

MINUTES
GPATS POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE
February 3, 2014
Suite 400 – County Square
10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Kirven, Representative Loftis, Representative Smith, Senator Allen, Senator Martin, Councilor Norris, Councilor Meadows, Councilor Payne, Council Chair Taylor, Mayor Raines, Mayor Eichor, Mayor Bagwell, Mayor Cook, Mayor Long, Mayor White, Mayor Danner, Mayor McCall, Pickens Council Chair Smith, Council Willis, Commissioner Edwards, Trey Fouche and J. Owings

OTHERS PRESENT: L. Estep, P. Gucker, K. Brockington, H. Hahn, M. Floyd, J. Gardner, J. Allison, S. Gwinn, T. Elrod, G. Baney, J. Horton, C. Montgomery, S. Park, T. Brett and H. Gamble, D. Drhyhaug, E. Dillon, D. Cooper, M. Sullivan

Chairman Kirven called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

Chairman Kirven welcomed everyone and recognized John Owings, who will be retiring on February 21, 2014 after serving Greenville County for 41 years and working with GPATS for 34 years. He presented Mr. Owings with a plaque expressing GPATS gratitude for his dedication.

APPROVAL OF THE November 18, 2013 MINUTES

MOTION: By Senator Martin to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2013 regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no appearances for public comment

APPROVAL OF THE GPATS TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

AMENDMENT “AR4”

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee members requesting the approval of amendment “AR4” as provided in the agenda packets. Mr. Brockington updated the Committee with a summarized list of changes to TIP. He stated as projects advance, costs may change, scopes of projects may need altering and funding may need to be shifted.

MOTION: By Representative Smith, seconded by Councilor Payne to approve Amendment “AR4”. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

GTA DESIGNATION RESOLUTION ADOPTION
GPATS AND GTA MOU ADOPTION

Chairman Kirven stated at the November meeting, there was much discussion regarding Items 5 and 6 on the agenda. He stated he had facilitated a meeting between members of GTA and CAT in an effort to resolve some issues. Mr. Kirven stated at this time there had not been a conclusion reached on the issues and Chairman Kirven stated he did not feel he could make an informed decision at this time. He stated both parties had different operational ideas and he would like additional time to allow them to come together. Mr. Kirven requested of staff to bring to the next meeting, a senior staff member from public transit from DOT to provide the Committee with any information they may have before a final vote is taken.

Without any objections, both items were held until the March meeting.

BIKE FACILITIES COST UPDATE

Keith Brockington presented to the Committee with information on the cost of bicycle facilities as requested at the September 2013 Committee meeting and a request for specific costs at the November 2013 meeting. Mr. Brockington provided each member with a list of project specific cost and estimates of general costs of various bicycle facilities. The list displayed the breakout of bicycle and pedestrian costs in the GPATS – 5 year TIP.

The committee members discussed bike trails versus roadways. Various issues were discussed as some of the members had experienced multiple cyclists impeding traffic. The committee discussed perhaps the problems incurred with impeding traffic would be an enforcement issue.

Mr. Brockington discussed the advantages of having a bike path, not only protecting the cyclists, but also improving the roadway.

Councilor Smith asked if the bicycle/pedestrian lanes were federally mandated?

Mr. Brockington stated as of 2008, bicycle and pedestrian facilities shall be accommodated whenever possible. He stated an effort had to be made to provide the lanes whenever feasible. Mr. Brockington stated the projects receive input from stakeholders and citizens as to the need/want for these lanes.

Representative Loftis asked who did the surveys for staff.

Mr. Brockington stated staff did the survey, which was a scientific survey

Representative Loftis requested any other surveys taken to have a question defined as referring to bike lanes or Swamp Rabbit Trail. He stated the biggest complaint he receives is bicycles on the roadway.

SCDOT PROJECT UPDATE

Tommy Elrod addressed the Committee giving a brief status update on projects within the GPATS area as was in their agenda packets.

UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM: CALL FOR PROJECTS

Keith Brockington stated staff was now accepting applications for the FY 2015 UPWP cycle. For several years, GPATS has allocated a portion of its PL carryover funds to municipalities and counties within the region to allow them to develop eligible plans and studies. Mr. Brockington stated if the total amount requested through eligible applications is less than the PL carryover amount, GPATS will likely fund all requests. If GPATS receives requests beyond what it is able to fund in a given year, Policy Committee will need to decide which requests should be approved.

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM: CALL FOR PROJECTS

Keith Brockington announced the annual cycle for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) will be opened for Fiscal Year 2014 for all eligible jurisdictions that currently do not have an active application or project less than 50% complete. He stated SCDOT is expected to award the FY 2014 TAP Apportionment to GPATS early this spring, in the amount of \$621,818. Applications were emailed and also were available at the meeting. Mr. Brockington requested all applications be submitted by February 10, 2014.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Phillip Michoe, Administrator for the town of Central South Carolina addressed the Committee members with a request to submit a project for consideration to be placed on the GPATS Long Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Michoe stated Southern Wesleyan University was going through an expansion which would utilize Clayton Drive and his concern was the road would not be able to handle the increase in traffic. The recreational expansion would be open to the public.

Chairman Kirven stated staff would work with Mr. Michoe to prepare the necessary paperwork and would be presented to the Committee at the March meeting.

County Council Chairman Bob Taylor announced a public meeting which would be held at the Oakview Elementary School tonight at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was to gather public input regarding any road issues. He stated there would be meetings held throughout the county during the month. Dr. Taylor stated anyone could contact Paula Gucker for further information.

Mayor Cook announced there were 1,000 residents who used the transit system between Clemson and Greenville during the month of December.

Councilor Smith stated the project in Central expanded due to Southern Wesleyan submitting an application to the NCAA. The anticipated traffic due to the expansion would put a hardship on Clayton Drive.

Councilor Payne announced the consultant which worked on the GPATS study on Multi Modal Transportation feasibility will be in town and there will be a public meeting at the University Center tonight at 6:00 p.m. and again on Tuesday, February 4, 2014 at 11:30 a.m.

Mr. Long requested moving the seating arrangement for the next meeting due to difficulty in seeing the screen.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, and without objection the meeting was adjourned at 11:20a.m.

Submitted by Recording Secretary