil for their 2023 RAISE Grant - Bus Stop Improvements, Phases 1-10

Mr. Brockington made himself available for questions.

Vice-Chairman Mayor G.P. McLeer asked about additional layers of review by SCDOT in reference to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the possibility of that impeding or slowing down the process of TIP amendments.

Mr. Brockington said he has spoken with SCDOT and FHWA and as of right now, USDOT is requiring an extra layer of approval after GPATS Policy Committee approves the TIP Amendment. Mr. Brockington stated he has been assured this will not cause delays in GPATS activities, it is simply an extra layer of approval once the TIP has been approved.

Councilor Garey Collins, Greenville County, asked for clarification on the FTA Section 5310 Funds and is it just default to award the money to GTA/Greenlink if no one has applied for the funds.

Mr. Brockington explained these funds are advertised to all known potential applicants using a list or database GPATS works diligently to keep up-to-date. He also explained the funds are not “defaulted” automatically to GTA if they are in jeopardy of lapsing. GPATS Policy Committee decided a while back since applications are never quite as high as allocations, in order to prevent funds from lapsing, they would be offered to the local transit authority.

Amanda Warren, Chair for Greenville Transit Authority, added when they (GTA) receive funds that were in danger of lapsing, those funds are used for things like sidewalks or better accessibility to bus stops.

Chairman Turner asked for a motion on the Transportation Improvement Program FY2025-2034 Amendment AC#4.

**MOTION:** By Mayor White, seconded by Mayor Danner, to approve FY2025-2034 AC#4 Transportation Improvement Program as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no objections.

### **GPATS TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES (TA) FY2025 CALL FOR PROJECTS**

Anna Stewart, GPATS Transportation Planner, announced a Call for Projects for the TA Program. Ms. Stewart explained GPATS received an allocation of \$1,208,077 for fiscal year 2025. She stated TAP funds transportation related bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure projects and applications are due March 14, 2025. Ms. Stewart reminded members the TAP application and Program Document can be found on the GPATS website ([www.gpats.org](http://www.gpats.org)).

Ms. Stewart made herself available for questions.

### **FTA SECTION 5310 CALL FOR PROJECTS**

Asangwua Ikein, GPATS Transit Planner, announced a Call for Projects for FTA Section 5310 Grant.

Mr. Ikein prefaced the Call for Projects stating there are currently no applicants for this grant and as of fiscal year 2025, FTA updated their policy on when lapsing funds must be allocated, March 3, 2025. Mr. Ikein explained this was the reasoning behind the funds being offered to local transit providers: CATbus and Greenlink.

Mr. Ikein stated the remaining amount (not in jeopardy of lapsing) of Section 5310 grant funds is \$179,308 and anyone interested and eligible can apply by visiting [www.gpats.org](http://www.gpats.org) or emailing Mr. Ikein at [aikein@greenvillecounty.org](mailto:aikein@greenvillecounty.org).

Mr. Ikein made himself available for questions.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **GPATS HORIZON2050 LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP)**

Mr. Brockington stated GPATS Long-Range Transportation Plan will be due at the end of calendar year 2026. Mr. Brockington explained the full ten-year plan takes time and over the next 18-24 months, there will be numerous surveys, meetings, and events to get the word out in order to receive feedback. GPATS should have an RFP (Request for Proposal) within the next month or so and will soon be looking for a consultant to help accomplish this task.

Mr. Brockington stated the LRTP that was adopted in 2017 went very well and he and Allison Fluitt with Kimley-Horn presented to the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) at the national conference and it was well received. Mr. Brockington asked everyone to be watching for emails from GPATS regarding the LRTP and he encouraged all those in attendance to participate.

### **GPATS 101 TRAINING SESSION**

Mr. Brockington said a GPATS 101 Training Session will be held soon and he will be reaching out to new Policy Committee Members to coordinate a date and time that will work for everyone. He reminded members the training session is for anyone and everyone that has an interest in GPATS and more information will be coming soon.

### **SCDOT MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES**

Ms. Pamela Christopher, SCDOT Commissioner, stated a few SCDOT Commissioners met with the Senate Transportation Committee and one of the items discussed was bridges that are closed or load-restricted. Ms. Christopher stated the importance of giving updates on those bridges to the Study Team and Policy Committee Members for their specific area. Ms. Christopher asked the SCDOT personnel who normally give those updates to include bridges that are closed or load-restricted from now on.


Ms. Christopher stated SCDOT's Secretary has spoken with Sean Duffy, US Secretary of Transportation, and explained the bridges that need to be replaced or repaired are really causing a hardship for many in South Carolina. Ms. Christopher has hopes that this will help continue funding for bridge replacements and repairs.

Ms. Christopher announced the death of SCDOT worker, Jared Rose, age 23, from Summerville, who was killed instantly when a tire and wheel from a tractor-trailer came off and hit him as he was working on the side of the road earlier this month. She explained this incident caused a delay in the SCDOT Commissioners meeting with the Senate group to give an update on the state of SCDOT but the meeting will be re-scheduled soon.

Chairman Turner asked if anyone else had any updates they would like to announce.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Without objection, Chairman Senator Turner adjourned the meeting at 10:34 a.m.

  
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Submitted by Recording Secretary  
Cleo A. Hill