

MINUTES
GPATS POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE
June 15, 2015
Suite 400 – County Square
10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Butch Kirven, Vice Chairman Senator Martin, Representative Smith, Representative Burns, Representative Putman, Councilor Meadows, Councilor Payne, County Council Chair Taylor, Councilor Norris, Pickens Council Chair Willis, Councilor Smith, Commissioner Willard, Commissioner Davis, Mayor Baughman, Mayor Cook, Mayor Bagwell, Mayor Long, Mayor McCall, M. Shockley, P. Dilger and K. Brockington

OTHERS PRESENT: P. Gucker, H. Hahn, M. Floyd, S. Julius, M. Tollison, K. Wunder, H. Gamble, D. Dyrhaug, D. Cooper, J. Horton, M. Forman, M. Rickerts, F. Curti, K. Vass, K. Smith, H. Hopkins, S. Stephens, P. Mills, B. Farley, S. Wilson, E. Dillon, B. Wilson, J. Allison, T. Elrod, J. Chasteen

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kirven called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. He welcomed everyone and recognized SCDOT Commissioner Davis and also Mr. Milton Shockley, Chairman of the Greenville County Planning Commission. Both are new members to the GPATS Committee.

Commissioner Davis stated the few months he had been on the Commission, he had heard an awful lot of talk in the media and amongst folds about the Commissioners getting together and discuss which roads to work on, or a Legislator calls and says here is something you need to do. He stated that had not occurred at all, in fact, under Act 114, all the roads are ranked by staff; the lowest bidder is given the contract. We are simply there to approve what you folks, the Legislators did in Act 114. It is a good group of Commissioners, an efficient staff, and a need for a strong leadership in the Secretary position. Commissioner Davis stated it was a pleasure to represent the GPATS area.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 16, 2015 COMMITTEE MEETING.

Representative Smith pointed out two typographical errors to the minutes of March 16, 2015. The minutes will reflect the corrections.

MOTION: By Senator Martin to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2015 meeting. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no individuals signed up to speak.

SCDOT PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

Tommy Elrod, Project Manager with the SCDOT updated the Committee members on projects within the GPATS area as were included in the agenda packets.

Mr. Elrod stated the SC153 project Phase 1 and Phase 2 have been combined due to obtaining a permit from the Corps of Engineers. He stated typically credits are obtained from the Grove Creek Mitigation Bank; however, currently there are not enough credits to be obtained for the project and no further credits are scheduled to be released until late 2016. He stated at the same time other options are being looked at, but it appeared the project would be delayed up to one year. Until the credits are available and purchase, ground cannot be broken.

Mr. Elrod was asked about what type of permitting was needed.

Mr. Elrod stated it was a Federal Guideline if so many feet are disturbed within a creek; credits need to be obtained to restore that many feet of the creek. If credits were available now, it would cost in the neighborhood of \$800,000.00.

Mr. Elrod was asked about a roundabout in Pickens County and had he heard there being any issues with it.

Mr. Elrod stated he had not heard anything specifically about that roundabout. He mentioned there were 14 roundabouts statewide and a review had been done indicating fatal accidents being reduced 100%, injury accidents reduced 70% and overall accident rate was down about 70%.

TRANSIT DIRECT RECIPIENT / FY 2015 APPORTIONMENT UPDATE

Mr. Kirven addressed the Committee members regarding the continued efforts to become direct recipient status. He stated the process has required a large amount of legal work which has been performed by the Greenville County Attorney and staff. He stated he would like to move forward in formalizing the arrangement.

MOTION: By Senator Martin, seconded by Representative Smith to ratify the appointment of the Greenville County Attorney's Office to serve as legal counsel to GPATS for the purpose of providing the required opinion of the counsel to the Federal

Transit Administration in connection with GPATS application for Federal assistance as a Direct Recipient. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Brockington stated the FTA 5310/5339 Direct Recipient Packet had been completed and submitted. As soon as GPATS is a certified Direct Recipient, staff will begin working on applications for the spending of the Fiscal Year 2014 and 2015 funds for these programs. Additionally, Mr. Brockington stated the FY 2015 Transit Apportionments need to be incorporated into the GPATS TIP (Transportation Improvement Program). At this time FTA has only published the 8/12ths number on their website. GPATS has include the 8/12ths as an Illustrative Apportionment for the FY2015 and will issue an Administrative Correction once the full apportionments are provided. Mr. Brockington provided the committee with a spreadsheet detailing the formula breakdown between the Greenville Transit Authority and Clemson Area Transit for FY2015, which will be updated when the full Annual Apportionment is provided.

MOTION: By Representative Smith, seconded by Councilor Norris to ratify the Opinion of Counsel for the Federal Transit Administration Direct Recipient Application. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

GPATS ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM, FY2015 CYCLE

Keith Brockington updated the Committee on the FY2015 Cycle of the Transportation Alternative Program. He stated two applications were submitted: Greenville County applied for \$450,000 for the next phase of the Poinsett Corridor Project. This will not require a new submission of a full application, LPA or Participation Agreement as it is a continuance of an existing project. SCDOT and Greenville County will work to amend the existing Participation Agreement to account for the new funding. Additionally, the town of Williamson applied for and is working in conjunction with Anderson County, for the construction of sidewalks on Minor Street. The application was for \$200,000.

GPATS 2016-2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Keith Brockington spoke of the draft financial statement for the GPATS Fiscal Years 2016 through 2021 Transportation Improvement Program. He explained the changes which were made as represented in the spreadsheet which was included in each member's agenda packet.

MOTION: By Representative Burns, seconded by Councilor Payne to approve the GPATS 2016-2021 Transportation Improvement Program. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

GPATS 2016-2017 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee with information on the Financial Statements for the Unified Planning Work Program. At the request of FHWA, FTA and

SCDOT all MPO's in South Carolina are moving to biennial UPWP documents. He stated both years the major expense of the UPWP will be the Long-Range Transportation Plan, which will be funded over the course of both fiscal years. GPATS will not be submitting RFP's until later this summer, therefore, an estimated cost of the LRTP is hard to come by and allocating sufficient funding using prior year PL funding levels seems prudent. The numbers will be adjusted as the final costs for the LRTP are established.

MOTION: By Senator Martin, seconded by Representative Burns to approve the FY 2016 -2017 Unified Planning Work Program. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Bridges

Representative Burns stated he had received a call from a concerned parent of a child at Blue Ridge Middle School who does not have transportation for his children to school due to the closing of a bridge to heavy transportation, which includes school busses, Fire trucks and emergency equipment. He stated he had found out the school district was paying child care for the parents to bring their children to a location where the busses could reach them. Additionally, Representative Burns learned of three other bridges, three other roads, three other schools within the County with the same situation. So, there are four bridges with limited access for school children, fire trucks and ambulances causing longer response times. Additionally, another situation with a complete closure of the bridge at River Falls going into Jones Park.

Representative Burns recognized Betty Farley and Pam Mills with the School District. He also recognized Brandon Wilson and Jason Allison with the SCDOT who gave a presentation giving the status of four bridges within the GPATS area. He requested the Chairman appoint a committee to look at the safety issues and give a priority ranking on the bridges.

Pam Mills with the Greenville County School District thanked the Committee and Representative Burns for taking the time to look into the problems with the bridges. She stated the School District feels the four bridges identified are the most troublesome for the school district.

Brandon Wilson with the SCDOT went over each of the four bridges giving updates on when any anticipated repairs would be made to each. The four bridge locations were: E. Tyger Bridge Road, Greer; Edwards Road, Taylors; Tall Pines Road, Fountain Inn and McKelvey Road, Pelzer.

Council Chair Willis requested bridges in Pickens County also be look at as well as the bridges in Greenville County.

Chairman Kirven stated the bridges were really out of GPATS prevue except to encourage, support and assist in any way we can.

Councilor Norris stated she had waited for 19 years for a bridge.

Representative Burns asked if Mr. Wilson could check on having a temporary bridge for River Falls.

Mr. Wilson stated he had met with the state bridge engineer who felt it was not a good site for a temporary bridge, but would address the issue again.

Chairman Kirven appointed Representative Burns, Mr. Willard and Representative Smith to look at the bridge situation.

Mayor Bagwell introduced the new City Administrator for Easley, who replaces Fox Simmons, Steve Stephens.

Piedmont Health Foundation Presentation

Katy Smith with the Piedmont Health Foundation gave a brief presentation on the foundation and its work with providing grants to individuals with a means of transportation to assist people. She stated there was as Steering Committee and a hired a consultant to conduct the study in assisting people to get where they need to go. The study will determine the current ridership of existing services, looking at current assets and overlapping services. She stated transportation and a lack of it is a primary barrier for economic success. People desperately want jobs but cannot get to them. She stated a report would be released in November which looks at the assets available and how to take advantage of them in a way to get folks where they need to go in Greenville County.

Chairman Kirven thanked Ms. Smith for her presentation.

MOTION: By Representative Putnam, seconded by Representative Smith to request staff to draft a letter on behalf of the membership to the delegation about the concerns the Committee has regarding obtaining credits from the Corps of Engineers to move forward with projects. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Chairman Kirven stated once the letter was drafted it would be distributed to the Committee for their input.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, and without objection the meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Submitted by Recording Secretary