

MINUTES
GPATS POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE
January 11, 2010
Conference Room A – County Square
10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Senator Thomas, Chairman; Senator Anderson; Senator Verdin; Senator Martin; Representative Owens; Representative Loftis; Greenville County Councilor Gilstrap; Councilor Burns; Councilor Meadows; Councilor Payne; Mayor Bagwell; Mayor Long; Mayor Deese; Mayor Danner; Mayor Godbey; Pickens County Councilor J. Willis; Commissioner H. Atkins; Commissioner E. Adams; T. Usher; B. Knight; M. Carter and M. Long;

OTHERS PRESENT: K. Brockington; T. Wedmore; D. McGee; J. Owings; D. Powell; T. Elrod; D. Frate; H. Gamble; J. Gardner; S. Gwynn; B. Jordan; P. Lindsay; B. West; J. Wortkoetter; C. Tumblin; E. Case; D. Castle; C. Godbey and E. Paxton

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

While awaiting a quorum, the Chairman moved forward the following items on the agenda to receive information.

PROJECT UPDATES

I-385 Widening of Greenville County portion

Tommy Elrod addressed the Committee members with an update of the widening of the I-385 portion in Greenville County as well as the progress of other stimulus projects. He stated there would be a Public Information meeting on the widening and rehabilitation of I-385 on Tuesday, January 1, 2010 at the Bethel Elementary School.

With a quorum being present The Chairman moved the following item forward.

TIP AMENDMENT FOR CONTINGENCY TO SHIFT ARRA FUNDS

Dan McGee addressed the Committee members requesting an approval to move funds in the TIP. The monies moved would be the monies that were left over from the Easley project and the monies for the Church Street project and move them to the I-385 Widening project. Mr. McGee stated SCDOT would in turn use their Interstate funds to fund the Church Street project.

MOTION: By Mayor Godby, seconded by Mr. Burns to approve the shift in monies. The motion carried unanimously.

DRAFT OF CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE BY-LAWS

Dan McGee addressed the draft copy of by-laws for the Citizen Advisory Committee, which was included in the agenda packet. He asked for the Committee members to peruse the information and any suggestions would be welcome.

DRAFT OF STUDY TEAM BY-LAWS

Dan McGee addressed the draft copy of the Study Team by-laws, which was included in the agenda packet, stating he would like the Committee to review them and bring any suggestions to his attention.

Easley Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan

Tiffany Wedmore addressed the Committee members on the Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan of the City of Easley. She distributed copies of the Master Plan which provided information on existing conditions and recommendations including maps outlining proposed pedestrian and bicycle systems.

Multi Modal Rail Corridor Alternatives Study

Daniel McGee gave a brief overview of the Multi-modal Transit Corridor Alternatives Feasibility Study which is being funded through GPATS Planning funds for the Greenville County and the GCEDC. The Draft Final Report outlines the project approach and back ground, public and stakeholder meetings, existing conditions of the rail corridor, and detailed analysis of alternatives (ranging from commuter rail, street car, Diesel light rail, and bus rapid transit) and service parameters and costs. It also provides some discussion of economic and transit oriented development opportunities. Mr. McGee concluded with the next steps and the implementation strategies which will be spelled out in the final report which will be presented to the Policy Committee in March.

Senator Thomas suggested having a workshop for the Policy Committee members with more details regarding the study.

Hampton Avenue Bridge

John Owings and Steve Gwynn addressed the Policy Committee with information regarding using Tiger Funding as a source for replacing the Hampton Avenue Bridge. Mr. Gwynn stating he had received notification there may be additional funding available for use with pedestrian facilities, bicycle facilities, streetscaping and rail corridor preservation. He stated the pedestrian facility would be a category in which funding could be used for the bridge.

Senator Thomas asked Mr. Gwynn to keep the Committee posted on the status of the additional funding. He requested an update at the next Committee meeting.

Mr. Gwynn stated if additional monies become available, they as the first round of stimulus monies would have stipulations. One being 50% of the monies would need to be spent within the 90 days and the remainder within another 90 days. Mr. Gwynn stated the project would need to be shovel ready.

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 21, 2009 MINUTES

MOTION: By Mayor Godbey, seconded by Ms. Willis to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2009 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

SCTAC DONALDSON CENTER TRAFFIC STUDY

John Owings stated staff was doing an evaluation of the roads at the Donaldson Center. He stated staff would be doing traffic counts and studies, including protecting cyclists.

RECOGNITION

John Owings recognized and presented a gift to Mr. Hugh Atkins, SCDOT Commissioner who has assisted the GPATS Committee immensely, on his retirement. He expressed the Committee's appreciation and wished Mr. Atkins well.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Submitted by Recording Secretary