

MINUTES
GPATS POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE
February 26, 2024

County Square – Council Chambers

10:00 a.m.

In person and remote participation by Committee members

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Senator Rice, Vice-Chairman Senator Turner, Councilor Kirven, Senator Allen, Representative Collins, Representative Elliott, Representative Vaughan, Councilor Davis, Councilor Fant, Councilor Linvill, Councilor Russo, Councilor Seman, Commissioner Christopher, Commissioner Metcalf, Mayor Amidon, Mayor Danner, Mayor McLeer, Mayor Merritt, Mayor Scipio, Mayor Shewmaker, Mayor Talbert, Mayor White, GTA Chair Amanda Warren, and Keith Brockington.

OTHERS PRESENT: R. Ballentine, L. Bridges, P. Butler, J. Chandler, K. Cleek, T. Coker, E. Dillon, H. Gamble, C. Hill, V. Holmes, A. Ikein, S. Jackson-Amell, R. Jeffers-Campbell, C. Lucas, A. Stewart, and R. Tolson.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Senator Rice called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and thanked everyone for their attendance. Chairman Rice welcomed three new members (Mayor Scipio with the City of Pickens, Mayor Talbert with the City of Easley, and GTA Chair, Amanda Warren).

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 21, 2023 AND OCTOBER 23, 2023 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

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

MOTION: By Mayor McLeer, seconded by Mayor Shewmaker to approve August 21, 2023 and October 23, 2023 minutes. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no objections.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no individuals signed up for public comment.

SCDOT Commissioner, Pamela Christopher, announced Secretary of Transportation, Christy Hall, plans to retire from SCDOT as of March 31, 2024. Commissioner Christopher praised the work and dedication of Secretary Hall and expressed how grateful they all were for her service, wishing her the best in retirement. She also announced SCDOT's current Chief Operating Officer, Justin Powell, is expected to be appointed as the new Secretary of Transportation.

SCDOT PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

Casey Lucas, Project Manager with the SCDOT, addressed members with a project update presentation:

- Upcoming Projects:
 - Garlington Road Corridor Study – Feasibility Study in progress. Consultant hired and expected completion is spring 2024.
 - Pelham & Haywood intersection – Planning phase is in progress. Alternative analysis underway and estimated completion is spring 2024.
 - Pleasantburg & Rutherford intersection – Planning phase is in progress and traffic study is complete. Traffic analysis and alternatives under discussion now. Completion is anticipated for spring 2024.

- Projects in Design:
 - Woodruff Road Congestion Relief (WRCR) – Right of Way (ROW) plans completed and ROW funds obligated. ROW acquisition is underway and construction anticipated to begin in spring 2027.
 - S-107 Butler Road – Right of way (ROW) plans completed and ROW acquisitions are underway. On schedule for December 2024 let date.
 - SC-183 & Jameson Road Intersection – Intersection Improvement design revisited due to the widening of SC-183 Corridor. Traffic analysis underway as construction plans may now be revised due to the widening project.
 - SC-183 Corridor (GPATS) – New project brought into GPATS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) October 2023. GPATS Guideshare termini is US 25 (White Horse Road) to S-205 (Alex Drive). Acquire turnkey consultant to design with Pickens County side of project.
 - SC-183 Corridor (Pickens County) – New project funded by Pickens County with termini of S-205 (Alex Drive) to SC-135 (Dacusville Highway).

- TAP Projects in Construction:
 - Riverside Middle School Sidewalk – To avoid construction during school year, project to be let in March of 2024 and is on schedule.
 - Town of Central Connector – Project scoped with Town of Central. Surveys have been completed and preliminary design is underway. Potential railroad agreement needed due to the close proximity of the tracks.
 - Fountain Inn Connector and Streetscape – Projects let in October 2023 and awarded to Eagle CP Builders. Streetscape preliminary work has begun and connector construction work to follow.

- Guideshare Projects in Construction:
 - Roper Mountain Road (RMR)/Roper Mountain Road Ext. (RMRE): RMR – Curb and gutter and storm drainage 90% complete. Sidewalk and driveway tie-in work underway. Roper Mountain Road Ext. (RMRE) - Phase II of new bridge work over Rocky Creek continuing. Bridge beams set for delivery and installation this month.

- Bridge Projects:
 - S-75 Cherokee Road over US 29 – Project is non-guideshare bridge replacement in Anderson County. Awarded to Thrift Development and estimated completion is July 2024.

- S-154 over Huff Creek – Non-guideshare bridge replacement in Greenville County awarded to Dane Construction. Estimated completion is September 2025.

Chairman Rice asked if anyone had questions. No questions were voiced.

GPATS BY-LAWS AMENDMENTS

Keith Brockington, GPATS Transportation Manager, presented to members the proposed GPATS By-Laws Amendments. Mr. Brockington explained with GPATS boundary changes, the By-Laws need to be updated and he offered the Amendment Draft with markup explaining the changes are significant even though they are minor. Specifically, Article II (Policy Committee Membership) shows removal of Anderson County Municipal Seat, and reduction of one Pickens County Municipal Seat, removal of the items identifying the Pickens County Municipal Group and the Anderson County Municipal Group and addition of Easley, Liberty, and Pickens to the Mayors with voting seats. Mr. Brockington further explained under Article IV (Study Team Membership), the removal of the Cities of Clemson and Central along with removal of Clemson Area Transit (CAT) and Clemson University from the Study Team. Under Article VI (Quorum), the reduction of the Policy Committee Voting Quorum from fifteen to fourteen. Mr. Brockington stated the final item was to add a new Amendment date, with current Officer signatures.

Mayor Terry Merritt, with the City of Mauldin, recommended a quorum of fifty percent plus one and with twenty-eight Policy Committee members, that would work out to be a quorum of fifteen.

After some discussion, the Policy Committee Members agreed to keep the quorum at fifteen.

MOTION: By Mayor Merritt, seconded by Mayor McLeer to keep the quorum at fifteen. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no objections.

Chairman Rice asked for a motion to approve all other amendments to the By-Laws.

MOTION: By Mayor Merritt, seconded by Mayor McLeer to approve GPATS By-Laws Amendments as presented (with the exception of the decrease in quorum). The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no objections.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES UPDATE AND LRTP AMENDMENT

Anna Stewart, GPATS Transportation Planner, addressed members with an Amendment to the Horizon2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) of Performance Measures required by the FAST Act, and an Amendment to the GPATS FY2023-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Document to bridge Transportation Performance Measures (TPM) from the LRTP into project selection and implementation.

The Performance Measure items being amended are Safety Targets and Greenlink Transit Asset Management (TAM) Targets.

Ms. Stewart explained the LRTP Amendments due to the 2020 Census and GPATS Boundary changes. She stated GPATS removed 21 corridor projects and 16 intersection projects which are now in the Anderson-Clemson Area Transportation Study (ACATS) boundary and those were highlighted but not yet deleted.

Ms. Stewart made herself available for any questions.

Keith Brockington noted these are minor amendments showing projects that are no longer in GPATS area. Mr. Brockington stated an updated LRTP will be initiated at the end of this year (due to be adopted by the end of 2026) and at that time, there will be a new project list.

MOTION: By Mayor Danner, seconded by Mayor McLeer to approve the LRTP Amendment Update as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no objections.

GPATS TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FY2025-2034 AC#0

Keith Brockington, GPATS Transportation Manager, addressed members on the proposed 2025-2034 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment AC#0 Financial Statement. Mr. Brockington pointed out GPATS has prepared a ten-year TIP, although 2031 through 2034 will primarily be for SCDOT projects. The full draft financial statement was provided in the agenda packet and is also on the GPATS website.

Major changes made to the TIP include:

- Increase of the annual Guidesshare Allocation.
- The combining of FY 2022 and 2023 into the Previous Obligations column.
- The addition of FY 2029 through 2034 to the back end of the TIP
 - Funding Allocation of \$29.199 million per year was assumed
- After coordination with SCDOT, allocation of funding for projects and balancing of the Guidesshare spending, and clearing completed or canceled 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 with removals highlighted in red.
- Non-Guidesshare project additions and removals as requested by SCDOT.

Mr. Brockington further explained the projects being added to the TIP and reminded members the details are in the agenda packet with additions highlighted in blue.

Mr. Brockington made himself available for any questions.

Councilor Kirven asked for clarification on how projects are chosen to be added to the Transportation Improvement Program.

Mr. Brockington replied projects are brought in from the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and any deviation from that requires permission from SCDOT. He explained it is similar to the SC-183 project which had a lower ranking in the LRTP, but was brought in due to the State Infrastructure Bank funding and SCDOT agreement to add it to the Statewide

Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). He further explained the process for ranking projects in the LRTP following performance measures and SC Act 114 which requires objective analysis of projects. Mr. Brockington reminded members on the GPATS website under Horizon2045 (LRTP), Appendix D explains project prioritization and ranking in full detail.

Chairman Rice asked if there were any questions.

MOTION: By Councilor Kirven, seconded by Senator Turner to approve FY 2025-2034 AC#0 Transportation Improvement Program as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no objections.

GPATS TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES (TA) FY 2024 PROGRAM AND CALL FOR PROJECTS

Anna Stewart announced the Call for Projects for the TA Program explaining GPATS received an allocation of just over \$1.1 million for FY 2024. Ms. Stewart said there is a little over \$2.4 million available for new projects or supplemental funding and applications are due March 15, 2024. She stated the application can be found on GPATS website.

Ms. Stewart explained GPATS is now offering phasing of TAP Grants with Phase I being for planning, engineering, and preliminary design and Phase II would fund the construction.

Chairman Rice asked what would an applicant be applying for to be awarded these funds.

Ms. Stewart replied transportation related bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.

Chairman Rice asked if there were any other questions. None were voiced.

FTA SECTION 5310 CALL FOR PROJECTS

Asangwua Ikein announced FTA Section 5310 Call for Projects explaining the funds are made available to providers of transit service for the elderly and/or disabled, and even for sidewalks to a bus stop. Mr. Ikein stated GPATS has \$298,990 available for applications. He explained what money is not used, will go to Greenville Transit Authority (GTA) in order to prevent the funds from lapsing. Mr. Ikein asked anyone interested to contact him directly or visit GPATS website for application guidelines.

Mr. Ikein made himself available for questions.

Chairman Rice asked if there are any of these particular projects that have been requested but not funded.

Mr. Ikein replied there is one project currently on hold awaiting GPATS compliance with FTA regarding the next item on the agenda (DBE Program Update). He added no one has applied in, at least, the last year hence the reason for deciding GTA will receive funds not applied for.

Chairman Rice asked if Policy Committee Members approve the next item (DBE Program Update) will that put GPATS in compliance with the FTA.

Mr. Ikein replied that is correct.

No other questions were voiced.

GPATS DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE) PROGRAM UPDATE

Asangwua Ikein addressed members with GPATS Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program Update explaining to become in compliance with current FTA standards, GPATS needs to update their DBE Program. Mr. Ikein explained GPATS, unfortunately, fell out of compliance about a year ago and had to complete a public input requirement before bringing this to the Policy Committee for approval.

The updates include the following:

- Setting a goal of 0.0% for DBEs for GPATS projects. GPATS does projects that include two NAICS codes for which DBEs are non-existent.
 - Nevertheless, an analysis was conducted using Greenville County for which many NAICS codes exist that include potential DBEs. This data is included in the report showing potential opportunities for Greenville County to do business with DBEs.
 - This analysis will also be conducted with other jurisdictions if and when data becomes available.
- The public involvement process was advertised on the GPATS website and the Greenville News, and through email. Thirty-nine DBE Firms participated (**DBE firms survey results – <https://www.surveylegend.com/s/5fka>**), along with four Agencies/Organizations that potentially hire DBE Firms (**Agencies/Organizations survey results – <https://www.surveylegend.com/s/5fkb>**). Two firms participated in Virtual Interviews.

MOTION: By Senator Turner, seconded by SCDOT Commissioner Metcalf, to approve Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program Update as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no objections

GPATS CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS (CMP)

Keith Brockington addressed the members with GPATS Congestion Management Process which is being updated by Kimley-Horn and Associates and is proceeding on schedule. Kimley-Horn is meeting with stakeholders and interviewing members of the GPATS Policy Committee. Mr. Brockington said the MetroQuest survey closed the first week of 2024 and he summarized some of the highlights of that survey.

Members discussed congestion in several areas of the state and offered their thoughts on solutions. Mr. Brockington informed members that a draft CMP will be presented to Policy Committee for adoption in May.

POLICY COMMITTEE ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Chairman Rice opened the floor to nominations for Chairman.

Councilor Kirven made a motion to nominate Senator Ross Turner as GPATS Policy Committee Chairman.

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

MOTION: By Councilor Kirven, seconded by Mayor Danner to nominate Senator Ross Turner as GPATS Policy Committee Chair. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no objections.

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

Mayor Merritt made a motion to nominate Councilor Butch Kirven as GPATS Policy Committee Vice-Chairman.

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

MOTION: By Mayor Merritt, seconded by Mayor Danner to nominate Councilor Butch Kirven as GPATS Policy Committee Vice-Chair. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no objections.

ADJOURNMENT:

Without objection Chairman Senator Rice adjourned the meeting at 11:01 a.m.

Cleo A. Hill

Submitted by Recording Secretary
Cleo A. Hill