

**MINUTES**  
**GPATS POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE**  
**October 27, 2025**  
**County Square – Council Chambers**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**In-person and remote participation by Committee members**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Senator Turner, Vice-Chairman Mayor McLeer, Senator Allen, Senator Elliott, Senator Rice, Representative Beach, Representative Collins, Representative Morgan, Councilor Bradley, Councilor Collins, Councilor McGahhey, Councilor Saitta, Commissioner Metcalf, Mayor Amidon, Mayor Danner, Mayor Merritt, Mayor Shewmaker, Mayor Talbert, Mayor White, GTA Chair Amanda Warren, and Keith Brockington.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** T. Brown, P. Butler, D. Carlile, J. Chandler, E. Chen, B. Conner, A. Davis, S. Davis, E. Dillon, G. Duvall, W. Flake, T. Galloway, H. Gamble, M. Groves, C. Hill, A. Ikein, C. Link, B. Mattox, L. McGoogin, B. Olson, M. Pleasant, A. Stewart, R. Tolson, T. Turiano, and J. Walden.

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Chairman Ross Turner called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and declared a quorum had been established.

**APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 25, 2025 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

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

**MOTION:** By Mayor Merritt, seconded by Mayor McLeer, to approve the August 25, 2025 minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no objections.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Gladys Duvall addressed the Policy Committee with concerns about the ongoing traffic congestion on three major thoroughfares (Fork Shoals Road, Ashmore Bridge Road, and West Georgia Road). Ms. Duvall cited SCDOT predictions on congestion, adding that these three main highways are way ahead of those projections, particularly Fork Shoals Road. She stressed the importance of not just viewing maps when considering traffic, but looking at stores, homes, and other recent developments when planning. She spoke of grocery stores recently built and others under construction, as well as the increasing population in these areas.

Ms. Duvall pointed out new manufacturing businesses coming to Piedmont. She asked whether GPATS has considered that Piedmont is only a 10- to 15-minute drive from these significant cluster developments on Fork Shoals Road and Ashmore Bridge Road. She added that there is a high probability that a substantial number of these employees, new to South Carolina, will purchase homes in these developments, which will mean even more traffic. While she firmly believes the problem of overpopulation starts with Land Development and the Planning Commission, she stated she was seeking GPATS's approval to move Fork Shoals Road from the #62 position on their list today to within the top ten priorities and to include Ashmore Bridge Road. Ms. Duvall stated that failing to do so will, without a doubt, be felt in numerous traffic accidents and even fatalities. Also, there is an elementary school off

of Fork Shoals Road, where parents drop off their kids, and have a hard time making a left-hand turn to get back on Fork Shoals Road.

Ms. Duvall said that to effect change, you must start at the root cause of the problem, which she intends to do by writing to Governor McMaster, Keith Brockington, T. J. Johnson, Chairman of the SCDOT Commission, and Benton Blount, a member of the Greenville County Council. She applauded Greenville County for pausing cluster development for a year. Still, she added, improvements to Fork Shoals Road, Ashmore Bridge Road, and West Georgia Road are needed sooner rather than later.

The second citizen to speak was Mr. Ted Turiano, who spoke on congestion and new developments, saying SCDOT needs to consider the entire length of a road when planning improvements. With so many new developments, people coming home and going to work at the same time, it isn't easy to get in and out of these developments. Mr. Turiano urged those in transportation planning to examine traffic congestion closely and find ways to alleviate it.

### **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 has been selected and negotiations have begun.
  - Haywood & Pelham Intersection – Alternative analysis is complete. Partial continuous flow intersection recommended. This project will be packaged with the Pleasantburg Drive and Rutherford Road intersection (the following project) so one consultant can handle both projects.
  - 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. Will be packaged with previous project (one consultant).
  
- Projects in Design:
  - S-107 East Butler Road (Bridges Road to US 276) – Right of way (ROW) acquisitions are complete. Duke utility agreement has been finalized and relocation to begin later this year (approximately 120 poles to be relocated). Tentative let date is Spring 2026.
  - Woodruff Road Congestion Relief (WRCR) – ROW plans have been completed, and funds have been obligated. ROW acquisition is approximately 87% complete. Construction anticipated Spring 2027.
  - SC-183 Corridor Improvement – Two projects (Greenville County side and Pickens County side). Contract for design services was executed August 2025. Preliminary design is underway. Currently analyzing viable typical sections and beginning traffic analysis.
  - 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. Right of Way plans being finalized and acquisition to begin soon.
  - Town of Central Connector – (TAP funding) 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 – Signal work nearly complete and asphalt milling to begin end of October. Loop detectors and pavement markings to start in November.
- Bridge Projects:
  - US 29 Church Street Bridge – Currently in Stage 2 of 4 for construction phasing. Bridge jacking and replacement of bearings is ongoing. Continue painting and pouring concrete on columns and sidewalk on east side of the bridge. Began drainage work. 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 – Carolina TEA is the consultant that was selected and negotiations are underway 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 expected to begin in summer of 2026.

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 the end of this year.

- Design Build Bridge Packages 30 and 31:
  - Dill Road over Middle Tiger River – Project is open to traffic.
  - Hudson Street over Reedy River – Construction to be completed by the end of this year.
  - W. Washington over Reedy River – Construction completion expected in spring of 2026.  
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  
Draft traffic reports and conceptual plans anticipated at the end of this month for all three projects with anticipated letting in late 2026.
  
- Intersection Improvements (Traffic Safety):
  - Gap Creek/Gary Armstrong – Single lane roundabout. Letting in October 2025 with award pending.
  - US-25/US-25 Connector – Continuous Green T intersection (signalized). In construction with estimated completion date August 2026.
  
- Corridor Safety Improvements (Traffic Safety):
  - US-29 Wade Hampton Boulevard (Karen Drive to E. Lee Road) – Let on 8/12/25 and project awarded to Palmetto Corporation of Conway. Completion expected July 2027.
  - 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.

Senator Rex Rice asked for clarification of the SC-183 project and the number of lanes being considered.

Ms. Groves replied that the first step is the traffic counts and then the annual growth rate in order to more accurately plan on the number of lanes needed.

Senator Rice asked if the project was originally approved for five lanes.

Mr. Brockington replied he was unsure if the number of lanes were specified in the scope of work to be done. He did agree that five lanes was the larger option, but he would have to go back and look to give an exact answer.

Senator Rice mentioned that changing the project's scope may be where the trouble lies, and three lanes are not going to help with congestion. Senator Rice added that the SCDOT has failed to allocate funding to address congestion efficiently.

Ms. Groves reiterated the data (traffic counts and annual growth) needs to be collected and analyzed before the number of lanes is decided. She explained that due to re-surfacing, there was about a six-week delay in attaining data (traffic counts are not accurate during those times). Ms. Groves also pointed out the size of the project.

Senator Rice stated he would like to see this project done in a shorter time frame and not in a twenty-year span of time. He said Pickens County put money into the project to help it get done and wants to be sure there are not continual time delays.

Councilor Curt McGahhey, Greenville County, asked how the traffic counts are done and what other data is collected or needed.

Ms. Groves said she wasn't positive on all the ways they collect traffic counts in the field but some of the other data includes surveys and aerial data.

Councilor McGahhey said he could get the traffic count data tomorrow and questioned why the "state and GPATS" needs so much time to gather that same data. Councilor McGahhey added that he has heard the term "reflective data" repeatedly for eight months since being on County Council and asked whether, next time GPATS meets, we have someone who collects this data present to explain it further. Councilor McGahhey added that the City of Greenville does an excellent job managing its traffic, and that there needs to be a way for the County to mirror that traffic management.

Mr. Brockington suggested planning on having a presentation on SC-183 by SCDOT in the next Policy Committee meeting (February 2026), explaining the type of data collected and the process of collecting that data. Members agreed.

Mr. Brockington asked for clarification on the Rice Road Bridge closure over Rice's Creek and getting that programmed into the TIP.

Ms. Groves replied she would get more information and get back with GPATS on programming and nature of work to be done.

### **TRANSPORTATION PERFORMANCE MEASURES (TPM) UPDATE**

Anna Stewart, GPATS Transportation Planner, updated members on an amendment to the GPATS Horizon 2040 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) of GPATS Performance Measures as required by the FAST Act. Ms. Stewart explained an amendment to the GPATS FY2025-2034 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Document is also needed to bridge TPMs from the LRTP into project selection and implementation. The Performance Measure item to be amended is the Safety Targets. Ms. Stewart showed a presentation explaining the amendment in more specific detail.

Ms. Stewart said, in reference to the Safety Targets, most of them did decrease; however, the two that increased were the Fatality Rate and the Non-Motorized Fatalities and Severe Injuries categories.

Ms. Stewart made herself available for questions.

**MOTION:** By Mayor McLeer, seconded by Senator Rice, to approve the Amendment to the Long-Range Transportation Plan to reflect updated Transportation Performance Measures, as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no objections.

**MOTION:** By Mayor McLeer, seconded by Senator Rice, to approve the Amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program Document to reflect updated Safety Targets, as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no objections.

**GPATS FY2025-2034 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AC #7**

Keith Brockington addressed members on the TIP Amendment AC#7 reminding them the financial statement is included in today’s Agenda Packet.

The following changes are being made to the TIP:

- SC-183 Farris Bridge Road Project (Pickens County Side)  
Funding SCTIB and Pickens County Local
  - PE: \$4 mil
  - ROW: \$6 mil
  - CON: \$57.2 mil
- Addition of Bridge Improvement Project - SC 86 over Saluda River  
Amount provided by SCDOT
  - PE: \$500,000
- Carbon Reduction Program FY2023 and a portion of FY2024 Projects - \$2.325 mil
- Addition of Intersection Improvement – Project Speedway Local Access Road  
Amounts provided by SCDOT
  - PE: \$322,000
  - ROW: \$3 mil
  - CON: \$7.3 mil ARC funds and \$805,563 Local
- Butler Road Update CON - \$14.5 mil

Mr. Brockington stated this TIP Amendment was advertised from October 5<sup>th</sup> through October 27<sup>th</sup> and the Study Team reviewed the amendment and suggested approval by consensus without objection.

Mr. Brockington made himself available for any questions.

Senator Rice asked what the money could be used for on the Carbon Reduction Program and are they federal funds.

Mr. Brockington replied that it is federal funds that flow through SCDOT and the funds are available for signal upgrades, intersection improvements or anything that may reduce congestion at intersections in order to lessen carbon emissions.

Max Metcalf, District 4 SCDOT Commissioner, recused himself from the TIP vote due to his employer having a supplier along the Project Speedway Local Access Road.

**MOTION:** By Mayor McLeer, seconded by Mayor White, to approve FY2025-2034 AC#7 Transportation Improvement Program as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no objections.

**FTA SECTION 5310 APPLICATION**

Asangwua Ikein, GPATS Transit Planner, presented an application that was put on hold at the last GPATS Policy Committee meeting until further information could be compiled for the members. Mr. Ikein stated the applicant for the Section 5310 funds is Able SC for the purpose of hiring a mobility manager to coordinate services between multiple nonprofits with clients who need transportation, especially outside of the Greenlink service area.

Mr. Ikein announced there are a couple of members of Able SC management team in this meeting available for questions and the budget for this application was emailed to members and also provided in the Agenda Packet. He then opened the floor for any questions.

Amanda Warren, Greenville Transit Authority Chair, said she asked Greenlink staff to research the federal regulations having to do with the possibility of Greenlink themselves hiring a mobility manager and using the FTA Section 5310 funds (should they apply) and per federal regulations, Greenlink can not hire a mobility manager.

Mayor Shewmaker, City of Simpsonville, asked who would be able to hire for that position.

Mr. Ikein replied Able SC can.

Ms. Sandy Jordan, Vice President and Chief Community Integration Program Officer with Able SC, stated that Able SC is a disability nonprofit organization that is uniquely qualified for hiring for the role (mobility manager). Ms. Jordan added that this position will assist people with disabilities and/or mobility issues. She said that Able SC has this type of position in Colombia, which has been running since 2021, and they already have an outline for moving it forward.

Mayor Shewmaker stated that Able SC is a much more likely candidate for the assistance.

Ms. Jordan added that Able SC also has volunteer ride program and they could use the money to pay an individual to pickup and transport someone in need.

Mayor Terry Merritt, City of Mauldin, said ACOG (The Appalachian Council of Governments) has a similar program to assist elderly people, and he feels it is a good program. Mayor Merritt stated his issue is that only 10.2% of the money goes to help those who need transportation, and the rest goes to staff or salaries. He added that out of roughly \$176,000, only \$18,000 actually goes to help people, and that has nothing to do with Able SC he thinks they are a great organization, but he does not like the numbers. Mayor Merritt summarized that he does not see this as a good investment, given that such a small percentage goes to help others.

Ms. Jordan spoke about the outreach portion of the program, and the individual hired for the mobility manager position will also be a person with disabilities. She also said the funds would be used to collaborate with other nonprofit organizations, communicate the barriers disabled individuals encounter, and help those individuals enter the Greenlink service area. Ms. Jordan pointed out the increase each year in those they serve. The plan states that in the first year they will help 10 individuals, in the second year 40, and in the third year 80. She acknowledged that it takes time to get the program up and running, recruit volunteers, and enroll people in the program. She reiterated that the model Able SC uses in Columbia is working. In 2021, they started; in 2022, they had 10 individuals in the program, and as of today, they have 92 individuals in the program. Able SC knows there is a need, they have a model that works, and they know how to get the program going and moving forward.

Councilor Garey Collins, Greenville County Council, asked for more details on the program itself and getting riders into the Greenlink service area.

Ms. Jordan replied that there is an allocation of \$150 to use toward Uber or up to 200 miles for a volunteer to transport the individual, and Able SC will also be collecting data for Greenlink, showing these are the areas where people need their services but do not have access.

Councilor McGahhey asked questions regarding salary and said he agreed with Mayor Merritt that the percentage going to help individuals was too small; he advised others to vote no.

Ms. Warren asked whether, if the applicant were not awarded today, these funds would lapse.

Mr. Ikein answered in 2026, and a discussion ensued on options to prevent lapsing, requirements to allocate the funds elsewhere, and other potential ways to hire a mobility manager without the small percentage of the funds going to help those who need transportation.

Mayor Brandy Amidon, City of Travelers Rest, asked the amount of money being committed from GPATS.

Mr. Ikein explained there is no money coming from GPATS; this is strictly federal and local funds.

Mayor Amidon said she can't understand why so much debate when the Committee has approved six figures to say how many people came through a stop light. She added this is not GPATS money, it is federal money to help disabled people get transportation and the pushback is confusing to her.

Ms. Jordan pointed out that Able SC is providing a little over \$88,000 of the approximately \$176,000, or 50%.

Chairman Turner asked for a motion.

**MOTION:** By Representative Collins, seconded by Mayor Amidon, to approve FTA Section 5310 funds to be awarded to Able SC, as presented. The motion carried with ten yeas and five nays.

Chairman Turner had to leave the meeting and handed over the gavel to GPATS Vice-Chairman, Mayor G. P. McLeer.

### **GPATS 2026 MEETING SCHEDULE**

Mr. Brockington presented the proposed meeting dates for the calendar year 2026 as follows:

<u>Study Team</u>	<u>Policy Committee:</u>
January 26	February 23
April 13	May 11
July 13	August 10
September 14	October 12

Mr. Brockington said he was reminded that May 11 is a state holiday (Confederate Memorial Day), so the SCDOT will not be available for questions. Members decided to approve the schedule with the possibility of changing the May 11 date during the February 23 meeting.

**MOTION:** By Senator Rice, seconded by Mayor Shewmaker, to approve GPATS 2026 meeting schedule as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no objections.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**GPATS TMA (TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA) CERTIFICATION REVIEW**

Mr. Brockington announced that the certification review last month went well, and he thanked Councilor Garey Collins for attending. He said despite GPATS advertising, Councilor Collins was the only attendee during the public input portion of the certification.

Mr. Brockington stated the full report is being drafted and once it is finalized, it will be made available to all members. Additionally, Mr. Mark Pleasant with the Federal Highway Administration will present the report and findings to the Policy Committee members early next year.

**GPATS RFP FOR HORIZON 2050 LRTP**

Mr. Brockington said the GPATS Horizon 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Request for Proposal (RFP) was submitted, with an ending date of October 16th, and received seven responses. Greenville County Procurement has the information, and a decision will be made by the end of the year. Mr. Brockington explained that the LRTP will be conducted throughout 2026, with adoption by the end of the year.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**GPATS FEBRUARY 2026 ELECTIONS**

Mr. Brockington reminded members that the GPATS election of Chairman and possibly Vice-Chairman is scheduled for February 2026. GPATS Bylaws mandate that the two positions be chosen every two years. Typically, both positions are elected at the same time; however, the GPATS Vice-Chair position was vacated in 2025, and thus the election took place in February of this year. It will be left to the Policy Committee to decide whether to vote on both positions in 2026 or only on the Chairman.

Vice-Chairman McLeer asked if there were any questions or comments. None were voiced.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Without objection, Vice-Chairman McLeer adjourned the meeting at 11:14 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



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Recording Secretary  
Cleo A. Hill