

MINUTES
GPATS POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE
October 23, 2023
County Square – Council Chambers
10:00 a.m.

In person and remote participation by Committee members

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Senator Rice, Vice-Chairman Senator Turner, Representative Collins, Councilor Linvill, Commissioner Christopher, Commissioner Metcalf, Mayor Amidon, Mayor Danner, Mayor Merritt, Mayor Perry, Mayor Womack, and Keith Brockington.

OTHERS PRESENT: R. Ballentine, P. Butler, J. Chandler, E. Dillon, H. Gamble, B. Groel, C. Hill, A. Ikein, C. Lucas, A. Stewart, B. Wilson and K. Whitfield-King.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Senator Rice called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

In the absence of a quorum, this meeting was held for informational and discussion purposes only.

AUGUST 21, 2023 POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Chairman Rice asked if anyone had any amendments to the minutes. None were voiced.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no individuals signed up for public comment.

SCDOT PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

Casey Lucas, Project Manager with the SCDOT, addressed the Committee members with a project update presentation included in the agenda packets:

- Upcoming Projects:
 - Garlington Road Corridor Study – Feasibility Study in progress. Consultant hired and expected completion is Spring 2024.
 - Pelham & Haywood – Planning phase is in progress. Acquiring consultant for traffic analysis and alternatives.
 - Pleasantburg & Rutherford – Planning phase is in progress. Acquiring consultant for traffic analysis and alternatives.

- Projects in Design:
 - Woodruff Road Congestion Relief (WRCR) – Currently in Right of Way (ROW).
 - S-107 Butler Road – Right of way (ROW) plans completed and ROW acquisitions are underway. On schedule for December 2024 let date.
 - SC-183 & Jameson Road Intersection – Small purchase underway for updated traffic data and alternative analysis due to pending State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) application to widen SC-183. SCDOT is directing the public to scdot.org/sc183-at-s95 to view up-to-date information.

- TAP Projects in Construction:
 - Fountain Inn Woodside Streetscape – Plans are completed. Not yet awarded. Project was let this month.

- Fountain Inn Woodside Connector – Project plans are completed. Was awarded additional funds by GPATS policy committee in October 2022. Project was let this month.
 - Riverside Middle School Sidewalk – Project plans are completed. Was awarded additional TAP funds October 2022. To avoid construction during school year, project to be let in March of 2024.
 - Town of Central Connector – Surveys have been completed and preliminary design is underway.
- Guideshare Projects in Construction:
 - Roper Mountain Road (RMR)/Roper Mountain Road Ext. (RMRE): RMR – Drainage, earthwork and concrete curb and gutter continuing. Approximately 60% of road work is completed. Roper Mountain Road Ext. (RMRE) Phase I of bridge work is completed and 90% of roadwork is completed.
 - Bridge Projects:
 - S-75 Cherokee Road over US 29 – Project is non-guideshare bridge replacement in Anderson County. Contractor currently working on constructing the new median on US 29, approach slabs for the overpass as well as the barrier wall along the bridge.

Chairman Rice asked if anyone had questions. No questions were voiced.

GPATS BY-LAWS AMENDMENT

Keith Brockington, GPATS Transportation Manager, addressed members on the proposed GPATS By-Laws Amendment. Mr. Brockington explained with GPATS boundary changes in August, the By-Laws need to be updated and he offered the Amendment Draft with markup explaining the changes are significant even though they are minor. Specifically, Article II (Policy Committee Membership) shows removal of Anderson County Municipal Seat, and reduction of one Pickens County Municipal Seat, removal of the items identifying the Pickens County Municipal Group and the Anderson County Municipal Group and addition of Easley, Liberty, and Pickens to the Mayors with voting seats. Mr. Brockington further explained under Article IV (Study Team Membership), the removal of the Cities of Clemson and Central along with removal of Clemson Area Transit (CAT) and Clemson University from the Study Team. Under Article VI (Quorum), the reduction of the Policy Committee Voting Quorum from fifteen to fourteen. Mr. Brockington stated the final item was to add a new Amendment date, with current Officer signatures.

Mayor Terry Merritt, City of Mauldin, recommended a quorum of fifty percent plus one and with twenty-eight Policy Committee members, that would work out to be a quorum of fifteen.

Chairman Rice explained historically the quorum has been fifty percent of total members.

Max Metcalf, SCDOT Commissioner, asked about ex-officio members in relation to the quorum.

Mr. Brockington explained that ex-officio members do not count as far as the quorum is concerned.

Mayor Rick Danner, City of Greer, also recommended a quorum of fifteen in the event of a tie in voting.

Chairman Rice reminded members in the absence of a quorum today, this meeting is for information only and to be prepared for this discussion in the future when a vote can be held.

Mr. Brockington noted GPATS can further research what other MPOs have on their By-Laws.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES UPDATES, LRTP AND TIP AMENDMENTS

Anna Stewart, GPATS Transportation Planner, addressed members with Transportation Performance Measures Updates and amendments to the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and GPATS FY2023-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) documents for the 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.

Mr. Brockington explained two votes will be needed in the next Policy Committee Meeting in February: one for the LRTP Amendment and one for the TIP Document Amendment.

GPATS TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FY2023-2028 AC#6

Keith Brockington, GPATS Transportation Manager, addressed members on the proposed Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment AC#6. Mr. Brockington said at the request of the SC Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, the following project will be added to the TIP having been awarded Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funding: City of Greenville, Nicholstown Mountain Bike and Hike Trails in the amount of \$100,000. Mr. Brockington pointed out the presentation showed other awards granted (or to be granted at a later date) including the Saluda Confluence Recreation Area sponsored by Upstate Greenways and Trails Alliance and it is likely the vote in February will include both trails.

Chairman Rice commented, if it is necessary, a special meeting could be called for in order to avoid delaying this project.

Mr. Brockington stated due to not reaching a quorum today, the February meeting will be even more vital as far as reaching a quorum is concerned and GPATS will be in touch with concerned partners to notify Chairman Rice and other Policy Committee members if a special called meeting is needed.

GPATS CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS

Kristina Whitfield-King with Kimley-Horn and Associates addressed the members with a presentation explaining the update for GPATS Congestion Management Process (CMP) and how it is a federally mandated requirement. Ms. Whitfield-King gave a brief overview, with illustrations, of the CMP including schedule, definition, geographic area, and the next steps to be taken in order to complete the project.

Ms. Whitfield-King made herself available for questions.

Representative Neal Collins, Pickens County, asked about comparing congestion in similar areas across the state and/or the nation.

Ms. Whitfield-King explained data will be reviewed in areas similar to the GPATS region so as to get a better idea of where the numbers are (high, low or normal).

Chairman Rice asked the if there would be a final report showing where the congestion is and giving solutions for that congestion.

Ms. Whitfield-King answered a final report will be given and different low-cost solutions such as synchronizing lights or constructing a round-a-bout in the case of intersection improvements.

Chairman Rice asked about the three tiers illustrated in the agenda packet and would all three be taken into consideration.

Ms. Whitfield-King stated that all three tiers (Interstates on the National Highway System or NHS, Non-Interstate Routes on the NHS, and Other Significant Routes not on the NHS) will be all be addressed.

Mayor Terry Merritt, City of Mauldin, asked about the method of informing the public that a workshop will be conducted and explaining it so it is easily understood.

Ms. Whitfield-King gave some examples of notifying the public such as social media posts and emails with clear wording explaining congestion management and focusing on the word “congestion” will usually peak interest. Also, many understand Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and coupling the CMP with the LRTP will help.

Chairman Rice asked how many public meetings will be held in the GPATS area.

Ms. Whitfield-King stated just one for this round and the results will be reviewed and discussed with SCDOT and possibly have another for the second round, if needed.

Chairman Rice commented if the meeting is held in Greenville, he is concerned Easley and Greer may not be as likely to attend.

Ms. Whitfield-King said the online surveys will help draw in more participation from surrounding areas.

Max Metcalf, SCDOT Commissioner, recommended getting the local Chambers of Commerce (Easley, Greer, and Greenville) engaged. Mr. Metcalf added when looking at freight movement, commercial vehicles, and the growth our area is experiencing, getting those companies engaged will be vital and the Chambers of Commerce would be a great help in getting the public and other businesses involved.

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 explained even with the absence of a quorum, these dates can still be set and if anyone has problems with specific dates, please let GPATS know and something can be worked out.

Chairman Rice asked for any comments. None were voiced.

NEW BUSINESS

GPATS February 2024 Officer Elections

Keith Brockington reminded members the Policy Committee Meeting in February 2024 will be Officer Elections and GPATS By-Laws state elections shall be held every two years.

February LRTP and TIP Items

Mr. Brockington announced GPATS will be making Amendments to the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) due to the boundary changes and some projects will be passed on to the Anderson-Clemson Area Transportation Study (ACATS) MPO. Mr. Brockington said there would also be an acceleration of preparing the 2025-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Document as requested by SCDOT to coincide with the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Mr. Brockington stated GPATS would, normally, be doing that in May 2024 and this is just an acceleration to have it completed by February instead.

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and Special Studies Calls for Projects

Mr. Brockington informed members GPATS Calls for Projects will be on the agenda for the January 2024 Study Team in preparation for the Policy Committee Meeting in February. He added the hope is to have all applications in and to approve projects in the May 2024 Policy Committee meeting.

UPDATE ON SC-183 FARRS BRIDGE ROAD WIDENING PROJECT

Chairman Rice updated members on the SC-183 project saying the State Transportation Infrastructure Bank (STIB) has approved the grant application; adding this was a great project for the safety of all who use SC-183. Chairman Rice commended those all working together to get this project going including delegates, STIB, GPATS, the counties of Pickens and Greenville, and others.

ADJOURNMENT:

Without objection Chairman Senator Rice adjourned the meeting at 10:47 a.m.



Submitted by Recording Secretary