

MINUTES
GPATS POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE
March 07, 2022
10:00 a.m.
Suite 400 – County Square
Remote participation by Committee members

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice-Chairman Senator Rice, Senator Allen, Senator Turner, Representative Burns, Representative Cox, Representative Smith, Councilor Davis, Councilor Saitta, Councilor Fant, Council Chair Meadows, Councilor Norris, Councilor Seman, Councilor Tripp, Commissioner Christopher, Commissioner Willard, GTA Chair Smith, Mayor Amidon, Mayor Danner, Mayor Halfacre, Mayor McLeer, Mayor Merritt, Mayor Sanders, Mayor Shewmaker, Mayor Womack, R. Sherlock, and Keith Brockington

OTHERS PRESENT: T. Coker, H. Gamble, A. Stewart, A. Ikein, D. Montgomery, C. Lewis, C. Lucas, E. Hailey, M. Pleasant, F. Mansbach, H. Youmans, D. Beaty, T. Boyd, J. Chasteen, J. Mustar, G. Sprange, S. Jackson-Amell, E. Dillon, P. Butler, L. Bollinger, S. Dull, L. Bridges, and J. Chandler

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Vice-Chairman Senator Rice called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Senator Rice introduced the newest members to the Policy Committee and thanked them for serving.

- Anderson County House Representative West Cox replacing Senator Richard Cash
- GTA Board Chairperson Walker Smith replacing Dick O’Neill
- Greenville County Councilor Ennis Fant replacing Greenville County Councilor Butch Kirven

Senator Rice requested a brief moment to recognize former GPATS Chairman Councilor Butch Kirven to show appreciation for his many years of service to GPATS and the community. He stated Mr. Kirven began his county council position in 2005, served on GPATS for seventeen years, and was chairman for nine of those years. He also thanked Mr. Kirven for his service to the county, region, state, and the nation for over thirty-plus years of service with the National Guard. Mr. Kirven was presented with a signed resolution.

Mr. Kirven thanked Vice-Chairman Senator Rice and the Policy Committee members. He stated working on GPATS was one of the most rewarding experiences in his career regarding military, political, and community affairs. He continued the strength of GPATS has with its broad representation across the region from elected officials to the professional team support. He advised how he witnessed GPATS encounter difficult

issues over the years and always reached a consensus to do the right thing and believes this will continue. He thanked the Committee again for the opportunity to be part of GPATS.

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 18, 2021 AND NOVEMBER 1, 2021 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: By Representative Smith, seconded by Representative Burns, to approve the minutes of October 18, 2021, and November 1, 2021 Committee meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Senator Rice requested action item 10 be moved to avoid schedule conflicts Policy Committee members may have towards the end of this meeting.

POLICY COMMITTEE ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Senator Rice opened the floor to nominations for Chairman of GPATS.

MOTION: By Representative Smith, seconded Mayor Merritt, to nominate Senator Rice as Chairman and Senator Turner as Vice-Chairman. The motion was carried unanimously by voice vote.

MOTION: By Womack to close nominations and elect Senator Rice as Chairman and Senator Turner as Vice-Chairman by acclamation. The motion was carried unanimously by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no individuals signed up for public comment.

SCDOT GPATS PROJECT STATUS UPDATE:

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

- Upcoming Projects
 - Town of Central Connector is a Transportation Alternatives (TA) Project. The SCDOT's federal grant office is concluding the official participation agreement letter.
- Projects in Design
 - Woodruff Road Congestion Relief (WRCR) Project information can be found at FixWoodruffRoad.com or contact Ms. Lucas. She advised this project is in preliminary design. A second public meeting is scheduled for April 2022 and then will move into right-of-way acquisition later this year, followed by construction.
 - S-107 Butler Road Project is progressing towards right-of-way plans. A second public meeting was held in November 2021, and comments were closed at the beginning of 2022. The right-of-way plans are set to be completed by the end of this year, followed by construction.

- Fountain Inn Woodside Streetscape is a TA Project that will be letting in May 2022.
- Riverside Middle School Sidewalk and Fountain Inn Woodside Connector TA Projects are underfunded. SCDOT is continuing to work with the municipalities to assist with additional funding. Both plans are completed.
- Guideshare Projects in construction in the GPATS area are as follows:
 - S-164 Batesville Road final surface from the bridge to Roper Mountain Road with an anticipated completion date at the end of April 2022.
 - SC-146 Woodruff Road Widening storm drainage, curb, and gutter installation continues. New signal poles are being installed at the Lowes Grocery intersection.
 - Roper Mtn Road/Roper Mtn Road Extention
 - ◆ Box culvert extension work began on Roper Mtn Road.
 - ◆ Drainage pipe installation continues on Roper Mtn Road Extention.
- Non-Guideshare Bridge projects were as follows:
 - S-75 Cherokee Rd over US-29
 - S-140 over Shoal Creek
 - S-250 over Doddies Creek
- Completed Project
 - SC-153 Intersection and Improvement Projects at Old Pendleton Road and River Road. This project is finished and will no longer be included in the status report.

Ms. Lucas made herself available for any questions.

Representative Cox advised since the signals have been activated on the SC-153 Intersection and Improvement Project, his office no longer receives calls regarding these intersections and is most appreciated.

Chairman Senator Rice added he received a call from Congressman Duncan regarding congestion at the interchange on I-85 and SC-153 and would like to see this matter listed as a future project.

Ms. Lucas replied she would look into the matter with her supervisors and advise.

Mr. Brockington added the SC-153 Extention was considered the beginning of the I-85 Widening Project, which is at the backend of the GPATS' Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The planning for this project has not started. The I-85 Widening begins at SC-153 to I-85/I-85 Business split in Spartanburg and would include this interchange in the evaluation. He advised it is on the list not specifically for the interchange but included as a corridor project.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES UPDATE

Asangwua Ikein addressed the Committee with Performance Target amendments to the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) documents for the Clemson Area Transit (CAT). The following Transit Safety Targets were reviewed:

- Mode of Transit Service for Fixed Route and Demand Response/Paratransit
 - Fatalities Total
 - Fatality Rate
 - Injuries Total
 - Injury Rate
 - Safety Events Total
 - Safety Even Rate
 - System Reliability

Mr. Ikein made himself available for any questions.

A question was asked why targets are increasing.

Mr. Brockington advised the targets are the State's targets, and the agencies are required to adopt them. He stated a request can be submitted to the State requesting why the targets are the way they are.

After further discussion, a suggestion was made to request SCDOT make a Performance Measure presentation to the Committee.

MOTION: By Representative Smith, seconded by Mayor Danner, to approve the Long-Range Transportation Plan Amendment as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no objections.

MOTION: By Mayor McLeer, seconded by Representative Smith, to approve the Transportation Improvement Program Amendment as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no objections.

GPATS TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENT AC #6

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee members with a proposed Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) FY2021-2026 Amendment AC #6 and advised the following changes:

At the Request of SCDOT, the following changes are being made to the TIP:

- Guideshare Allocation increased starting in FY2022, increased from \$18,078,000 to \$20,664,009
- Updated FY2022 Carryover balance to \$7,783,381.03

- Batesville Road (S-164) Phase II Pelham Road to the Parkway
 - STIP Conformity
 - ◆ Add \$8.5 million to FY2025 Advanced Construction
 - ◆ \$8.5 million FY2026 Advanced Construction Conversion
- Butler Road (S-107) from Bridges Road to US-276
 - Shift of Right-of-Way
 - ◆ \$1 million from FY2021 to FY2023
 - Shift Construction
 - ◆ \$4.5 million from FY2023 to FY2025
 - ◆ \$10 million from FY2024 to FY2026 Advanced Construction Conversion
 - ◆ Add \$10 million to FY2025 Advanced Construction
- Change in scope for Garlington Road project to extend termini to Pelham Road for Feasibility Report purposes and may result in the termini to Roper Mtn Road or accelerate Garlington Phase II to Pelham Road
- Addition of the SPATS project, SC-296 Reidville Road, for purposes of the Feasibility Report may result in the acceleration of the GPATS SC-296 Bennetts Bridge Road Project. There are no GPATS Guideshare funds assigned to this project. Should the Feasibility Report findings extend to Woodruff Road
 - ◆ \$100k in FY2022 of SPATS funding
- S-384 Bridge Replacement over Brushy Creek (Non-Guideshare)
 - Shift of Right-of-Way
 - ◆ Move \$50,000 from FY2022 to FY2023
- Addition of FY2022 SCDOT Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Projects
- Addition of Summary FY2022 FTA Transit funding to include all amounts for inclusion of FY2018 through FY2022
 - ◆ Mauldin-Simpsonville Urbanize Area (CA) increase FY2019 and FY2022 to a total of \$2,489,055.00

Mayor Merritt, with the City of Mauldin, advised prior conversations with Mr. Brockington and Ms. Lucas regarding TIP fiscal year and whether the State follows the municipality or federal fiscal year.

Ms. Lucas replied the State fiscal year is different from the Federal fiscal year; however, she follows the Federal fiscal year from October to September. She gave an example of a shift in funds from FY2022 to FY2023; it may appear to be moved for a whole year when it may be for one month due to how it falls in the Federal fiscal year.

Mayor Merritt replied to those who understand municipal the TIP FY2023 column begins in October 2022.

Mayor Danner, with the City of Greer, applauded the Committee and Staff considering a collaboration with Spartanburg Area Transportation Study (SPATS) with the SC-296 project by being proactive.

MOTION: By Senator Rice, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to approve the Transportation Improvement Program Amendment FY2021-2026 AC #6 as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no objections.

FTA SECTION 5310 CALL FOR PROJECTS

Asangwua Ikein addressed the Committee members with a Call for Projects for Federal Transit Authority (FTA) Section 5310 funding for the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities. There is \$879,553 available for applicants. Each year GPATS receives approximately \$350,000 for the FTA 5310. He stated these funds have lapsed twice, and if not used, they expire after three years and are returned to the Federal Reserve.

Mr. Ikein stated some agencies find it difficult to continue with a project due to the lack of bus drivers. He advised an approximately \$140,000 funds are also available from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplement Appropriations (CRRSA) Act. He stated the CRRSA funds do not require a local match for these funds, unlike the funding from the FTA 5310.

Mr. Ikein made himself available for any questions.

A question was asked what kind of projects qualify.

Mr. Ikein replied to anyone who is a non-profit or a transit agency.

UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM FY2023 CALL FOR PROJECTS

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee members with a Call for Projects for the FY2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Special Studies for adoption by Policy Committee in May 2023. He stated the available funding is unknown and will be made available when advised by SCDOT. A fillable form is available on the website for those interested. He stated the application deadline is March 18, 2022.

Mr. Brockington made himself available for questions.

BIKEWALK GREENVILLE PRESENTATION – WHITE HORSE ROAD SAFETY

Chairman Senator Rice introduced Frank Manbach with BikeWalk Greenville. He advised the Committee members he had listened to this presentation earlier and asked to notice the deaths reported. He requested additional information be included in this presentation if these deaths were associated with legal or nonlegal crossing areas.

Frank Mansbach, with BikeWalk Greenville, presented to the Committee members a presentation on results from a study by their Furman University Intern Loise Aleria on the Dangerous by Design report from Smart Growth America.

Mr. Mansbach stated the community is ranked fourteenth as the most dangerous in the country for pedestrians, which is well above the national average, recording 212 deaths from 2010 to 2019. He advised these deaths are concentrated in the poorest parts of the county. He gave an example of White Horse Road corridor design. He explained this corridor was designed to maximize the speed of motor vehicles without consideration for the needs of the people who live and work in the area, many of whom do not have vehicles.

Mr. Mansbach continued with the 2017 SCDOT's Road Safety Assessment for White Horse Road, which resulted in minimal pedestrian safety recommendations. He recommended a revised report be done to address the issue of equity and mobility in an underserved area of the community. He is advocating for a Pedestrian Safety report to include the following:

- Better lighting
- Improving existing crosswalks
- Additional crosswalks
- Increasing separation/barrier from the motor vehicles and sidewalks
- Revaluation of speed limits
- Potential traffic calming safety measures
 - Lane restriping
 - Elimination of slip lanes
 - Intersection updates or changes

Mr. Mansbach asks the Committee to request SCDOT prioritize a pedestrian study to include White Horse Road. He continued how many who live in this area are at the poverty level and must walk to their destinations whose lives are in danger due to the design of this road.

Mr. Mansbach made himself available for questions.

Commissioner Willard, with SCDOT, wanted to comment on the SCDOT study and planning done in 2017. He stated in 2021, a bid request was issued for pedestrian improvements. The bids SCDOT received were too high, and with the rebids are hopes for construction to begin in August or September of 2022. He advised SCDOT has continually looked at the conditions on White Horse Road, and funding has had a lot to do with the issues. He stated GPATS has received an additional \$2 million, which can be directed to other corridors, scenarios, or situations.

Mr. Mansbach replied he was unaware and inquired where this information could be found.

Commissioner Willard directed him to the SCDOT project viewer online.

Mayor Danner, with the City of Greer, inquired if the study and those improvements are dedicated on vehicle accidents and are pedestrians included.

Commissioner Willard replied most of the funding is to be spent on sidewalks accessibility, handicap accessibility, crosswalks, and suggestions from the SCDOT Safety Department.

A Committee member wanted to comment by improving the pedestrian ability to move in an area like August Road; this financially impacts those who most need our help. These improvements would make it more efficient to travel and save funds.

After further discussion, the following motion was made.

MOTION: By Mayor Danner, seconded by Representative Cox, to submit a request to SCDOT for the next Policy Committee meeting an update on addressing improvements for pedestrians and traffic in the GPATS area. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no objections.

Councilor Norris, with the County of Greenville, asked all to think and remember the children who walk.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Without objection Chairman Senator Rice adjourned the meeting at 11:19 a.m.

Submitted by Recording Secretary