

MINUTES
GPATS STUDY TEAM COMMITTEE
February 3, 2026
Greenville County Square – Council Chambers
10:00 a.m.
In-person and remote participation by Study Team members

MEMBERS PRESENT: Julie Barker, Keith Brockington, Draper Carlile, Tee Coker, Jon Derby, Ben DeRoos, William Flake, Hesha Gamble, Megan Groves, Valerie Holmes, Ed Hunt, Asangwua Ikein, Skip Limbaker, Clint Link, Heather Lollis, Berry Mattox, Renee Miller-Cotton, Katerina Moreland, Anna Stewart, Jim Walden and Brandon Wilson.

OTHERS PRESENT: B. Amidon, J. Boylston, P. Christopher, G. Collins, S. Davis, E. Dillon, L. Estep, T. Galloway, C. Hill and P. Shewmaker.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Keith Brockington, GPATS Transportation Manager, welcomed everyone in attendance and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Brockington announced SCDOT recently chose the new Chairman of the SCDOT Commission, Mr. Max Metcalf, and he congratulated Chairman Metcalf on the new position.

GPATS PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

Megan Groves, Program Manager with SCDOT, addressed members with status updates on projects within the GPATS area.

- Guideshare projects in construction were as follows:
 - Woodruff Road Congestion Relief - Right of Way acquisition is underway, approximately 94% complete. Utility and railroad coordination is current critical path. Possibly phasing construction contract for clearing and grubbing package with tentative let date in December 2026. Update on costs have gone up significantly – more discussion on this after general update.
 - S-107 Butler Road – Duke utility agreement has been finalized and utility relocations to begin this month. Tentative let date is May 2026.
 - Garlington Road – Consultant selected is AECOM and negotiations are underway.
 - SC-183 & Jameson Road intersection – Right of Way negotiations are currently ongoing and final design plans are progressing. Expected let date is August 2026.
 - Pelham Road & Haywood Road intersection and Pleasantburg Drive & Rutherford Road intersection – Project scope to be reviewed with City of Greenville for recommendations in moving forward with consultant firm. Currently in PE. These two intersections will be packaged together.
 - SC 183 Corridor Improvement – Greenville side of the project. Contract for design services was executed August 2025. Preliminary design is underway. Traffic growth rate approved and traffic analysis continues. Consultant is evaluating conceptual alternatives for the roadway and bridge. Traffic consultant will make a presentation during GPATS Policy Committee meeting later this month to answer questions and better explain traffic analysis process.

- Mauldin Golden Strip Greenway – Shared Use Path in Mauldin from Innovation Drive o Butler Road currently in PE. Project was approved in STIP in December 2025 and will be designed in house with a current let date of FY2028.
- TA Programs were as follows:
 - Town of Central Connector – Final plans have been prepared and approved. Project letting in March of this year.
 - Multi-use trail along Bryson Drive and Bryson Heights Drive (UGATA) – Conceptual plans developed and will continue coordination with UGATA. Preliminary design is underway. Current let date is December 2027.
- Federal Earmark project:
 - West Georgia Road – All construction work completed in December and final inspection was held on January 15, 2026.
- Non-Guideshare project:
 - SC 183 Corridor Improvement – Pickens side of the project and is being developed with the Greenville County side that was mentioned earlier (under guideshare updates). This portion of the project has the same update as the Greenville portion. Contract for design services was executed August 2025. Preliminary design is underway. Traffic growth rate approved and traffic analysis continues. Consultant is evaluating conceptual alternatives for the roadway and bridge.
- SCDOT Bridges (non-guideshare) updates included:
 - US-29 Church Street – Currently in stage three of four of construction. Started/continue sidewalk and bridge barrier parapet wall on the west side of the bridge.
 - S-250 over Machine Creek – Contract awarded to Kemp Sigmon Construction Co. Inc. Construction will begin soon and estimated completion date is May 2027.
 - S-149 over Brushy Creek – Right of Way phase has begun and construction plans are being developed. Expected let date is June 2026.
 - US-276 over North Saluda River – Carolina TEA is the consultant that was selected and negotiations are underway. Current let date of FY2028.
 - S-277 over Twelve Mile Creek (Closed Bridge) – Right of way plans under development with a current let date of FY2027.
 - S-507 over Langston Creek (Closed Bridge) – Parrish and Partners is the consultant that was selected. Right of Way plans have been developed and will start acquisitions soon. Current let date is Fall/Winter of 2026.
 - S-115 over Middle Tyger River – Contract awarded to Reeves Construction Company and project is complete.
 - S-80 over Reedy River – Contract awarded to Wright Brothers Construction Company, Inc. Construction to be completed by February 2026.
 - S-147 over Reedy River – Contract awarded to Wright Brothers Construction Company, Inc. Construction to be completed in the spring of 2026.
- Design Build Bridge Package 16:
 - SC-183 over Gregory Creek
 - SC-183 over Twelve Mile Creek
 - SC-124 over George's Creek

- SC-123 over George's Creek
 - All four bridges are replacements and contract awarded to Palmetto Infrastructure, Inc. The two SC-183 bridges were opened to traffic in November. The last two bridges are expected to be complete by fall of 2026.
- Design Build Bridge Package 19:
 - S-40 over South Saluda River
 - S-102 over Armstrong Creek
 - S-310 over tributary to Richland Creek
 - S-94 over tributary to Enoree River
 - S-40 over Saluda Overflow
 - S-26 over tributary to Saluda River
 - All six bridges are replacements and contract awarded to E. S. Wagner Company, LLC. Notice to Proceed has been issued, contract is in design. Anticipating construction to begin summer 2026.
- Safety Improvements:
 - Gap Creek Road & Hampton Road Intersection Improvements – Contract awarded to S and S Construction, Inc. of Anderson with a completion date of September 2026.
 - US-25 & US-25 Connector Intersection Improvements – Project awarded to Palmetto Corporation of Conway with a completion date of June 2026. Contractor expected to begin work in April 2026.
 - SC-183 Safety Improvements – Project awarded to Palmetto Corporation of Conway with a completion date of August 2026. Contractor expected to begin work in April 2026.
 - US-29 Safety Improvements – Contract awarded to Palmetto Corporation of Conway and construction has begun with a completion date of July 2027.
- Vulnerable Road Users (Section Corridor Improvements):
 - River Street/Richardson Street – Draft traffic reports and conceptual plans in development, further coordination with City of Greenville to come. Expected let date is early 2027.
 - US-29 Wade Hampton Boulevard – Traffic report is complete and preliminary plans are under review. Expected let date is November 2026.
 - US-276 Poinsett Highway – Draft traffic reports and conceptual plans in development, further coordination with City of Greenville to come. Expected let date is early 2027.

Ms. Groves made herself available for questions.

Clint Link, Director of Engineering Services for City of Greenville, asked about the project mentioned just before the US-276 Poinsett Highway.

Ms. Groves replied that is the US-29 Wade Hampton Boulevard project which includes improvements from East Lee Road to Watson Road in Greenville that are planned to improve safety.

Ms. Pamela Christopher, SCDOT District Three Commissioner, took a moment to thank all the counties, cities, and communities for their hard work and dedication in assisting with closing and/or clearing the roads and bridges during the last two weekends of snow and ice storms. Commissioner Christopher expressed SCDOT's appreciation and gratitude for all who worked together in keeping everyone safe on the roadways during the last couple of weeks.

Mr. Brockington asked Ms. Groves if she could discuss the updated cost increases for the Woodruff Road Congestion Relief project.

Ms. Groves stated the total expected cost is now approximately \$275 million. Right of Way is around \$75 million, railroad is \$5 million, road construction is \$115.8 million, bridge construction is around \$21.3 million and CEI is expected to be \$14.3 million. She explained the increases are due to early or pre-Covid estimates in 2019, as well as inflation and final plan quantities.

Hesha Gamble, Greenville County, Assistant County Administrator for Public Works, Planning and Development, asked about the data, the previous estimate timeframes, and whether construction had doubled since then.

Ms. Groves answered that the construction costs had doubled (approximately) from the 2019 cost estimates, but the last cost estimate was in 2023, and amounts increased quite a bit since that time.

Berry Mattox, SCDOT Upstate RPG Engineer, added that there were retaining walls that were not accounted for in previous estimates. Mr. Mattox said that much more discussion is expected in GPATS April Policy Committee when SCDOT plans to do a more thorough presentation.

Garey Collins, Greenville County Councilman, questioned why some of these items (such as retaining walls) were not accounted for in the beginning and if the project is still feasible.

Ms. Groves replied that quite a bit of funds has already gone towards Right of Way and noted that this was fifty-six tracts of land. She agreed that there is much to keep in mind and have a conversation about.

Someone noted that the feasibility question is the purpose for the Policy Committee presentation and discussion.

Mr. Brockington reminded everyone that a full funding breakdown and thorough discussions are intended for the April and May meetings (GPATS Study Team and Policy Committee), and this was just a heads-up about the increase in costs concerning this project.

Brandon Wilson, SCDOT District 3 Administrator, explained that SCDOT is considering separating the construction into two phases: phase one, preparing, clearing, and grading, and phase two, the actual construction work.

Mr. Brockington stated that GPATS is discussing the phasing of construction and the increase in costs with SCDOT to find a way to fund this project with as little impact on GPATS funding as possible. He said that with the timeframe from now until April/May, there is ample time to iron out all the details, and with an 18-month construction phase, GPATS has another fiscal year to program the funds. He added that, until now, the state has asked why GPATS is holding such a large balance, and the answer was that GPATS anticipated cost increases were likely.

Ms. Groves mentioned that she sees the advantage of phasing out the construction; however, she cautioned if the timeframe is too lengthy, it could cause more increases due to the time.

Someone asked about the SC-183 project and if it will also have increases and when might those expenses be updated to show more accurate cost expectations.

Ms. Groves answered yes, the project would also have increases. She said she reached out to the SCDOT design consultant to prepare probable costs on SC-183 project knowing that the initial expenses were also using pre-Covid numbers. Ms. Groves explained she received data yesterday that confirmed the costs were increasing and SCDOT is planning to update those numbers and to present them to GPATS Policy Committee very soon.

GPATS FY2025-2034 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AC #8

Keith Brockington addressed members on the TIP Amendment AC#8 reminding them the financial statement is included in today's Agenda Packet.

The following changes are being made to the TIP:

- Update Butler Road Project – per SCDOT to align STIP and TIP
 - CON FY 2026 = \$14.5 mil
 - CON AC FY2026 = \$25.5 mil
 - CON ACC FY2027 = \$12.75 mil
 - CON ACC FY2028= \$12.75 mil
- Corridor Study – I-85 South US 29 (Exit 34) to North SC 85 (Exit 69)
 - Amount provided by SCDOT
 - \$1.2 mil Planning
- I-85 Widening from near SC 153 (Exit 40) to near SC 85 (Exit 69)
 - Reduce \$10 mil CON to \$0
 - Reduce \$714.5 mil CON AC to \$0
 - Reduce \$704.5 mil CON ACC to \$0
- Intersection Improvement – SC 290 (Locust Hill Road) / S-173 (Tigerville Road)
 - Reduce \$75,000 ROW to \$0
 - Reduce \$2.25 mil CON to \$0
- Brooks Avenue Bridge Replacement
 - Increase \$3.8 mil CON to \$6 mil
- Town of Central Pedestrian /Bridge Connector
 - Add \$500,000 CON (ARC funding)
- Multiple County Pavement Projects FY2028-FY2033 also place funds in FY2024-FY2027
- Carbon Reduction Program Projects
 - Expanded Traffic Signal Video Detection - City of Greenville \$660,000

- SC 80 and South Buncombe Street - District 3 \$400,000
 - South Buncombe Road Timing and Communication – District 3 \$310,000
 - City of Greenville TMC Operator - \$101,000
 - SC 183 Communication – Sulphur Springs/Eunice/W Parker – District 3 \$440,000
- State Mass Transit Funds (SMTF) to GTA/Greenlink for \$205,984 (FY2025)
 - Award \$70,896 FTA Section 5310 funds to GTA/Greenlink to avoid lapsing
 - FTA Section 5310 GTA/Greenlink FY2024 - \$306,652 (Capital)
 - FTA Section 5310 GTA/Greenlink FY2025 - \$365,000 (Capital)
 - FTA Section 5339 GTA/Greenlink FY2025 - \$3,304,336 (Capital)
 - Flex Funds for GTA/Greenlink – Federal \$1.6 mil and State \$404,200

Mr. Brockington stated this TIP Amendment is being advertised through February 23 (GPATS next Policy Committee Meeting).

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#8 recommendation to the Policy Committee for their approval. No verbal objections or questions by consensus.

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP) 2026 CALL FOR PROJECTS

Anna Stewart, GPATS Transportation Planner, announced GPATS is issuing a Call for Projects for the TA Program. She detailed GPATS received an allocation of \$1,233,320 for FY2026. GPATS will have \$901,271 available for new projects. Applications are due no later than March 13, 2026 and the TAP application can be found on www.gpats.org.

Mr. Brockington reminded everyone the TAP program requires a minimum 20% match and asked if anyone had any questions regarding this Call for Projects. None were voiced.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Brockington said GPATS Horizon2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is just getting started and more information will be given at GPATS Policy Committee meeting later this month. He added the Notice to Proceed is expected very soon.

Mr. Brockington announced GPATS has received approval from USDOT and FHWA in regards to the TMA Final Certification Report and it has been posted on the GPATS website www.gpats.org (on the UPWP page). This certifies GPATS for the next four years. He said a presentation will be made at the next Policy Committee meeting.

Mr. Brockington stated GPATS Policy Committee elections for Chair, and possibly Vice-Chair, will be held at the next Policy Committee meeting later this month. He explained the Vice-Chair has only been in place for one year and the Committee may, or may not, choose to elect another.

Heather Lollis, Grants & Regulatory Compliance Specialist with Greenlink, spoke briefly on Greenlink's Transit Development Plan (TDP) saying that once the survey has been updated, Greenlink will be sending it out. Mr. Brockington encouraged all to give feedback and get involved. He said this is very important to the future of transit in this area.

Mr. Brockington asked if anyone had any questions or comments or if they would like to discuss anything further.

Mr. Link asked about the timeline for GPATS Horizon2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

Mr. Brockington said the first round of public engagement will be held in the spring, and the second in the summer. He added that the goal is to have everything completed and presented for adoption to the GPATS Policy Committee in October. This could hold over into November or December if needed. The biggest portion of this LRTP is having a new web portal specifically for Horizon2050.

Commissioner Christopher expressed gratitude to the GPATS Study Team, stating they are a critical part of everything SCDOT does regarding comprehensive planning, and she greatly appreciates their expertise and the time they dedicate to GPATS. She also recognized Brandon Wilson, saying SCDOT is thankful to have him as District Engineer, and Kevin McLaughlin from District 2, stating both are tremendous assets to SCDOT and their teams. Commissioner Christopher also congratulated the new Chairman of the SCDOT Commission, Mr. Max Metcalf. She stated Mr. Metcalf has worked for several governors, worked on the State Infrastructure Bank Board, has been on the SCDOT Commission for the last five years, and is an executive at BMW Corporation. She said his wealth of knowledge will be a great benefit to the Chair position.

Mr. Brockington asked if anyone had any more questions or comments.

ADJOURN

Without objection, Mr. Brockington adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Recording Secretary
Cleo A. Hill