

MINUTES
GPATS POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE
August 19, 2024
County Square – Council Chambers
10:00 a.m.

In person and remote participation by Committee members

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

OTHERS PRESENT: T. Brown, P. Butler, J. Chandler, T. Coker, S. Davis, E. Dillon, H. Gamble, B. Groel, C. Hill, V. Holmes, A. Ikein, S. Jackson-Amell, C. Jones, C. Link, C. Lucas, B. Maddox, S. Markowitz, G. McMahon, B. Olson, C. Owens, S. Smith, A. Stewart, J. Walden, and A. Wilson.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Senator Turner called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. and thanked everyone for their attendance.

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 13, 2024 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Turner asked if anyone had any amendments to the minutes.

MOTION: By Councilor Kirven, seconded by Mayor McLeer to approve the May 13, 2024 minutes. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no objections.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Joel Ann Chandler (owner of Mauldin Open Air Market) voiced her concerns in reference to the Butler Road Improvements Project, specifically the small businesses along East Butler Road and near the intersection of Old Mill Road. She stated even though SCDOT public comment period is over, she wanted to be sure all those in attendance understood there are at least four to five small businesses in the area that will definitely be affected. Ms. Chandler also stressed the importance of small businesses, like her own, to the community.

SCDOT PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

Casey Lucas, Project Manager with the SCDOT, explained she was recently promoted to Lowcountry Regional Production Engineer and Berry Mattox is now the Upstate RPE. Ms. Lucas introduced Mr. Mattox and Trey Brown, SCDOT Assistant Program Manager and explained he and Mr. Brown will be working with GPATS and managing her vacant position until it has been filled.

Mr. Brown addressed members with a project update presentation:

- Upcoming Projects:
 - Garlington Road Corridor Study – Feasibility Study is complete and will be presented later in this meeting.

- Pelham & Haywood intersection – Small purchase contract delivered the Final Report. It is recommended to move forward with a Continuous Flow Intersection. The project cost is estimated at \$9 million.
- Pleasantburg & Rutherford intersection – Small purchase contract delivered the Final Report. It is recommended to move forward with a Partial Median U-turn intersection. The total estimated cost is \$5 million.
- Projects in Design:
 - Town of Central Connector – \$643,000 GPATS TAP funding and preliminary design is underway. Construction expected to begin in Spring 2026.
 - Woodruff Road Congestion Relief (WRCR) – Right of Way (ROW) plans completed and 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. Let date was moved from December 2024 to April 2025.
 - SC-183 Corridor (GPATS) – One consultant for two projects developed on independent timelines. Acquire turnkey consultant to design with Pickens County side of project. Project has been advertised to consultants. Proposals were due July 18, 2024 and selecting of consultant is still underway.
 - SC-183 & Jameson Road Intersection – Intersection Improvement design revisited due to the widening of SC-183 Corridor. Small purchase contract with ATCS delivered the Final Report. It is recommended to move forward with a signalized intersection. The project will continue to be developed in-house to construction with current let date expected in December 2025. Mr. Craig Hyman with ATCS was available for questions.
 - West Georgia Road – City of Simpsonville has federal earmark of \$2.7 and construction was pushed to fiscal year 2025 to allow time for GPATS funds to be added to the project. Guideshare funds added to construction phase, let date revised to FFY 2025.
- Projects in Construction:
 - Roper Mountain Road (RMR)/Roper Mountain Road Ext. (RMRE): RMR – Final surface placed on both projects with an estimated completion of October 2024 for both.
- Bridge Projects:
 - S-154 over Huff Creek – Non-guideshare bridge replacement in Greenville County awarded to Dane Construction. Construction has begun and the old bridge has been removed and beams are expected to be set this month with a completion expected in December 2024.
- Completed Projects:
 - Riverside Middle School Sidewalk – Project completed ahead of schedule.
 - S-75 Cherokee Road Bridge over US 29 – Construction was completed last month and the new bridge and roundabout are open to traffic. Clearance under the bridge was improved from 13’ to 17’.

Mr. Brown made himself available for questions.

Representative Neal Collins, Pickens County Legislative Delegation, asked for clarification in reference to SC-183 & Jameson Road intersection project being signalized, right in and right out, turn lanes, and let date.

Mr. Brown replied a signalized intersection instead of a roundabout was the chosen alternative; however, the right in and right out is for Old Dacusville Road due to the close proximity to the intersection being discussed. He added that there will be designated turn lanes and let date is expected to be December 2025.

Senator Rex Rice, Pickens County Legislative Delegation, asked if SCDOT did a traffic study on the area and voiced his concerns regarding the right in and right out for Old Dacusville Road.

After some discussion, Mr. Keith Brockington, GPATS Transportation Manager, commented this is a temporary measure until the full SC-183 widening project is done.

GPATS TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP) FY2024 – ROUND TWO

Anna Stewart, GPATS Transportation Planner, updated members on the one application received from the second Call for Projects. A summary of the application is shown below:

City of Greenville - Lowndes Hill Road Sidewalk

- Requesting \$1,358,667
- Local Match: 50%
- Score: 12:25 out of 21 points
- Description: 5100' of new sidewalk along Overbrook Road from East North Street to Lowndes Hill Road, and on Lowndes Hill Road from Overbrook Road to Oakland Drive.

Ms. Stewart stated the Bike and Pedestrian Coordinating Committee (BPCC) reviewed the application and the average score was 12.25. She added the Study Team has also reviewed the application and recommended Approval by Consensus without objection.

Ms. Stewart asked if there were any questions or comments.

Mayor Terry Merritt, City of Mauldin, questioned letting the funds roll over to next year so there would be a larger sum available in 2025 and asked the primary purpose of the Lowndes Hill Road Sidewalk project.

Mayor Knox White, City of Greenville, stated there is a heavy concentration of residential population in that area now and with an affordable housing project coming in, the population will be increased even more which leads to an ever-increasing public safety concern for pedestrians.

Mayor White added the sidewalk will connect to the Swamp Rabbit Trail portion that runs alongside Laurens Road.

MOTION: By Senator Allen, seconded by Mayor White to approve and award TAP funds to City of Greenville, Lowndes Hill Road Sidewalk, as presented. The motion carried by voice vote with one objection from Mayor Merritt.

GPATS FTA Section 5310 Projects

Asangwua Ikein, GPATS Transit Planner/Grants Manager, updated members on the two projects. Mr. Ikein summarized the two applications as shown below:

- 1) Senior Solutions scored an average 44.7/100 in their TCC evaluation.
 - a. Local Match \$171,200
 - b. Federal Match \$297,800
 - c. Total application \$469,000

- 2) Able SC scored 65.7/100 in their TCC evaluation.
 - a. Local Match \$71,169.50
 - b. Federal Match \$71,169.50
 - c. Total application \$142,339

Currently there is \$450,798 available for federal match. Both applications combined total \$368,969.50, which is less than the available federal funding. Mr. Ikein explained if a score of 70/100 is not obtained, the application will be rejected and both projects are below that.

Mr. Ikein explained there is approximately \$71,000 at risk of lapsing if no applicants receive the funds during this cycle, and GPATS has a policy in place so the money will be automatically be rewarded to Greenlink/GTA. However, after speaking with GTA, it appears they will be unable to spend the funds which means they will almost certainly lapse.

Mr. Ikein made himself available for any questions.

MOTION: By Mayor McLeer, seconded by Mayor Shewmaker to deny both applications for FTA Section 5310 funds, as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no objections.

GPATS TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FY2025-2034 AC#2

Keith Brockington, GPATS Transportation Manager, addressed members on the proposed 2025-2034 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment AC#2 Financial Statement. He noted since the FTA Section 5310 projects were not approved, there would be no amendment necessary to reflect those funds. The only amendment needed will be the addition of the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) project for City of Greenville (Lowndes Hill Road Sidewalk) in the amount of \$1,358,667 which was voted on and approved earlier in this meeting.

Mr. Brockington noted the TIP has been advertised from July 28 through August 19 and he made himself available for any comments or questions.

MOTION: By Councilor Kirven, seconded by Mayor Shewmaker to approve FY 2025-2034 AC#2 Transportation Improvement Program as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no objections.

GARLINGTON ROAD PROJECT FEASIBILITY REPORT

Ms. Carol Jones, Senior Traffic Engineer with Mead & Hunt, thanked members for the opportunity to present the Garlington Road Feasibility Study.

Ms. Jones began her presentation explaining this feasibility study was a joint effort including SCDOT, GPATS, City of Greenville, Greenville County, and Mead & Hunt. She explained her presentation will include background, process, preferred design and the next steps. Ms. Jones reminded those in attendance the purpose of this feasibility study is to provide vetted alternatives, conceptual cost estimates, and conceptual schedules so planners will be better informed as they make decisions on the project. She explained preliminary traffic report, conceptual design, conceptual cost estimates and schedules were included while surveys, final design, final plans and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents were not included.

Ms. Jones stated the Garlington Road Project ran from Woodruff Road to Pelham Road. She explained numerous items of the feasibility study while showing the members the presentation on screen that was included with today's agenda packet. Ms. Jones also encouraged any who are interested, to view the visual boards Mead & Hunt had displayed throughout the room and to ask questions.

Ms. Jones said the Preliminary Engineering (PE) cost estimate is \$2,500,000; Right of Way cost estimate is \$2,800,000; Construction cost estimate is \$40,000,000 in 2024 and \$49,000,000 in 2028. She also said the time frame from Notice to Pursue (NTP) to Right of Way (RW) was approximately 18 months and the same timeframe could be expected from Right of Way to Construction.

Ms. Jones asked if there were any questions on particular designs or alternatives.

Mayor Shewmaker, City of Simpsonville, questioned the number of anticipated pedestrians on this corridor while explaining his concerns for pedestrian safety in areas with roundabouts.

Mr. Jim Walden, SCDOT Regional Planning Manager, agreed roundabouts can be precarious for pedestrians and SCDOT worked with their Pedestrian Planner to see where pedestrians could cross safely and included that in the conceptual designs.

Mr. Brockington added that recent studies have shown drivers are more attentive at roundabouts resulting in approximately 40% reduction in pedestrian collisions and 10% reduction in bicycle collisions.

Ms. Jones added that there is signage (flashing lights, etc.) that can be added to aid in pedestrian safety.

Mayor Knox White suggested making connections with General Electric (GE) as this is in their area and they would most likely be pleased to be a part of the conversation. He said this is a perfect opportunity to begin a discussion with what he considers to be a very important corporate citizen.

Mr. Brockington added that he knows a conversation has begun between Greenville County Recreation and GE in reference to running a multi-use path on a portion of their property.

After further discussion, traffic congestion from Greenville to Spartanburg became the topic.

Mr. Brockington explained US-29 (Wade Hampton Boulevard) was identified as the official parallel to I-85 and GPATS has a feasibility study programmed into the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to look at Wade Hampton Boulevard and see how best to alleviate congestion.

Mr. Brockington stated from GPATS' perspective, that is about all that can be done locally to try and alleviate traffic congestion from Greenville to Spartanburg (or to the airport) while waiting on additional interstate funds which are prioritized statewide.

Mr. Jim Walden explained GPATS, as a TMA (Transportation Management Area), is federally required to do a Congestion Management Process (CMP) and he believes one is almost complete. Mr. Walden asked Keith to clarify the status of that process.

Mr. Brockington re-iterated GPATS is currently working on a Congestion Management Process (CMP) and the draft can be found on www.gpats.org for review. He also said the CMP will be presented to the September Study Team meeting and then to the October Policy Committee Meeting for adoption.

Discussion ensued in reference to traffic congestion, studies, solutions, and opinions.

OLD BUSINESS

Keith Brockington, GPATS Transportation Manager, encouraged all in attendance to go the www.gpats.org website and review the Draft Congestion Management Process (CMP).

Mr. Brockington said GPATS is pleased to get the CMP completed before the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) starts next year.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Turner reminded everyone the September Study Team Meeting has been moved to September 16.

ADJOURNMENT:

Without objection Chairman Senator Turner adjourned the meeting at 11:14 a.m.

Submitted by Recording Secretary
Cleo A. Hill