

**MINUTES**  
**GPATS STUDY TEAM COMMITTEE**  
**April 15, 2024**  
**Council Chambers – County Square**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Keith Brockington, Trey Brown, Kayleigh Cleek, Tee Coker, Heshia Gamble, Valerie Holmes, Ed Hunt, Asangwua Ikein, Clint Link, Casey Lucas, Ben Olson, Anna Stewart, Jim Walden, and Brandon Wilson.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** P. Butler, S. Davis, E. Dillon, R. Eckenrode, M. Flege, B. Groel, C. Hill, G. Sprague, R. Tolson, and C. Owens.

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Keith Brockington welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:00 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 Mountain Road Extension (RMRE) - Crews continue to work on Phase II of the new bridge construction over Rocky Creek. Bridge deck concrete completed.
  - Woodruff Road Congestion Relief – Right of Way acquisition is underway.
  - Batesville Road Phase II – Project on hold awaiting the I-85 widening project.
  - SC-183 & Jameson Road intersection – Small purchase contract is underway and moving forward with conceptual intersection improvements.
  - Pelham Road & Haywood Road Intersection improvements – Small purchase contract underway and moving forward with conceptual intersection improvements.
  
- TA Programs were as follows:
  - Woodside Streetscape – Work is 25% complete with drainage installed.
  - Woodside Park Connector – Work to begin in May 2024.
  - Riverside Middle School Sidewalk – Awarded in March 2024 letting to Southern Concrete & Construction, Inc. and SCDOT will apply Safe Routes to School (SRTS) funds as needed to complete project.
  - Town of Central Connector – Preliminary design is underway.
  
- West Georgia Road – Plans completed, waiting to certify ROW and utility.
  
- SCDOT Bridges updates included:
  - S-154 over Huff Creek – In construction and Utility relocations underway with an estimated completion date of December 2024.

- US-29 Church Street – Bridge Rehabilitation over McBee Avenue project update meeting being held April 16, 2024 to discuss what to expect during construction.
- S-384 over Brushy Creek – In Right of way and current let date has been moved to December 2032.
- S-80 over Hudson Street – In Preliminary Engineering phase and 30% plans have been received and are in QC review.

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

Ms. Lucas made herself available for any questions.

**FY 2025-2034 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) AC#1**

Mr. Keith Brockington stated during the Policy Committee meeting in February, the new TIP for fiscal years 2025-2034 was passed and AC #1 is the first amendment to that TIP.

Mr. Brockington described the amendments made to the TIP which include:

- At the request of SCDOT, Batesville Road, Phase II Corridor Project will be shifted from FY 2024-2026 to FY 2028-2030 due to project still being on hold. Project remains a top priority for GPATS.
- At the request of SCDOT, West Georgia Road at East Standing Springs project will be accelerated to FY 2024 with \$1.5 million in Construction funding due to previous funding and progress made by the West Georgia Road Earmark.
- At the request of SCDOT, addition “Statewide Bridge Preventative Maintenance” package to FY 2025:
  - P041689 SC 124 Old Easley Hwy over Saluda River (GRVL) CON \$550,000
  - P041727 SC 418 Over Huff Creek (GRVL)
  - P041672 US 29 Wade Hampton Over MTN Creek (GRVL) CON \$1,100,000
  - P039651 US 278 GEER HWY Over Middle Saluda River (GRVL) CON \$825,000
  - P041716 SC 8 Easley Hwy over US 29 (Anderson) CON \$112,200
  - P041732 SC 81 Anderson Rd over Saluda River & S-4-143 (Anderson) CON \$1,375,000
  - P041720 SC 148 N Hwy over Enoree River (SPBG) CON \$1,375,000
  - P041722 SC 135 Dacusville Hwy over Shoals Creek CON 2,730,000
- Removal of Closed projects from the TIP:
  - 37689RD01 Woodruff Rd/I-85 Interchange Ramp Modifications - Closed
  - 37688RD01 Woodruff Rd (SC 148) and Garlington/Miller - Closed
  - P028935 US 123 Easley - Closed
  - P033666 SC 93 Clemson- Closed
  - P033665 US 276 West Butler Road Mauldin - Closed
  - P026998 Greenville County Poinsett Corridor Pedestrian and Lighting - Closed
  - P028353 S-1136 (Perimeter Road) Resurfacing/Rehabilitation - Closed
  - P030611 SC 93 at Clayton St – Town of Central - Closed
  - P039376 Intersection Improvements S-83 (Old Grove Rd)/ (Bracken Rd) – Closed

- Addition of approved Tap Project.

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

**Recommendation:** Mr. Brockington asked for approval, or any objections, from the members to recommend amendment AC#1 to the 2025-2034 TIP Financial Statement, as presented, to the Policy Committee for their approval. No verbal objections or questions by consensus.

### **GPATS FY2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Update**

Keith Brockington presented the UPWP FY2025 financial statement update explaining staff is currently waiting on the FY2025 allocation and carryover letter from SCDOT, so for the time being GPATS is using the FY 2024 numbers.

Mr. Brockington added a side note stating the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) Annual Conference is the same week as the Study Team Meeting scheduled for September 23 of this year and GPATS will need to re-schedule that meeting in order to attend the conference. Mr. Brockington will provide more information at a later date.

Mr. Brockington continued with updates to the UPWP stating GPATS is changing the amounts for Greenville Transit Authority/Greenlink Section 5303 funding due to Clemson Area Transit no longer being with GPATS (they are now part of ACATS MPO). He stated the funding is now all going towards Greenlink instead of being divided up between the two transit systems.

Mr. Brockington explained GPATS will not be awarding funds for Special Studies this year due to the need for internal planning efforts requiring funding and the following have been added to the UPWP document:

- GPATS Horizon2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan
- GPATS Regional Safety Action Plan
- US-29 Corridor Study

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 GPATS FY2025 UPWP Program Update, as presented, to the Policy Committee for their approval. No verbal objections or questions by consensus.

### **Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) FY2024 Cycle Recommendations**

Anna Stewart presented the members with information on the two applications GPATS received from the annual Call for Projects for FY2024. Ms. Stewart explained GPATS has over \$2.4 million in TAP funds but will only be able to approve one of the applications. A summary of those applications is listed below:

#### **Upstate Greenways & Trails Alliance– Bryson Elementary to S. Kings Drive Multi Use Trail**

- Requesting \$1,127,441.60
- Local Match: 20%
- Score: 18 out of 21 points
- Description: Construction of 0.9 miles of trail that will connect to the broader Swamp Rabbit Trail network that is being built. Connects five residential neighborhoods to Bryson Elementary School.

### **City of Greenville – Verdae Boulevard Swamp Rabbit Trail Pedestrian Bridge**

- Requesting \$2,486,109
- Local Match: 49.6%
- Score: 18.67 out of 21 points
- Description: Construction of SRT Pedestrian bridge to move pedestrians over Verdae Boulevard.

Ms. Stewart explained the scores shown may have decimals or fractions due to the scores being averaged. The GPATS Bike and Pedestrian Coordinating Committee (BPCC) discussed the two projects and is recommending the funding be awarded to City of Greenville for the Verdae Boulevard Pedestrian Bridge. The Study Team is now responsible for making a recommendation to the Policy Committee on the matter.

Mr. Brockington also noted that GPATS is accepting volunteers to serve on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinating Committee and he asked anyone interested to please email Anna Stewart at [AStewart@greenvillecounty.org](mailto:AStewart@greenvillecounty.org).

Mr. Brockington explained GPATS has, in the past, attempted to award multiple projects by scaling them back but was told during a certification review that scaling back a project causes problems with the rankings; therefore, projects are now scored exactly as they are submitted.

Someone asked what the deciding factor was in awarding City of Greenville over Upstate Greenways & Trails Alliance.

Ms. Stewart replied the local match of almost 50% by the City of Greenville was a determining factor. Mr. Brockington stated the Ranking Criteria can be found on [www.gpats.org](http://www.gpats.org) under TA Program for anyone who wants to view that. He also explained GPATS is currently working with SCDOT in reference to their funding for TAP projects in the hopes of assisting applicants who wish to apply for statewide TAP funds through SCDOT if they were unable to receive funds through GPATS.

GPATS gets their own allocation for TAP projects and cannot directly submit for SCDOT TAP funds but applicants that are not able to receive TAP funding from GPATS may apply for SCDOT TAP funds. GPATS and SCDOT are currently reviewing the eligibility requirements and if they will have funds available this year. Mr. Brockington added GPATS hopes to be able to assist applicants who wish to apply for SCDOT TAP funds if they were unable to receive funding directly from GPATS.

Casey Lucas asked if the City of Greenville is applying as LPA (Local Public Agency) or will SCDOT be managing the project.

Ms. Stewart replied City of Greenville applied as the LPA.

Kayleigh Cleek, Transit Manager with Greenville Transit Authority, asked for clarification on City of Greenville being awarded the funds because of the higher local match.

Mr. Brockington showed in the ranking criteria, there is an additional score/point for over 20% local match.

**Recommendation:** Mr. Brockington asked for approval, or any objections, from the members to recommend TAP funding be awarded to City of Greenville for the Verdae Boulevard

Pedestrian Bridge, as presented, to the Policy Committee for their approval. No verbal objections or questions by consensus.

### **SC-81 Corridor Study**

Ryan Eckenrode, Project Manager and Senior Traffic Engineer with AECOM, presented members with the SC-81 Corridor Study. A condensed version can be found on the home page at [www.gpats.org](http://www.gpats.org).

Mr. Eckenrode thanked Anderson County, SCDOT, and GPATS for their contributions and time in meetings and discussions in regards to the SC-81 Corridor Study.

Mr. Eckenrode summarized the study while discussing plans, stakeholder meetings, schedules, corridor characteristics, existing conditions, short-term solutions, long-term solutions, and recommendations. He explained the study area begins at the intersection of Lake Road / Wren School Road and ends at the intersection of Powdersville Main / Piedmont Road and is classified as a minor arterial road. AECOM used a high 2.5% annual growth rate for the twenty-year projections. There were twenty-two intersections within the study.

Mr. Eckenrode explained the citizen comments and public participation was much better than expected. He added the number one comment referred to Old Williamston Road intersection and the number two comment related to the Circle Road intersection.

After discussing numerous aspects of the study, Mr. Eckenrode asked if anyone had any questions.

Mr. Brockington reiterated a condensed version of this study will be posted on [www.gpats.org](http://www.gpats.org).

**Recommendation:** Mr. Brockington asked for approval, or any objections, from the members to recommend SC-81 Corridor Study be approved and adopted as a GPATS Plan to the Policy Committee for their approval. No verbal objections or questions by consensus.

### **Old Business**

Keith Brockington announced FTA Section 5310 Call for Projects remains open as GPATS has had no applications; however, if no applications have been submitted by the July Study Team meeting, the money will go toward GTA/Greenlink to prevent the funds from lapsing. He encouraged any who wish to apply to contact Asangwua Ikein (GPATS Transit Planner).

Mr. Brockington explained the Congestion Management Process (CMP) is holding the last public workshop to be held in Council Chambers on April 23, 2024 from 4:00-6:00. Flyers were handed out and he encouraged all to share the information with others who may be interested. Mr. Brockington also encouraged those in attendance to go to the workshop. He stated there is a steering committee meeting the day after the workshop and the hope is to have the CMP adopted by Policy Committee in the August or October Policy Committee meeting.

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

Mr. Brockington asked if any members had any updates they wanted to share with the others.

**ADJOURN**

Without objection, Mr. Brockington adjourned the meeting at 11:09 a.m.

*Cleo A. Hill*

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Submitted by Recording Secretary  
Cleo A. Hill