

MINUTES
GPATS STUDY TEAM COMMITTEE
July 14, 2025

County Square – Council Chambers

10:00 a.m.

In-person and remote participation by Study Team members

MEMBERS PRESENT: Keith Brockington, Amy Blinson, Trey Brown, Draper Carlile, Jon Derby, Seth Duncan, David Dyrhaug, Valerie Holmes, Megan Groves, Asangwua Ikein, James Keel, Jason Knudsen, Skip Limbaker, Heather Lollis, Barry Mattox, Renee Miller-Cotton, Ben Olson, Mark Pleasant, Anna Stewart, and Jim Walden.

OTHERS PRESENT: S. Davis, G. Espinosa, T. Galloway, J. Henderson, C. Hill, L. Prunkl, S. Toelle, W. Weaver, D. Welsh, J. Whitehurst, 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. Due to having some new members, Mr. Brockington asked everyone to introduce themselves.

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) – Substantial work completed in June. The Ponders Ray intersection has been completed. Currently working on punchlist items with estimated completion in July 2025.
 - Woodruff Road Congestion Relief - Right of Way acquisition is underway, approximately 80% complete.
 - S-107 Butler Road – Utilities are being finalized. Expected let date is November 2025.
 - Garlington Road – Advertisement for the project specific consultant is ongoing. Proposals are due July 22.
 - 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.
 - SC 183 Corridor Improvement – Project scope is being developed with the selected consultant and negotiations have begun.
- TA Programs were as follows:
 - Town of Central Connector – Right of way phase has begun. Developing construction plans. Tentative let date of February 2026.

- Federal Earmark project:
 - West Georgia Road – All drainage pipes have been installed. Asphalt base for the new turning lanes has been installed. 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). Project scope is being developed with the selected consultant and negotiations have begun.
- SCDOT Bridges (non-guideshare) updates included:
 - US-29 Church Street – Construction has moved to Phase 2 and traffic has been shifted to the west side of the bridge. Original concrete medians and sidewalk have been removed.
 - 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 November 2025.
 - S-277 over Twelve Mile Creek – Design alternatives report reviewed. Preliminary design is underway with a current let date of FY2027.
 - S-149 over Brushy Creek – Right of Way phase has begun and construction plans are being developed. Expected let date is June 2026.

Ms. Groves made herself available for questions.

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP) FY2025 PROJECT UPDATE

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 from the County of Greenville for the Textile Crescent Shared Use Path. Applicant is requesting \$920,350 with a local match of 21.4%. Ms. Stewart said the project score was 26.5 out of 30 points on the ranking criteria and the description states construction of a 0.6-mile (12-foot-wide) concrete shared use path built on a former rail line. The path will extend from Abney Street to Easley Bridge road. Ms. Stewart said the Bike and Pedestrian Coordinating Committee reviewed the application and the Study Team is now responsible for making a recommendation to the Policy Committee on the matter.

Ms. Stewart made herself available for questions.

Recommendation: Mr. Brockington asked for approval, or any objections, from the members to recommend TAP funding be awarded to County of Greenville for the Textile Crescent Shared Use Path, as presented, to the Policy Committee for their approval. No verbal objections or questions by consensus.

GPATS CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM UPDATE

Anna Stewart gave an update on GPATS Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) explaining GPATS Staff has been working on this program. She said the CRP was established by the IIJA (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) Bill and funds projects that will reduce transportation emissions. Ms. Stewart explained the funding is going to be primarily used for signal improvement priorities. GPATS Staff has

met with SCDOT Districts 2 and 3, and the City of Greenville to discuss projects and came up with the following project list:

- Ramp Metering, I-85/SC 14 Ramp – District 3
- SC 86 @ S-53 Blossom Branch Road Signal Rebuild – District 2
- Expanded Traffic Signal Video Detection – City of Greenville

Mr. Brockington added the importance of allocating the FY2022 funds toward these projects to prevent them from lapsing. He said there will be more projects added to the CRP as the program progresses.

Mr. Brockington asked if there were any comments or questions regarding the Carbon Reduction Program.

Mark Pleasant, USDOT Federal Highway Administration Community Planner, asked for more information on the Ramp metering of I-85 and SC-14 project.

Ben Olson, SCDOT District Traffic Engineer, explained I-85 Southbound is continually congested or backed up in this area and the metering aims to alleviate some of that congestion.

Valerie Holmes, City of Greenville Assistant City Traffic Engineer, asked what are the next steps on this.

Keith Brockington explained GPATS will get the projects in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), then send a request to SCDOT for it to be added to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), then the SCDOT in Columbia will coordinate with recipients on actually receiving the funding.

FTA SECTION 5310 APPLICATION

Asangwua Ikein, GPATS Transit Planner, updated members on an application the Transit Coordinated Committee (TCC) evaluated for FTA Section 5310. He stressed the TCC members are still sending in their evaluations thus scores are subject to change. The one applicant is Able SC and they intend on using the funds to hire a Mobility Manager to coordinate services between multiple nonprofits with clients that need transportation access, especially in areas outside of the current Greenlink service range.

The application scored an average of 83.5 out of 100 with two evaluators. Mr. Ikein said the total application is for \$176,208 with a federal match of \$88,104 and a local match of \$88,104. He added there is currently \$361,808 available for federal match.

Mr. Ikein made himself available for questions.

Recommendation: Mr. Brockington asked for approval, or any objections, from the members to pass the application for Able SC, as presented, for recommendation to the Policy Committee for their approval. No verbal objections or questions by consensus.

GPATS FY2025-2034 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AC #6

Keith Brockington addressed members on the TIP Amendment AC#6 reminding them the financial statement is included in today's Agenda Packet.

The following changes are being made to the TIP:

- Mauldin Golden Strip Gateway Bicycle and Pedestrian Project Amounts
 - Amounts provided by SCDOT – \$12 mil total
 - PE: \$1 mil
 - ROW: \$5 mil
 - CON: \$6 mil
- Addition of TAP Project – Textile Crescent Shared Use Path - \$920k
 - Match secured by Greenville County
- Addition of Carbon Reduction Program FY2022 Projects - \$2 mil
- Addition of FTA Section 5310 Application
 - Able SC (Applicant) – \$88k
- Bus Stop Improvements STBGP converted to FTA - \$2.021 mil
 - Funding provided by STBGP approved by GPATS in February 2025 to supplement GTA 2022 Raise Grant Award
 - FTA Program TBD

Mr. Brockington said this TIP Amendment will be advertised through August 25 (GPATS next Policy Committee Meeting) and asked anyone with comments or requested changes to alert the Staff as soon as possible.

Jim Walden, SCDOT Regional Planning Manager, stated the Bus Stop Improvements will be programmed as FTA Section 5339 - Capital Improvements.

Mr. Brockington made himself available for questions.

Valerie Holmes mentioned there is a project on the TIP for signal retiming at US-276 (Cherrydale) and asked for the point of contact on that particular project.

Mr. Brockington replied the retiming of signals at US-276 is an older project and the original contact person has since retired. He said the signal retiming will either be done with the CRP funds or with GPATS' ongoing signal retiming program, which is 5% of total guideshare, or approximately \$1.5 million per year.

Megan Groves asked if any funds for the Butler Road project were included in this TIP Amendment.

Mr. Brockington replied that the figures for that project have not been changed, but the numbers can be updated if she provides them.

Recommendation: Mr. Brockington asked for approval, or any objections, from the members to pass the Transportation Improvement Program amendment AC#6 recommendation to the Policy Committee for their approval. No verbal objections or questions by consensus.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

GPATS Horizon 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is progressing with an RFP expected to be ready for the Policy Committee's October meeting.

Mr. Brockington announced a class will soon be scheduled (around mid-August) for GPATS 101 Training and encouraged members to attend.

Mr. Brockington opened the floor for others to share updates, plans, or announcements they would like attendees to be aware of.

ADJOURN

Without objection, Mr. Brockington adjourned the meeting at 10:41 a.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cleo A. Hill".

Submitted by Recording Secretary
Cleo A. Hill