

MINUTES
GPATS POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE
March 18, 2013
Conference Room A – County Square
10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice Chair Senator Martin, Representative Loftis, Representative Gary Smith, County Council Chair Taylor, Councilor Kirven, Councilor Norris, Councilor Payne, Councilor Meadows, Mayor Danner, Mayor Long; Mayor Raines, Mayor Eichor, Mayor White, Mayor Bagwell, Mayor Sheriff, Pickens Council Chair Willis, Commissioner Adams and J. Owings

OTHERS PRESENT: K. Brockington, T. Wedmore; H. Hahn; P. Gucker, J. Hekter, J. Gardner, J. Chasteen, K. Walters, M. Sullivan, P. Phillips, M. Rickards, S. Gwinn, T. Elrod, W. Ravenhorst, C. Brink, C. Link, H. Gamble, B. Jordan, B. West, D. Dyrhaug, F. Simons, G. Baney, R. Hawes, B. Martin, E. Dillon, D. Cooper and T. Fouche

Chairman Kirven called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Chairman Kirven welcomed and thanked all who took the time to attend the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 28, 2013 MINUTES

MOTION: By Senator Martin to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2013 regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Chairman Kirven brought to the secretary's attention that County Council Chairman Dr. Bob Taylor who is serving on the Committee was omitted from the vote at the January 28, 2013 minutes and attendance. The secretary would make the correction. (County Council Chairman would serve in place of Councilor Burns)

Chairman Kirven moved Agenda Item Number 11 up to allow for public Comment

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Elaine Creel addressed the Committee members regarding the Batesville Road project.

Mr. Tim Grisham echoed Ms. Creel's comments in opposition to the proposed project.

GPATS BOUNDARY EXPANSION

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee members with a map of the GPATS boundaries as submitted by the Policy Committee and verified by SCDOT as acceptable in meeting the 2010 Census Urbanized Areas. The SCDOT is required to submit the boundaries to the Federal Highway Administration and the boundaries must be adopted by the Policy Committee in advance.

MOTION: By Representative Smith, seconded by Senator Martin to adopt the boundary expansion as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

GPATS BYLAW CHANGES

Chairman Kirven thanked the members of the Ad Hoc Committee who worked on the changes to the Bylaws. He recognized Representative Smith and asked for any comments he had.

Representative Smith addressed the members of the Committee on the proposal the subcommittee has brought forward. He touched on the changes as were provided in each Committee member's packet as follows:

- Removal of State House District 26 seat from GPATS
- Addition of the current GTA Board Chair as a voting member (ex-officio prior)
- Addition of one (1) Pickens County Councilperson
- Addition of one (1) Pickens County Mayor
- Addition of the Chair of the Anderson County Planning Commission as a non-voting member
- Addition of the Chair of the Anderson County Legislative Delegation Transportation Committee as a non-voting member

Representative Smith stated there will be a total of 29 members on the Committee. Once the bylaws are approved, Pickens County and Anderson County will appoint their delegates to the committee and the structure will go into effect at the June 2013 Policy Committee meeting.

MOTION: By Representative Smith, seconded by Mayor Raines to approve the Bylaw changes as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

TIP AMENDMENT – GTA 5307 ANNUAL APPORTIONMENT

Greg Baney, Greenlink Planning and Grants manager addressed the Committee members with a request to amend the TIP to reflect the summary of funding as provided in each members packets. Approval of the FY2013 Apportionment will allow the Greenville Transit Authority Board to utilize funds for capital expenses and operations for the transit systems it oversees as the Regional Designated Recipient for FTA Section 53 funding.

Councilor Willis asked Mr. Baney for an estimate of what might be allocated to Clemson.

Mr. Baney stated a decision would be made at the Board meeting this month, but his guess would be 28% which would indicate 839,000.00.

MOTION: By Councilor Norris, seconded by Mayor Eichor to approve the amendment as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

GPATS/SCDOT PROJECT UPDATES

Tommy Elrod addressed the Committee members with an update on various projects within the GPATS area. Mr. Elrod also answered questions regarding traffic during the time the I-85 and I-385 work would be going on. He stated the majority of the work would be done during the night time hours.

Additionally, Mayor White requested information regarding agreements with utility providers concerning the relocation of utility poles. He stated he was referring to the Church Street project, which was completed in June but the utility poles were not relocated.

Mr. Elrod stated he was not familiar with the problem, but would look into the matter.

Councilor Willis requested an update regarding a project on road 18 and the bridge work. There are major issues with response time to emergency vehicles.

Steve Gwynn informed Councilor Willis the bridge was open this morning.

Mr. Elrod answered several other questions concerning projects in specific areas.

Commissioner Adams commented on the issue regarding the relocation of utility poles. He stated there is a contract in place for the relocation of utility poles. However, the utility providers can lobby Legislature and SCDOT does not and cannot. He suggested speaking with their legislators and letting them know what a cost it is to their districts.

DRAFT FY 2014 – 2019 TIP UPDATE

Keith Brockington went over a spreadsheet which was included in each packet detailing projects in the TIP and explained the funding currently for the program. He explained a final version would be presented to the Committee for approval at the June 2013 meeting. He stated the program is still under discussion at SCDO and FHWA. The final TIP would provide clearer guidance on how the program will proceed. Mr. Brockington stated it was a complicated process and offered his assistance after the meeting to anyone who had questions.

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM UPDATE

Keith Brockington explained to the Committee members the Transportation Enhancement Program under SAFTEA-LU ended October 1, 2012. He stated any future applications for Bicycle, Pedestrian, Greenway and associated Landscaping improvements must be filed with the SCDOT Transportation Alternatives Program. The following details are known and staff is awaiting further guidance on the operation of the program.

GPATS will receive an annual allocation of \$621,818 per year (TMA Allocation)

Funds will not longer be allocated to individual jurisdictions, and must be competitively applied for. Projects will be ranked by the Study Team and recommended for approval by the Policy Committee.

Mr. Brockington stated there was a draft application included with the Committees agenda packet. More information on the program will be forthcoming as guidance is provided by SCDOT and FHWA.

Mr. Brockington stated since the agenda packets were mailed, additional information has been received. Although balances cannot be carried over from one year to another, GPATS could look forward to expect funding. Applications are being accepted for new projects, but it is unknown at this time how many can be accepted.

UPWP PLANNING FUNDS – CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Tiffany Wedmore addressed the Committee regarding the process of updating the annual United Planning Work Program (UPWP) document. The UPWP details the transportation planning activities being carried out by GPATS each year. These activities include staff expenses, software, multimodal planning, travel model updates and the public involvement program.

Ms. Wedmore stated the PL/FTA allocation for FY2014 is \$519,960 and the carryover amount is \$95,292. She stated for several years, GPATS has allocated the majority of its PL carryover funds to municipalities and counties within the region to allow them to develop eligible plans and studies. The funds will again be allocated for this purpose in FY2014. Ms. Wedmore stated an application was included in each member's packet and must be returned to GPATS staff no later than May 1, 2013. If requests are received beyond what is able to be funded, the Study Team will review the applications at its May meeting and made recommendations to the Policy Committee to be approved in June 2013.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION AND TRAINING

Ms. Wedmore stated staff would be holding an orientation session for new members of the Policy Committee in April. A date will be chosen based on member availability and once membership is finalized. Ms. Wedmore extended the invitation to existing Committee members.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

GPATS RECERTIFICATION

Keith Brockington informed the Committee members of the recertification process which all MPO's must go through every four years. He stated on March 28, 2013 GPATS will have their recertification from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Conference Room B. He stated Policy Committee members and Study Team will be invited to a working lunch from noon until 1:00 on May 28, 2013 also in Conference Room B. Mr. Brockington requested anyone wishing to attend to RSVP by March 20, 2013. A public meeting will be held on the same day at 5:30 p.m. which all members are invited to attend, which is part of the recertification process.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: By Senator Martin to adjourn. Without objection the meeting was adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

Submitted by Recording Secretary