

MINUTES
GPATS POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE
February 22, 2021
Meeting conducted by remote participation
10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Butch Kirven, Senator Rice, Senator Allen, Senator Cash, Senator Turner, Representative Burns, Representative Collins, Representative Smith, Commissioner Christopher, Commissioner Willard, Councilor Davis, Councilor Meadows, Councilor Saitta, Councilor Seman, Councilor Tripp, Mayor Amidon, Mayor Danner, Mayor Halfacre, Mayor McLeer, Mayor Merritt, Mayor Petersen, Mayor Sanders, Mayor Shewmaker, Mayor White, Mayor Womack, Dick O'Neill, Ruth Sherlock, and Keith Brockington

OTHERS PRESENT: P Gucker, T. Coker, H. Gamble, B. Groel, A. Ikein, H. Hahn, C. Lucas, M. Peterson, D. Montgomery, and C. Lewis

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Chairman Kirven called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and thanked those in attendance by the virtual platform for the first meeting of 2021.

Chairman Kirven introduced and welcomed the new members to the Committee:

- Mayor Halfacre of Clemson (replaced J.C. Cook)
- Mayor Blake Sanders of West Pelzer (rotating seat held previously by Mack Durham of Williamston)
- Councilman Alex Saitta of Pickens County (replaced Roy Costner)
- Councilman Henry Wilson of Pickens County (replaced Carl Hudson)

Mr. Kirven stated a GPATS 101 Presentation was held on February 17, 2021, by Mr. Brockington and his staff. He explained this was an orientation for new members as well as a refresher for returning members. He advised members with any questions or needing information to contact Mr. Brockington or his staff for assistance.

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 19, 2020 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:

MOTION: By Senator Rice, seconded by Mayor Halfacre to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2020 Committee meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no requests submitted from individuals to speak with the Committee.

SCDOT PROJECT STATUS UPDATE:

Casey Lucas, Program Manager with the SCDOT, addressed the Committee with a slide presentation updating various projects within the GPATS area, as were included in each member's packet.

- Woodruff Rd Parallel's Environmental Assessment (EA) document was signed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in April 2020, and the decision document was signed on November 5, 2020. She stated SCDOT is moving forward with a preferred alternative, shown at the public hearing. She advised SCDOT is negotiating phase II of the contract with the design consultant for the right-of-way and construction plans.
- S-272 West Georgia Rd corridor surveys and traffic studies have been completed. She advised the preliminary plan submittal would occur the beginning of March 2021. SCDOT will complete a Design Field Review (DFR) and expects the right-of-way acquisition to occur in October 2021.
- S-107 Butler Rd, SCDOT held many meetings with both the City of Mauldin and the general public from October through February. She stated a public involvement phase occurred January 5th through February 5th, 2021, allowing anyone to leave comments. There was an in-person meeting held in Mauldin on January 14th. On February 5th, meetings were set up with two churches regarding comments SCDOT received from them in order to see if these concerns could be resolved in the revised design. She stated SCDOT plans to meet with Bike Walk Greenville regarding helpful information SCDOT received from them. She reviewed statistics from the public involvement meeting:
 - 5504 public meeting website page views
 - 107 in-person attendees on January 14, 2021
 - 173 written or verbal comments received
- Riverside Middle School Sidewalk is a Transportation Alternative (TA) Program project. She stated the planning and design are complete; however, there is a funding shortfall. SCDOT is working on a path forward with Brennan Groel, the TA Program Office, and Anderson County School District Office. She advised this project cannot be let for construction.
- Fountain Inn Woodside Connector met the January 2021 right-of-way obligation and is now in the right-of-way phase.
- S-164 Batesville Rd Widening's new bridge over Rocky Creek is near completion. She advised the drainage and widening are continuing, and the Anderson Ridge realignment is underway.
- SC-146 Woodruff Rd Widening's sidewalk, curb and gutter, and intermediate are in place from Pawleys Drive to Sunnydale Drive. She advised traffic was shifted to access the south side of SC-146 to install the remaining storm drainage.
- Roper Mtn Rd and Roper Mtn Rd Ext are within the large utility window. She advised Duke, ReWa, and Metro Sewer are onsite relocating their facilities.
- SC-153 Intersection Improvements Project includes two intersections. She advised the asphalt base and intermediate have been placed on Old Pendleton Rd, and they are waiting for warmer temperatures to place the surface course.

The north leg base and intermediate have been placed on River Road. She stated storm drainage and catch basins have been installed for both intersections.

Ms. Lucas stated the following projects have been completed and will be removed from future status reports and replaced with new projects as they arrive.

- SC-153 Extension
- S-164 Gibbs Shoals Rd over Enoree River
- S-75 Mt. Lebanon Church Rd Bridges
- Ragsdale Rd Sidewalk

Ms. Lucas made herself available for any questions.

Mr. Kirven thanked Ms. Lucas for her concise status reports and for showing the progress on projects.

GPATS PERFORMANCE MEASURES UPDATE:

Brennan Groel addressed the Committee with an amendment to the GPATS Horizon2040 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as were included in their agenda packets. She advised the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) requested GPATS include Greenlink (GTA) and Clemson Area Transit's (CAT) Transit Safety data. She reviewed the data placed in the LRTP and TIP documents with the Committee as follows:

- Mode of Transit Service
 - Fixed Route
 - Demand Response / Paratransit
- Fatalities
- Fatality Rate
- Severe Injuries
- Severe Injury Rate
- Safety Events
- Safety Event Rate
- System Reliability

Ms. Groel stated disclaimers in each document were added to explain how the rates and reliability were calculated. She advised GPATS is not required to set the Transit Safety Targets only to adopt these targets.

Ms. Groel made herself available for any questions.

Mr. Kirven asked if this meets a regulatory requirement.

Ms. Groel replied this was correct. She advised this is acknowledging the existence of each transit agency's safety plan.

MOTION: By Representative Burns, seconded by Mayor Womack to approve the adopted Transit Safety Targets for an amendment to the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) document. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

MOTION: By Mayor Petersen, seconded by Mayor McLeer to approve the adopted Transit Safety Targets for an amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) document. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA) SECTION 5310 APPLICATIONS:

Asangwua Ikein addressed the Committee stating one Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 application was received and qualified from Senior Solutions. The Transit Coordinating Committee (TCC) evaluated the application and gave it a score of 77.3 out of 100. The following funds for the project are:

- Local Match: \$127,504
- Federal Match: \$253,115
- Total Application: \$380,619

Mr. Ikein stated the funding was placed in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Committee's approval in the following action item.

Mr. Ikein made himself available for any questions.

Mr. Kirven asked to confirm if this was the only application received. He inquired if there were any remaining funds and could additional applications be submitted for the remaining funds.

Mr. Ikein stated Senior Solution was the only application received. He stated an estimated amount of over \$700 thousand in funding remains, and applications would continue to be accepted and evaluated. He stated the oversight comes with the federal regulations; the applicants find this overwhelming when applying for these funds.

Another question was asked for further explanation of the FTA Section 5310.

Mr. Ikein responded these funds are used for the elderly or disabled and even low-income individuals who are needing transportation services. He advised Senior Solutions provides services for the elderly or disabled within the GPATS region, with only a small portion of their service outside of the GPATS area. He stated a past applicant Turning Point of SC, provides services to those with addiction issues; under federal regulations, addiction issues are considered a disability.

A question was asked what Senior Solutions will be using the \$380,000 funds for and if it is for capital or operational costs.

Mr. Ikein replied the funding would be used for both capital and operational expenses to assist transportation of the elderly and disabled individuals. He stated Senior Solutions' application indicated fifty percent of the funding applied for would be spent on capital expenditures for a Mobility Manager and remaining funds towards operational costs for salary and gas.

Mr. Kirven asked if Senior Solutions operates throughout the GPATS area or just parts of it.

Mr. Ikein replied Senior Solutions operates throughout the GPATS area and beyond. He stated he monitors and maps out the locations of individuals being serviced and their destinations to determine if these services are significantly within the GPATS area.

MOTION: By Senator Allen, seconded by Senator Cash to approve Senior Solutions' Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5310 application. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

GPATS TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FY2021 – 2026

AMENDMENT AC #3:

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment AC #3, included in their agenda packets. He stated this amendment contains several SCDOT requested updates and transit additions. These changes are:

- Insertion of FY2020 End-of-Year Balance of \$14,890,000 from SCDOT's Annual Obligations Report
- Additional Bridge Replacement Program Entities
 - S-4-75 at US-29
 - S-39-267 at 12 Mile Creek
 - S-23-125 at Saluda River
- S-23-384 at Brushy Creek funding is being removed from the bulk list of Bridge Replacement Projects funding
- Moving of I-85 Widening Project funding to FY2026 with remaining cost in FY2027 and beyond the TIP window. He stated after consulting with SCDOT regarding concerns from last Policy Committee meeting about this funding moving entirely out of the TIP, funding was placed back into the TIP to continue showing the project and its allocation as a priority.
- Addition of FY2021 FTA Sections 5307, 5310, and 5339 funding:
 - Greenlink Transit Authority (GTA) receiving in Sections:
 - ◆ (5307) \$2,294 million
 - ◆ (5339) \$254 thousand – for bus replacement and facilities

- Clemson Area Transit (CAT) receiving in Sections:
 - ◆ (5307) \$1,190 million
 - ◆ (5339) \$122 thousand – for bus replacement and facilities
- Mauldin-Simpsonville Urbanized Area managed by GTA receiving in Sections:
 - ◆ (5307) \$1,931 million
- Addition of \$235 thousand federal share amount previously approved for Senior Solutions' FTA 5310 application
- Addition of \$69 thousand from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) 5310 Funding for applications. Applications are not available and are being prepared. He advised the requirements would be similar to the 5310 funding previously described by Mr. Ikein.
- Removal of expired or withdrawn Transportation Alternative (TA) Program projects. He advised the removed TA projects' funding will fund existing projects before a new Call for Projects would be made.
 - City of Simpsonville Swamp Rabbit Trail
 - City of Pickens Downtown Doodle Connector Trail

Mr. Brockington made himself available for any questions.

Mayor Merritt inquired as to the details surrounding the Non-Guideshare project S-23-384 at Brushy Creek.

Mr. Brockington replied the S-23-384 at Brushy Creek project was removed from the SCDOT bridge replacement package of \$4,537 million. He stated there was no change in funding, and it was only removed from the lump sum bridge replacement program and placed in the TIP as a separate line item.

Mr. Kirven asked would criteria or requirements for the CRRSSAA applications be sent to the Committee.

Mr. Brockington replied Mr. Ikein and the Transportation Coordinating Committee (TCC) are developing the application. He stated the application would be sent to the Policy Committee, Study Team, Informational Attendees, and Stakeholders to use.

MOTION: By Representative Smith, seconded by Mayor Merritt to approve the Transportation Improvement Program FY2021 - FY2026 Amendment AC #3, as discussed. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

DRAFT 2022-2023 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) DOCUMENT:

Keith Brockington addressed Committee members on the FY2022-2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) document as required by the FHWA, FTA, and SCDOT. He stated the draft UPWP is a working document available for review on the GPATS website. He advised GPATS is working together with SCDOT and Greenville County Finance Department to establish the financials. He stated when the financials come available; the draft document will be updated. The final UPWP document will be presented for Study Team's recommendation at their April meeting ahead of the Policy Committee presentation in May for adoption.

Mr. Brockington stated, as part of the UPWP, a Call for Projects for the UPWP Element 303 Special Projects Funding has been initiated. He advised since 2007, GPATS has assisted with the completion of many local area transportation projects, which would otherwise not have been accomplished. He stated the application must be received by March 19, 2021, and is available at gpats.org. The applying jurisdiction is responsible for a 20 percent match of funds. Projects will be programmed into the final UPWP for approval in May and receive funding when FY2022 begins in July.

Mr. Brockington made himself available for any questions.

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES (TA) PROGRAM FISCAL YEAR 2021 – CALL FOR PROJECTS:

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee with an update on the Transportation Alternative (TA) Program. He advised GPATS is still waiting to receive a written notice of the assumed \$656,199 TA funding allocation. He stated there would be no Call for Projects at this time, given the need for covering lapsed funds so the allocation can assist existing projects. He advised staff to resolve the matter in time for the upcoming meetings to present a project cycle.

POLICY COMMITTEE ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Chairman Kirven stated every two years after the General Election; the Policy Committee elects a Chair and Vice-Chair at the calendar year's first meeting. Chairman Kirven opened the floor for nominations.

Representative Smith stated the leadership Mr. Kirven has shown in the past two years had moved the Committee forward on many issues. He suggested continuing with the current leadership with Mr. Kirven as Chair and Senator Rice as Vice-Chair.

MOTION: By Senator Turner, seconded by Representative Burns to accept Representative Smith's nomination of officers Mr. Kirven as Chair and Senator Rice as Vice-Chair and to close nominations. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Kirven thanked the Committee for their confidence in him and Senator Rice and their service to the constituents in their area.

Mayor Merritt asked if the Secretary/Executive Director position was to be included in the election.

Mr. Kiren advised in the GPATS by-laws this position is held by the Greenville County Planning Director or their designee. He stated the position is held by Mr. Brockington and is not an elected position.

NEW BUSINESS:

SCDOT Commissioner Christopher had forwarded wanted information from a discussion at the last meeting to Mr. Brockington. She requested Mr. Brockington review the information and advise the Committee at a later date. She stated she appreciates being a part of GPATS and concurs Mr. Kirven and Senator Rice are doing an excellent job.

SCDOT Commissioner Willard advised the normal state tax revenue stream is down approximately 10 percent, as reported at the last SCDOT Commissioner meeting, and would take SCDOT through this year with anticipation of late recovery of the revenue stream. He advised no halts have been placed on construction projects, and they are moving along well given the overall conditions.

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee on the 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), a minor five-year update to the existing Horizon2040 LRTP. Staff will be conducting this in-house throughout this year with the assistance of the Appalachian Council of Governments (ACoG), who manages the travel model, with intentions to present the update at the October 2021 Policy Committee meeting and no later than the first meeting in 2022. He advised the LRTP update will be completed before the 2020 census expansion of GPATS occurs to comply with federal regulations.

Senator Rice spoke to the Committee regarding Hwy 183. He stated a death occurred the past weekend, bringing the fatality total to four in the past year. He stated he would like to make Hwy 183 a priority on the list. He also wanted the Committee aware the City of Easley is experiencing congestion issues. He thanked the Committee for allowing him to continue to serve as Vice-Chair.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

By Mayor Womack to adjourn. Without objection Chairman Kirven adjourned the meeting at 11:29 a.m.


Submitted by Recording Secretary