MINUTES
GPATS POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE
August 25, 2025
County Square – Council Chambers
10:00 a.m.
In-person and remote participation by Committee members

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice-Chairman Mayor McLeer, Senator Allen, Senator Elliott, Representative Collins, Representative Morgan, Councilor Bradley, Councilor Davis, Councilor McGahhey, Councilor Seman, Commissioner Metcalf, Mayor Amidon, Mayor Danner, Mayor Merritt, Mayor White, GTA Chair Amanda Warren, and Keith Brockington.

OTHERS PRESENT: T. Brown, P. Butler, D. Carlile, E. Chen, B. Conner, S. Davis, E. Dillon, H. Gamble, B. Groel, M. Groves, C. Hill, Ty Houck, A. Ikein, S. Jackson-Amell, C. Link, B. Maddox, L. Prunkl, A. Stewart, R. Tolson, J. Walden, B. Wilson.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Vice-Chairman Mayor G. P. McLeer called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and announced a quorum had been established.

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 12, 2025 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Vice-Chairman McLeer asked if anyone had any amendments to the minutes. None were voiced.

MOTION: By Mayor White, seconded by Councilor McGahhey, to approve the May 12, 2025 minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no objections.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no individuals signed up for public comment.

SCDOT PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

Megan Groves, Lead Program Manager with SCDOT, addressed Committee members with an update on projects summarized below.

- Upcoming Projects:
  - Garlington Road Corridor Improvement – The Feasibility Report is complete. Consultant Procurement is underway.
  - Haywood & Pelham Intersection – Alternative analysis is complete. Partial continuous flow intersection recommended. Funding approved in STIP and PE to begin in fiscal year 2026.
  - Pleasantburg & Rutherford Intersection – Alternative analysis is also completed on this project with partial median U-turn intersection recommended. Funding approved in STIP. PE will begin in fiscal year 2026.

- Projects in Design:
    - S-107 East Butler Road (Bridges Road to US 276) – Right of way (ROW) acquisitions are complete. Utilities relocations to begin Fall 2025. Tentative Let date is Winter 2026.
    - Woodruff Road Congestion Relief (WRCR) – ROW plans have been completed, and funds have been obligated. ROW acquisition is approximately 85% complete. Construction anticipated Spring 2027.
    - SC-183 Corridor Improvement – IGA with Pickens County has been executed. Holt was issued a LNTP to perform initial survey, aerial mapping and field delineation of wetlands. SCDOT and Holt have finalized scope and moving forward with negotiations to get under contract, it could be a couple of months before full NTP will be issued. ROW set in FY2027 but will develop schedule as design progresses.
    - SC-183 & Jameson Road Intersection – Moving forward with signalized intersection only and the realignment of Old Dacusville will not be in the plans due to the widening of SC-183.
    - Town of Central Connector – Right of Way acquisition underway and construction anticipated early 2026.
    - S-162 Bryson Drive Multi-Use Trail – This is a GPATS Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) project awarded to UGATA (Upstate Greenways and Trails Alliance). Preliminary design underway and construction anticipated in FY2027.

- Projects in Construction:
    - West Georgia Road Intersection Improvement – Contractor is working on signal rebuilds. All curb and most of sidewalk complete. Surface asphalt planned for September 2025.
    - Roper Mountain Road (RMR)/Roper Mountain Road Ext. (RMRE) – Ponders Ray intersection complete, working on punchlist items.

- Bridge Projects:
    - US 29 Church Street Bridge – Currently in Stage 2 of 4 for construction phasing. Bridge jacking and replacement of bearings is ongoing. Painting has begun on bents. Currently on schedule with an estimated completion date of July 2026.
    - S-149 W. Faris Road over Brushy Creek (Bridge Replacement) – Construction plans currently in design. ROW obligated in June 2025 and construction anticipated in the Fall of 2026.
    - S-250 Hester Store Road over Machine Creek (Bridge Replacement) – Final plans and ROW acquisition complete. Project letting in November 2025 and construction anticipated beginning of 2026.
    - S-277 Lay Bridge Road over Twelve Mile Creek – Right of Way plans under development. ROW obligation in Fall 2025 and construction anticipated early 2027.
    - US 276 over North Saluda River – Consultant procurement underway. Off-alignment bridge replacement with construction anticipated in FY2028.
    - S-507 Brooks Avenue over Langston Creek – Preliminary design underway. Proposed re-alignment with Hilltop Avenue for a potential future signal. Construction anticipated in FY2027.

- Design Build Bridge Package 19:
    - S-26 Pace Bridge Road over tributary to Saluda River (Pickens County)

- S-40 Pace Bridge Road over South Saluda River (Greenville County)
- S-40 Pace Bridge Road over Saluda Overflow (Greenville County)
- S-94 Hammett Bridge Road over tributary to Enoree River (Greenville County)
- S-310 Crestwood Drive over tributary to Richland Creek (Greenville County)
- S-102 Keeler Mill Road over Armstrong Creek (Greenville County)

  Contract awarded to W. S. Wagner Company, LLC. Construction has not yet started, waiting on Notice to Proceed.

  Note: There are two more bridges outside of GPATS boundary that are in this package. Construction completion is anticipated Spring of 2028.

- Design Build Bridge Package 16 (In Construction):
  - SC-124 over George's Creek (Pickens County)
  - SC-183 over Twelve Mile Creek (Pickens County)
  - SC-123 over George's Creek (Pickens County)
  - SC-183 over Gregory Creek (Pickens County)

    Contract awarded to Palmetto Infrastructure, Inc. SC-183 bridges are to be complete and open by January 2026 with completion of entire package expected in Spring 2026.

- Design Build Bridge Packages 30 and 31:
  - Dill Road over Middle Tiger River – Estimated completion date September 2025
  - Hudson Street over Reedy River – Construction to begin in Fall 2025
  - W. Washington over Reedy River – Construction to begin in Fall 2025

    Note: There are five more bridges outside of GPATS boundary that are in these packages.

- Vulnerable Road Users – Section Corridor Improvements (Traffic Safety):
  - River Street/Richardson Street
  - US-29 Wade Hampton Boulevard
  - US-276 Poinsett Highway

    All three projects are currently in PE. Traffic Safety Office is currently working with consultants to develop traffic reports. Once traffic reports are complete, they will develop preliminary plans. Projects letting in late 2026.

- Intersection Improvements (Traffic Safety):
  - Gap Creek/Gary Armstrong – Single lane roundabout. Letting in October 2025.
  - US-25/US-25 Connector – Continuous Green T intersection (signalized). In construction with estimated completion date August 2026.
  - Farrs Bridge Road/Ireland Road – Added left turn lane. In construction with estimated completion date of September 2025.

- Corridor Safety Improvements (Traffic Safety):
  - US-29 Wade Hampton Boulevard (Karen Drive to E. Lee Road) – Let on 8/12/25 and is pending award.
  - SC-183 Cedar Lane Road/Pete Hollis Boulevard (E. Marion Road to Margaret Court) – In construction, project was awarded to Palmetto Corporation of Conway with a completion date of August 2026.

Ms. Groves made herself available for questions.

Mayor Terry Merritt, City of Mauldin, asked about the East Butler Road project and if the tentative let date could be more specific than Winter 2026.

Ms. Groves replied that the project has had many changes due to utility relocations, which are being finalized. SCDOT is working on pole relocations and easements with Duke Energy. She added that there is still no definitive relocation allowing SCDOT to move forward; therefore, the let date is still to be determined.

Councilor Curt McGahhey, Greenville County, asked if there was a way to overcome the challenge of utility relocation plans.

Discussions ensued about Duke Energy and other utility relocations, possible increases in construction costs due to delays with utilities, efforts to stay on track with utility providers by having more frequent updates or phone calls, and the timeline of when Duke was first made aware of the project.

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. The 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 recommended approval to award the TAP funds.

Ms. Stewart made herself available for questions.

Mayor Merritt asked for clarification on where this project is located.

Mr. Brockington stated the southern terminus of the project is Easley Bridge Road or SC-123.

MOTION: By Mayor White, seconded by Councilor Bradley, to approve and award TAP funds to County of Greenville for the Textile Crescent Shared Use Path, as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no objections.

FTA SECTION 5310 APPLICATION

Asangwua Ikein, GPATS Transit Planner, updated members on an application the Transit Coordinated Committee (TCC) evaluated for FTA Section 5310 funds. Mr. Ikein stated the one applicant is Able SC and the application scored an average of 83.5 out of 100. He added with the current score, the project is recommended for approval.

Mr. Ikein made himself available for questions.

Mayor Merritt asked for the history of Able SC, who they are, and how long they have been in existence.

Mr. Ikein replied that he was unsure of when Able SC first began. He added they are a nonprofit organization that provides services for elderly and/or disabled individuals, and they intend to use the

funds to hire a Mobility Manager to coordinate services between multiple nonprofits with clients who need transportation access, especially in areas outside the current Greenlink service range.

Mayor Merritt then asked the annual cost for a Mobility Manager.

Mr. Ikein said he thought salary would depend on the hiring agency and added he believed, in this case, the salary would be close to $50,000.

Mayor Merritt then stated if the salary is about $50k, and the application is for $176K, basically that is saying for every dollar spent on salary, approximately two dollars would be spent on transportation.

Mr. Ikein agreed.

Mayor Merritt stated he likes the concept of reaching out and helping, and he understands that Able SC is not a government entity, but to citizens, it may appear to be one. He added that is especially true, given that the project will be funded with government money if it is awarded.

Mr. Ikein said he understood the concern and added one of the issues with having a Mobility Manager is having one that can oversee the entire region as opposed to one entity hiring for that position but then they can only oversee within the boundaries of that particular entity.

Mayor Merritt then asked was it ever considered that maybe Greenlink, and some of their affiliate transit groups, that are already in the area could do something like hire a Mobility Manager.

Mr. Ikein responded yes, he and some others in transit have had discussions and for example, there is an entity called Senior Solutions that help with elderly and/or disabled persons and they discussed having a Mobility Manager. The thoughts with GTA/Greenlink were that they wanted the Mobility Manager to be able to oversee the entire region, not just Senior Solutions clients. Mr. Ikein explained that just never happened and we have no way of forcing any entity to do that with a one-time allocation.

Mayor Merritt stated that one way to enforce this would be not to approve the funding.

Mr. Ikein acknowledged that is an option of the Policy Committee.

Vice-Chairman Mayor McLeer stated Able SC works with primarily disabled individuals and he is unsure of exactly how long they have been around but he knows it has been quite some time.

Amanda Warren, Greenville Transit Authority Chair, said that regarding comments made about GTA/Greenlink, if a Mobility Manager works for Greenlink, they are going to be trying to get someone on a Greenlink bus. This request is for helping individuals get around by several different means. She explained it is not just for a Greenlink bus, but also for other forms of public transit, so they can get to where they need to go. In that way, if we want to approve or are more interested in helping others get to where they need to go, then it makes no sense for that person coordinating the efforts to work for Greenlink itself, but rather for a different entity.

Mr. Ikein said they understand that before giving out stipends for Uber or other providers, they would primarily put people on a Greenlink bus because that is already available.

Ms. Warren added that Able SC is not just in Greenville, it is a statewide agency. She said the program they are asking for funds for in Greenville already exists in Columbia and it has been working for a number of years successfully in Columbia.

Councilor McGahhey said he did not see a job description for the Mobility Manager.

Mr. Ikein replied basically the main description is a person who is responsible for helping someone get access to transportation services.

Councilor McGahhey said he understood that but normally when you are hiring for a position there is a job description, responsibilities, etc.

Mr. Ikein responded that he did have that in the application file and would be happy to share it with the committee.

Mayor White asked where the Mobility Manager would have an office.

Mr. Ikein said the office would be at Able SC.

Vice-Chairman McLeer commented that it appears there are many questions that need to be answered before the vote can take place and he made a motion to hold the vote.

MOTION: By Vice-Chairman Mayor McLeer, seconded by Mayor Merritt, to hold the vote for FTA Section 5310 funds to be awarded to Able SC, as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no objections.

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

Keith Brockington, GPATS Transportation Manager, addressed members on the proposed FY2025-2034 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment AC#6 Financial Statement.

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
- 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

Mr. Brockington explained the FTA Section 5310 Application for Able SC will be removed from the TIP Amendment #6 since the committee voted to hold the application until further information can be provided.

Mr. Brockington said the TIP Amendment #6 has been advertised from August 3rd through August 25th and was presented to GPATS Study Team who recommends approval by consensus without objection.

Mr. Brockington made himself available for questions.

MOTION: By Mayor White, seconded by Councilor McGahhey, to approve FY2025-2034 AC#6 Transportation Improvement Program as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no objections.

NEW BUSINESS

GPATS TMA (TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA) CERTIFICATION REVIEW

Mr. Brockington stated this certification is conducted quadrennially and will be held on September 22, which is the same day as the next GPATS Study Team meeting. Both the Study Team meeting and the Certification Review will be held at Greenlink's office on Arcadia Drive. Mr. Brockington said there will be invitations sent out and asked members to be on the lookout for more information. He added that there will be three phases of the review. The first phase will be held during the Study Team meeting for the benefit of the Study Team members. This will enable planners, administrators, and engineers in the region to answer questions and provide feedback to the federal government. The second phase will be the actual federal review of GPATS and will take place from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. The final phase will be from 5:30 to7:00 pm. This will be the public phase, and public advertising will begin August 31.

Mr. Brockington explained the certification review is essential for any Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), such as GPATS, that serves an area with a population of over 200,000 people. Mr. Brockington emphasized the importance of this review in order to maintain certification, ensuring that GPATS can continue to receive federal funding for GPATS activities and guideshare funds. He added that this will be the sixth certification review he has been involved with, and the previous five reviews were successful, with GPATS passing the review. Mr. Brockington expects this review also to go well. Mr. Brockington said participation is welcome and the more feedback and participation there is, the better.

Vice-Chairman McLeer asked if anyone had any questions or comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

Without objection, Vice-Chairman McLeer adjourned the meeting at 10:54 a.m.

Cleo A. Hill

Submitted by Recording Secretary
Cleo A. Hill