

MINUTES
GPATS STUDY TEAM COMMITTEE
September 18, 2023
Council Chambers – County Square
10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Keith Brockington, Adam Bodner, Kayleigh Cleek, Tee Coker, Mike Forman, Hesha Gamble, Mary Douglas Hirsch, Asangwua Ikein, Rashida Jeffers-Campbell, Jason Knudsen, Diane Lackey, Clint Link, Heather Lollis, Casey Lucas, Lisa Mann, Erin Porter, Anna Stewart, and Jim Walden.

OTHERS PRESENT: Senator R. Rice, E. Dillon, B. Groel, C. Hill, J. Mitchell and A. Riehm.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Keith Brockington welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:02 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 Mtn Road (RMR) and Roper Mountain Road Extension (RMRE) - both are currently in construction. RMR drainage, earthwork and concrete curb/gutter continuing and 60% of road work is complete. RMRE Phase I of the deck pour over Rocky Creek was completed on September 1. 90% of roadwork and 40% bridge work is complete.
 - SC-183 & Jameson Road intersection – Small purchase underway for updated traffic data and alternative analysis due to pending SIB application to widen SC-183.
 - Pelham Road & Haywood Road Intersection improvements – In planning phase. Project scoped 9/13/23 ahead of acquiring a consultant for alternative analysis.
 - Pleasantburg Drive & Rutherford Road Intersection improvements – In planning phase and project scoped 9/13/23 ahead of acquiring a consultant for alternative analysis.
- Bridge updates were as follows:
 - S-154 over Huff Creek – Ready to be let in December, Right of Way and utilities certified, plans submitted to the Letting Prep Office
- TA Programs were as follows:
 - Woodside Streetscape – In letting preparation for October.
 - Woodside Park Connector and Riverside Middle School Sidewalk –In letting preparation for October.
- West Georgia Road – Construction plans in QA review with a current let date of December.

Ms. Lucas made herself available for any questions.

GPATS By-Laws Amendment

Keith Brockington presented members with the Amendment Draft for GPATS By-Laws.

Mr. Brockington explained with the changes made to the Greenville and Mauldin-Simpsonville Urbanized Areas, the GPATS Policy Committee adopted the new GPATS boundary. The resulting loss of the

“Clemson Area” (Clemson, Pendleton, Central, and Norris) and the “Williamston Area” (Williamston, Pelzer, and West Pelzer), have resulted in a reduction of the Policy Committee and Study Team, requiring an amendment to the GPATS By-Laws. He further explained the Policy Committee requirements have decreased from 30 voting members to 28.

Mr. Brockington stated the lines referencing Policy Committee membership (listed under Article 2.1) in the By-Laws noting the Clemson Area and Williamston Area Mayoral group have been removed; while the Mayors of Greenville, Greer, Fountain Inn, Mauldin, Simpsonville, Travelers Rest, Easley, Liberty, and Pickens shall remain. Mr. Brockington stressed no legislative delegates or County Council Members will be removed and the mayoral jurisdictions that are being removed by GPATS are now being wholly brought into the Anderson-Clemson Area Transportation Study (ACATS).

Mr. Brockington further explained within the Study Team membership (listed under Article 4.1) in the By-Laws, City of Clemson, City of Central, Clemson Area Transit, and Clemson University will be removed. Mr. Brockington read Article 4.2 aloud which states “Participation at Study Team Meetings are open-ended, with any interested, knowledgeable, or concerned professionals permitted to attend and engage at meetings” and he encouraged others to continue to attend Study Team Meetings whether they are inside or outside of GPATS borders.

Ms. Heather Lollis, Grants Manager with Clemson Area Transit, commented that Clemson Area Transit (CAT) should probably continue attending GPATS meetings at least until their funding has been used up.

Mr. Brockington agreed and noted that fiscal year 2024 is the first year that GPATS will not have Clemson funds and CAT should attend meetings at least until the remaining funds have been allocated.

Mr. Brockington pointed out the last change in the By-Laws is the number of voting members needed at Policy Committee to make up a quorum will change from 15 to 14 or more. He stated the only other change is the date of amendment and signatures of Pickens County Senator and GPATS Chairman, Rex Rice and the Vice Chairman, Greenville County Senator Ross Turner.

Mr. Brockington asked for any questions or comments. None were voiced.

Recommendation: Mr. Brockington asked for approval, or any objections, from the members to recommend approval of the GPATS By-Laws Amendment to the Policy Committee for their approval. No verbal objections or questions by consensus.

Transportation Performance Measures, LRTP and TIP Amendments

Anna Stewart addressed members with Transportation Performance Measures Update and amendments to the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and GPATS FY2023-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) documents for the Safety Targets, Greenlink Transit Safety Targets, and Greenlink Transit Asset Management (TAM) Targets. The following were reviewed:

- Safety Targets Update
 - SC Baseline
 - SC Targets
 - GPATS Baseline

- Transit Asset Management (TAM) Targets
 - Rolling stock
 - Equipment
 - Facilities

Ms. Stewart made herself available for any questions.

Ms. Rashida Jeffers-Campbell, Greenville County Planning Director, asked for clarification on safety targets.

Ms. Stewart explained the targets are what SCDOT and GPATS strive for the numbers to be at or below.

Ms. Jeffers-Campbell asked if we are meeting the target and are the numbers showing a decrease.

Ms. Stewart answered that we are not meeting the targets just yet but the numbers are decreasing.

Mr. Brockington asked if there were any more question or comments referencing the Amendments to the LRTP or the TIP documents.

Recommendation: Mr. Brockington asked for approval, or any objections, from the members to pass the Long-Range Transportation Plan document amendment recommendations to the Policy Committee for their approval. No verbal objections or questions by consensus.

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

GPATS Congestion Management Process (CMP) Update

Asangwua Ikein addressed members with a brief presentation explaining the CMP Update.

Mr. Ikein stated GPATS has begun the CMP update process and SCDOT has hired Kimley-Horn to conduct the process. Mr. Ikein explained this process is happening all over the state.

The following points were reviewed:

- GPATS Staff has provided Kimley-Horn with a list of technical staff for the Steering Committee.
- Kimley-Horn will conduct a Doodle poll survey to determine when the Steering Committee can meet. The meeting should occur in the first two weeks of October 2023.
- Kimley-Horn will then draft a survey that will be distributed to the public in the first two weeks of November 2023. This also includes one public workshop that will be scheduled.

Mr. Ikein made himself available for questions or comments.

GPATS 2024 Meeting Schedule

Keith Brockington presented members with the proposed meeting dates for Calendar year 2024 and they are:

Study Team: January 29, April 15, July 15, and September 23.

Policy Committee: February 26, May 13, August 19, and October 21.

Mr. Brockington stated these are all on Mondays and will start at 10 a.m. as usual and asked for questions or comments.

Recommendation: Mr. Brockington asked for approval, or any objections, from the members to recommend the proposed 2024 meeting dates to the Policy Committee for their approval. No verbal objections or questions by consensus.

Old Business

Keith Brockington reminded members of the GPATS 101 Training Session that will be held on September 19 (tomorrow) from 11:00 am until approximately 1:00 pm in the HR Training Room on Level 2 of the North Building. Mr. Brockington encouraged all to attend.

New Business

Keith Brockington told members January and February is expected to be very busy for GPATS. The Long-Range Transportation Plan Amendments, due to the boundary changes, are one of the items GPATS will be working on.

Jim Walden, Regional Planning Manager with SCDOT, stated he believes there are only two projects GPATS will need to remove due to them being transferred over to ACATS and offered his assistance during the process.

Mr. Brockington explained SCDOT has asked GPATS to accelerate their timeframe for the FY2025-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He explained typically these are approved in May but SCDOT is asking all MPO's to have their new TIP ready by February so it will match the Statewide Improvement Program (STIP) timeframe.

Mr. Brockington explained the last item for January and February is the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and Special Studies Call for Projects and GPATS plans to have these ready for approval by May. Mr. Brockington explained the big change for Special Studies is GPATS has been notified by SCDOT that all Special Studies will need to have a planning level Local Public Agency (LPA). This is a new process and GPATS will be working with SCDOT to see how this process works and outlining what applicants will need to do in order to get the planning level LPA, which is a new requirement going forward.

Mr. Brockington also stated the TAP costs are always increasing and to be aware that applicants should start with the simple 80/20, but overruns will most likely be expected to be covered by jurisdiction that received the TAP funds.

Mr. Brockington asked for any questions or comments and if anyone had anything to share in reference to projects or plans the Study Team should be aware of.

Jim Walden, Regional Planning Manager with SCDOT, announced the Garlington Road Feasibility, Second Phase of the Alternatives meeting is tomorrow and SCDOT looks forward to finishing the study and presenting it to GPATS Study Team and Policy Committee in the near future.

Diane Lackey, Intermodal and Freight Programs with SCDOT, announced her office will be putting out a Statewide Rail Plan Update and solicitation bids will come in tomorrow. Ms. Lackey mentioned this update will incorporate both passenger and freight.

Mr. Brockington asked if the update would include anything having to do with the high-speed rail.

Ms. Lackey answered it will be noted within the plan but because it is not SCDOT's project, it will not be anything in great detail.

ADJOURN

Without objection, Mr. Brockington adjourned the meeting at 10:34 a.m.

Cleo A. Hill

Submitted by Recording Secretary