

MINUTES
GPATS POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE
May 16, 2022
10:00 a.m.
Suite 400 – County Square
Remote participation by Committee members

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

OTHERS PRESENT: H. Gamble, A. Stewart, A. Ikein, M. Peterson, C. Lewis, C. Lucas, E. Hailey, A. Bodmer, F. Spradley, B. Nelson, L. Mehserle, B. Groel, D. Montgomery, T. Houck, F. Mansbach, D. Beaty, E. Dillon, J. Chandler, M. Hirsch, and IS Dept

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Senator Rice called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Mayor Merritt requested a correction to the March 7, 2022, minutes to reflect the motion was made by Representative Smith, seconded by Mayor Merritt, to nominate Senator Rice as Chairman and Senator Turner as Vice-Chairman.

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 7, 2022 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: By Representative Smith, seconded by Mayor Merritt, to approve March 7, 2022, as amended. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no objections.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no individuals signed up for public comment.

SCDOT GPATS PROJECT STATUS UPDATE:

Erica Hailey, Assistant Project Manager with the SCDOT, addressed the Committee members 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 legal office is drafting the letter to the financial participation agreement (FPA). After the Town of Central has signed the FPA, SCDOT can begin the design.

- Projects in Design
 - Woodruff Road Congestion Relief (WRCR) Project is moving into the right-of-way design. A second public information meeting was held in April 2022, with a comment period until April 28, 2022. SCDOT expects to receive preliminary right-of-way plans by July 2022, with the right-of-way obligation set for December 2022.
 - S-107 Butler Road Project is in the preliminary design phase with an estimated completion date in June 2022 and the right-of-way obligation for Fall 2022.
 - Riverside Middle School Sidewalk and Fountain Inn Woodside Connector Projects are ready for construction letting. SCDOT continues to coordinate with the municipalities to assist with securing additional funding for both projects.
 - Fountain Inn Streetscape was let this month. A let review is scheduled for May 16, 2022, to discuss the bids received.
- Guideshare Projects in construction in the GPATS area are as follows:
 - S-164 Batesville Road's final asphalt work will be completed in May 2022. She advised there is a delay due to traffic signal material and additional work involving right-of-way issues. These delays have changed the completion date to August 2022.
 - SC-146 Woodruff Road Widening is scheduled to be completed in August 2022.
 - ◆ The concrete has been poured for the curb and gutter
 - ◆ Placing an asphalt base along Woodruff Rd and Scuffletown Rd
 - ◆ Storm drainage is nearing completion on Scuffletown Rd
 - Roper Mtn Road (RMR)/Roper Mtn Road Extension (RMRE) estimated completion date is May 2023.
 - ◆ Box culvert extension on RMR is 95% completed
 - ◆ Contractor has started the mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) wall
 - ◆ Drainage installation is approximately 70% completed on RMRE
 - ◆ Temporary paving has begun for the staged bridge construction
- Non-Guideshare Bridge Replacement projects were as follows:
 - S-75 Cherokee Rd over US-29 estimated completion for June 2024. The storm drain installation is underway. Preparation for the MSE wall has started and all erosion control, moving items, and clearing and grubbing have been completed.
 - S-140 over Shoal Creek estimated completion for June 2023. The bridge is closed, and demolition is underway for the existing bridge.
 - S-250 over Doddies Creek estimated completion for June 2023. The utility relocations are in progress. The closure is expected for the week of May 16, 2022.

Ms. Hailey made herself available for any questions.

Chairman Senator Rice asked if a report was available regarding a concern from Congressman Duncan at the last meeting regarding congestion at the SC-153 and I-85 interchange.

Ms. Hailey replied there was no report at this time.

Chairman Senator Rice stated the congestion at SC-153 and I-85 interchange potentially may be part of the I-85 widening project and requests this to be expedited.

Representative Cox inquired about the SC-75 Cherokee over US-29 project and asked if there would be a point during the construction when US-29 would not be available for passengers.

Ms. Hailey replied she would follow up with the SCDOT's construction office to confirm if there would be any anticipated road closures.

GPATS TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FY2023-2028:

Keith Brockington presented to the Committee members for the adoption of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) FY2023-2028. He explained this is a biennial update of the TIP as required by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to comply with the SCDOT's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). He reviewed the following changes as were included in the agenda packets:

Major changes made:

- The combining of FY 2020 and 2021 into the Previous Obligations column.
- The addition of FY 2027 and 2028 to the back end of the TIP.
 - Funding allocation of \$20.644 million per year was continued based on Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation (BIL) and SCDOT increase of Guideshare starting in FY2022.
- After coordination with SCDOT on funding allocation for projects, balancing the Guideshare spending, and clearing completed or canceled projects. New Projects were added per the GPATS LRTP and SC Act 114. Details of these changes in the Financial Statement with additions and changes are highlighted in blue, with removals highlighted in red.
- Non-Guideshare project additions and removals as requested by SCDOT.
- GTA/CAT FY2022 funding allocation is still available for GTA and CAT for FY2018 through FY2022. These years were merged into an FY2022 Summary column in the TIP to comply with the STIP.
- Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program FY2022 funding allocation.

Mr. Brockington made himself available for questions.

Representative Collins, with Pickens County, asked about the SC-183 Intersection Jameson Road Project roundabout and noticed in the status report this project is on hold, dependent on State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) application. He stated GPATS is no longer waiting on SIB and could construction now move forward for FY2023.

Ms. Lucas, Project Manager with the SCDOT, replied SCDOT had not received a notice to remove the hold from this project and deferred to the Policy Committee for their procedures to remove the hold.

Chairman Senator Rice asked if anyone who opposed moving forward was present, but there was no reply. He requested SCDOT to remove their hold and forward with the SC-183 Intersection Jameson Road Project.

MOTION: By Vice-Chairman Senator Turner, seconded by Representative Cox, to approve the Transportation Improvement Program FY2023-2028 as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no objections.

UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM FY2023 AMENDMENT:

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee members with an Amendment for the FY2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) included in the agenda packet. He advised GPATS had a carryover balance of \$228,242.00 for FY2022. The carryover balance will allow GPATS to issue a Call for Projects.

Mr. Brockington advised the City of Clemson applied for \$215,000.00 of the carryover funds and is included in the Element 403 Special Studies section of the UPWP.

Mr. Brockington made himself available for questions.

Chairman Senator Rice asked what the scope of this project was.

Mr. Brockington read the scope description from the application stating the project's goal is to complete a regional transportation study, develop a twenty-year plan for multiple municipalities to follow, improve the residents' quality of life, and promote alternative transportation options.

Mr. Brockington explained this was a broad scope, and GPATS would be working with the City of Clemson to develop the scope to comply with the application they submitted.

Mayor Halfacre of Clemson wants Committee members to know this study is a regional approach and not specific to the City of Clemson.

MOTION: By Representative Collins, seconded by Vice-Chairman Senator Turner, to approve the Unified Planning Work Program Amendment as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no objections.

TITLE VI PROGRAM UPDATE:

Asangwua Ikein addressed that the Committee members from the GPATS 2021 Certification required an update to the Title VI documents to comply with FTA standards. These updates were as follows:

- GPATS Title VI Plan 2022
 - Updating Demographics Data with the latest US Census data
- Public Participation Plan (PPP) 2022
 - Updating GPATS Organization, History, and Committees section
 - Addition of virtual participation in public meetings
- Updating the DRAFT Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan 2022,
 - Updating Demographics Data with the latest US Census data.

Mr. Ikein made himself available for questions.

Mayor Shewmaker, with the City of Simpsonville, noticed the City of Simpsonville was missing from the PPP.

Mr. Ikein advised the correction to add the City of Simpsonville would be made to the PPP.

MOTION: By Mayor Shewmaker, seconded by Representative Burns, to adopt all Amendments to the Title VI, Public Participation Plan, and the Limited English Proficiency plans. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no objections.

SCDOT REGIONAL MOBILITY PROGRAM PRESENTATION:

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee members on the GPATS letter submitted to SCDOT on pedestrian safety requested at the last meeting. The letter was included in each agenda packet.

Mr. Brockington introduced Machael Peterson, SCDOT Statewide Planning Chief, who presented the SCDOT Regional Mobility Program presentation to the Committee members. He advised the presentation was received too late to be included in each agenda packet. He stated a copy of the presentation was placed at each table for viewing.

Ms. Peterson gave a brief history of the Governor's designation of Transportation Planning responsibilities to SCDOT and advised information in the presentation is based on the 2010 census. She stated the 2020 census is expected later this summer to early fall of 2022. SCDOT's responsibilities are as follows:

- Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) and Council of Governments (COG) designations

- Coordination and approval of Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP) within the MPOs
- Statewide coordination and approval of TIP, including within the rural areas of the state

Ms. Peterson explained to Committee members the history of the Guideshare Funding formula and allocations for the MPOs and COGs as follows:

- Determine the overall MPO/COG Program funding level
- Divide the program into two categories MPO and COG
- Distribute the funding within the regional categories with a Total Program Level of \$138 million since FY2012
 - \$93 million, then allocated to the 11 MPOs (based on their relative share of the Study Area Population)
 - \$45 million, then allocated to the 10 COGs (based on their relative share of the Rural Population)

Ms. Peterson advised with the passing of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and additional funds received to the State, a total of \$100 million has been dedicated to the Guideshare funding program called the Regional Mobility Program. She stated of the \$100 million, SCDOT is anticipating MPOs/COGs to receive this funding over the next four to five years, making the total program budget \$238 million statewide. The 2010 census data was used for this calculation, along with the analysis of population versus funding. She stated a \$4 million minimum was set with a target to increase this minimum to \$5 million for MPOs/COGs. She reviewed the GPATS Guideshare amount increased by \$2.6 million.

Ms. Peterson explained the needs of the Regional Mobility Program would not only be for vehicles would also include bikes, pedestrians, freight, and transit. She reviewed the six policy elements essential to evaluate mobility for each region's transportation system. These were as follows:

- Access
- Time Efficiency
- Reliability
- Safety
- Travel Options
- Land Use Planning & Transportation Linkage

Ms. Peterson advised the SCDOT is taking a data-driven approach to transportation planning by collaborating with MPOs, COGs, and local jurisdictions. Once projects have been identified, this includes serving all users; projects are then analyzed, evaluated, and prioritized. She advised when the programs are implemented in projects, SCDOT will measure the success of those programs. She stated SCDOT's GIS mapping tool helps

visualize the needs from the data collected and asked GPATS to comment on the mapping tool for the GPATS area.

Representative Collins, with the County of Pickens Legislative Delegation, asked to confirm the goal for each MPOs/COGs is to reach \$5 million and does SCDOT compare the outputs of all the MPOs/COGs, for example, in an efficient study.

Ms. Peterson confirmed the goal is to increase the set floor amount from \$4 million to \$5 million and is unaware of any reports of the MPOs/COGs.

Representative Smith, with the County of Greenville Legislative Delegation, expressed his concerns:

1. Keep the focus on what GPATS' purpose is and not get bogged down in the process
2. Input versus actual decision making by the local authorities
3. Local officials experience firsthand on the ground to determine if the need is a good idea for an area

Ms. Peterson replied the decision-making continues to rest with the MPOs/COGs. She advised the input SCDOT receives from MPOs/COGs assists in what will work in their areas. This program does not preclude any MPOs/COGs from managing their programs.

Pamela Christopher, SCDOT Commissioner for the Third Congressional District, confirmed she listens to the concerns and tours the nine counties she represents. She wants to meet with each county and its mayors in the third district to discuss what they are witnessing and their long-range planning. She suggested the possibility of once a year bringing together a member from each county to discuss these concerns and then include those from the Fourth Congressional District to examine the whole upstate. She explained the approach must be looked at on a regional level as to where this goes, and SCDOT needs close collaboration with the MPOs/COGs for this Regional Mobility Program to be successful.

Representative Burns, with the Greenville County Legislative Delegation, asked in regarding moving the threshold up from \$4 million to \$5 million.

After a brief discussion, Ms. Peterson advised a formula was formally used incorporating vehicle miles traveled, which may need to be looked at again. She stated she could not comment on what formula would be used until it could be further analyzed after the 2020 census was released.

Representative Burns, with the Greenville County Legislative Delegation, announced at a Town Hall meeting in the northern end of Greenville County he attended last year. He stated the allocations to the upper part of the county in 2020 the state road miles in District 17 could never be repaired. There is also, if not an equal amount of county

roads in this same district. He wants SCDOT to consider the road miles needing to be maintained and not just population.

Ms. Peterson replied she would return to SCDOT with this concern and advised it is the same concern from others in the state.

NEW BUSINESS:

Keith Brockington spoke on the GPATS Transportation Alternative (TA) Program. He stated GPATS had received approximately \$1.3 million this year. After working through the uncertainty of issues with projects, GPATS plans to do a Call for Projects this summer. GPATS will be working with SCDOT to refine the GPATS TA Program. Reforming the Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinating Committee (BPCC) was the first step and now has twelve members from the Study Team volunteers to help develop the program on how it is administered. Staff intends to bring the TA Program to the Study Team in July for their recommendation and then to the Policy Committee for approval, with projects for approval by the Policy Committee in October 2022.

Keith Brockington announced GPATS Staff is planning a kick-off to the required 5-year update to its Horizon2040 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The update is minor and will update the GPATS demographics and the Travel Demand Model to re-rank projects. The accelerated schedule is as follows:

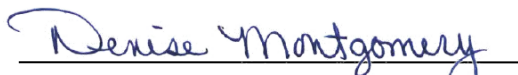
- May, June, and July – Data collection and analysis, survey distributed
- July – Public Input and Information Meetings
 - Seven Meetings in Greenville, Easley, Simpsonville, Greer, Clemson, Travelers Rest, and Williamston
- July & August – Draft 2045 LRTP Addendum to the Horizon2040 Plan
- September & October – Final Addendum Present for Adoption

Mr. Brockington stated staff would be working with the Study Team to conduct this LRTP update and provide updates to the Policy Committee, SCDOT, FHWA, and FTA.

Pamela Christopher, SCDOT Commissioner for the Third Congressional District, announced SCDOT Commissioner Woody Willard for the Fourth Congressional District had concluded his appointment with SCDOT. She gave tribute to Commissioner Willard for his service to the area and will be missed. She advised the Governor has appointed Max Metcalf as the next SCDOT Commissioner for the Fourth Congressional District.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Without objection Chairman Senator Rice adjourned the meeting at 11:27 a.m.


Submitted by Recording Secretary