

MINUTES
GPATS STUDY TEAM COMMITTEE
April 14, 2025
County Square – Council Chambers
10:00 a.m.

In-person and remote participation by Study Team members

MEMBERS PRESENT: Keith Brockington, Trey Brown, Tee Coker, William Flake, Hesha Gamble, Megan Groves, Asangwua Ikein, Jason Knudsen, Clint Link, Skip Limbaker, Heather Lollis, Ben Olson, Anna Stewart, and Jim Walden.

OTHERS PRESENT: P. Butler, G. Collins, E. Dillon, B. Groel, C. Hill, L. McGoogin, G. McMahon, L. Prunkl, R. Tolson, and Y. Zou.

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.

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:
 - Roper Mountain Road and Roper Mountain Road Extension (RMRE) – Final paving to take place in the Spring with estimated completion in June 2025.
 - Woodruff Road Congestion Relief - Right of Way acquisition is underway, approximately 65% complete.
 - S-107 Butler Road – Some delays due to utility certification. Expect to let in August.
 - Garlington Road – Starting project specific selection process to procure a consultant for design.
 - S-164 Batesville Road – On hold due to the uncertainty of I-85 widening.
 - SC-183 & Jameson Road intersection – Preliminary design is underway. District Traffic office is investigating adding a signal to try and reduce crashes at the intersection, until the project is constructed.
 - Pelham Road & Haywood Road Intersection improvements – Funding approved in STIP. PE to start in FY2026.
 - Pleasantburg Drive & Rutherford Road Intersection improvements – Funding approved in STIP. PE to start in FY2026.
 - SC 183 Corridor Improvement – Project scope is being developed with the selected consultant and negotiations have begun.
- TA Programs were as follows:
 - Woodside Streetscape and Woodside Park Connector – Substantial work completed in December on both projects and contractor is working on punchlist items.
 - Town of Central Connector – Right of way moved up to May of 2025 and let date was moved up to February of 2026.

- Federal Earmark project:
 - West Georgia Road – Project let on December 10, 2024 and contract awarded to Thrift Development Corporation with an expected completion date of October 31, 2025.
- 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).
- SCDOT Bridges (non-guideshare) updates included:
 - S-154 over Huff Creek – Bridge opened to traffic on January 20 and slope work and other final touchup tasks are underway.
 - US-29 Church Street – Project let on December 10, 2024 and contract awarded to Cekra, Inc. with completion expected in July 31, 2026. Traffic control and construction to begin April 15, 2025.
 - S-125 over Saluda River - Proposed let date moved to 2032.
 - S-384 over Brushy Creek - Let date moved to December 2032 and construction plans have been reviewed.
 - S-250 over Machine Creek - Right of Way acquisitions are underway and construction plans are being finalized. Expected let date is June 2025.
 - S-277 over Twelve Mile Creek – Design alternatives report reviewed. Preliminary design is underway with a current let date of FY 2027.
 - S-149 over Brushy Creek – Right of Way plans are under review. Expect to move to ROW phase in June.

Ms. Groves made herself available for questions.

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) FY2025 Call for Projects Cycle

Anna Stewart, GPATS Transportation Planner, updated members on the FY2025 Cycle of TAP Applications. Ms. Stewart said staff released its annual Call for Projects in January and one application was received and later withdrawn. She explained GPATS received an allocation of \$1,208,077 and any TAP funds that are in danger of lapsing this year will be obligated through other GPATS TAP projects.

Ms. Stewart made herself available for questions.

Tee Coker, Assistant County Administrator for Community Planning and Development, asked the name of the one applicant that applied.

Mr. Brockington replied the applicant was Greenville County and typically GPATS does not have a Call for Projects this late in the year; however, the faster the funds are spent down, the less likely they are to lapse. He reminded everyone that these funds are allocated by the Federal Highway Administration for bicycle and pedestrian projects and cannot be spent in any other way.

GPATS FY2025-2034 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment AC #5

Keith Brockington addressed members on the TIP Amendment AC#5.

The following changes are being made to the TIP:

- Addition/Update of TAP Allocation for FY 2025 - \$1,208,077
- FY 2025 Partial Apportionments for Greenlink/GTA

- Section 5307 for Greenville - \$1,756,406
- Mauldin-Simpsonville - \$1,325,073
- Section 5310 - \$276,129

Mr. Brockington said this TIP Amendment will be advertised through May 12 (GPATS Policy Committee Meeting) and asked anyone with comments or requested changes to alert the Staff as soon as possible.

Mr. Brockington made himself available for questions.

Recommendation: Mr. Brockington asked for approval, or any objections, from the members to pass the Transportation Improvement Program amendment AC#5 recommendation to the Policy Committee for their approval. No verbal objections or questions by consensus.

GPATS FY2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program and Special Studies

Mr. Brockington presented the draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for FY2026-2027. Mr. Brockington explained every two years GPATS' compiles a document identifying transportation planning activities and for fiscal year 2026, the allocation is \$862,495 with a local match of \$215,624 totaling \$1,078,119. He said the local match, which is 20% of total, is provided by Greenville County (75%) and Pickens County (25%).

Mr. Brockington further explained GPATS will not have a Call for Projects on Special Studies for FY 2026 to insure there are enough funds for the Long-Range Transportation Plan, Regional Safety Action Plan, and the US 29 Corridor Study. He said the allocation was slightly lower than last year (about \$11,000) so that amount was reduced in Study Coordination and Computer System/Equipment.

Mr. Brockington stated the FY 2026 funding summary page was included in today's agenda packet and the full document is on GPATS website encouraging everyone to look through it. He explained after today's meeting, the full document will be reviewed by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) and there may be some slight changes to the document. He noted the dollar amounts on the funding summary will not change.

Mr. Brockington made himself available for questions.

Mr. Garey Collins, Greenville County Councilman for District 27, asked if the summary page is available.

Mr. Brockington replied the full document is on www.gpats.org and the Funding Summary is towards the end of the document; also, the Funding Summary is in the agenda packet as a single sheet.

Clint Link, Director of Engineering Services for the City of Greenville, stated the City of Greenville Downtown Master Plan-Phase II can be taken off the Special Studies section of the Funding Summary.

Recommendation: Mr. Brockington asked for approval, or any objections, from the members to pass the GPATS FY2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program recommendation to the Policy Committee for their approval. No verbal objections or questions by consensus.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Mr. Brockington announced SCDOT will be giving their Momentum 2050 presentation at GPATS next Policy Committee Meeting (May 12th) and those interested are welcome to attend or they can view the meeting online.

GPATS Horizon 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is coming up soon and GPATS will be coordinating with Spartanburg Area Transportation Study (SPATS) and Anderson-Clemson Area Transportation Study (ACATS) as all are trying to have their own LRTP adopted by the end of 2026.

Mr. Link asked if the process would start at the end of this year.


Mr. Brockington replied GPATS expects to begin the process about June of this year with the first round of public engagement to be in the fall.

Mr. Brockington said a class will soon be scheduled for GPATS 101 Training. He added that GPATS will be reaching out to new members and others with details.

Mr. Brockington asked if anyone had updates or announcements they would like attendees to be aware of.

ADJOURN

Without objection, Mr. Brockington adjourned the meeting at 10:21 a.m.


Submitted by Recording Secretary
Cleo A. Hill