

MINUTES
GPATS POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

June 18, 2012

Conference Room A – County Square

10:02 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Senator Thomas, Chairman, Representative Putnam, Greenville Council Chair Kirven, Councilor Payne, Councilor Norris, Councilor Meadows; Councilor Burns, Pickens Council Chair Willis; Mayor Long; Mayor Raines, Mayor Owens, Mayor Danner, Mayor McCall, Mayor Bagwell, Mayor Eichor, Commissioner Edwards, J. Barbare, J. Owings, C. Burgess and D. Mitchell

OTHERS PRESENT: K. Brockington, T. Wedmore; H. Hahn; P. Gucker, J. Wortkoetter, H. Gamble, K. Drummond, T. Elrod, E. Dillon, S. Gwinn, M. Sullivan, J. Hekter, J. Chasteen, B. West, G. Sprague, D. Horton and C. Brink

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 19, 2012 MINUTES

MOTION: By Mayor Bagwell, seconded by Mayor Owens to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2012 regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST FOR CALLED POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING, AUGUST 2012

John Owings addressed the Committee members to notify each the possibility of the need to have a called meeting in August. He stated there were several time sensitive items which the Committee may need to address. Mr. Owings requested each to look at either Friday, August 10, 2012 or Monday, August 13, 2012 as possible meeting dates.

After a brief discussion, the Chairman announced that the meeting, if necessary would be held on Monday, August 13, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at County Square.

GPATS/SCDOT PROJECT UPDATES

Tommy Elrod with the South Carolina Department of Transportation addressed the Committee members with a project status update as was included in the agenda packets. He stated he was available for questions at that time or after the meeting.

BUTLER ROAD AND BATESVILLE ROAD PROJECTS UPDATES

Butler Road Project

Tommy Elrod with the SCDOT addressed the Committee members with a design option for the Butler Road project. Mr. Elrod stated the option would minimize the impact to the Open Air Market by shifting Corn Road 5 feet in the direction of the school. The

shift would cut down the amount of the triangle shaped right of way originally planned at the Open Air Market.

County Council member Payne stated he thought the new design would be the best alternative.

Senator Thomas requested Mr. Elrod meet and show in detail the design to Ms. Chandler, making sure this new design would allow the trucks entering the Open Air Market ample area to turn around.

MOTION: By Mayor Long, seconded by County Council member Payne to delay the voting on the item until the August meeting. In addition, have Mr. Elrod present at the August meeting a side by side view of both the original design and the new design with cost estimates of both designs. Mr. Long asked that the information be sent to the Committee members prior to the meeting and asked the Ms. Chandler be notified also prior to the meeting of the information. The motion carried unanimously.

Batesville Road Project

Tommy Elrod addressed the Committee members about a proposal that was made at the March GPATS meeting on behalf of a property owner impacted by the Batesville Road project to consider placing a roundabout at the Pelham Falls intersection. Mr. Elrod stated the engineers with the SCDOT did not recommend a roundabout at that location but recommend a signalized light. He stated there was not enough traffic volume to warrant a roundabout.

Mr. Keith Denny, attorney for the property owner, Elaine Creel addressed the Committee members stating the engineers looked at a one lane roundabout and not a two lane roundabout. He also stated again, what negative impact the project will have of Ms. Creel's property.

Chairman Thomas opened the meeting to speakers on the subject.

Ms. Elaine Creel addressed the Committee on the negative impact the project would have on her property and voiced the bridge the SCDOT wanted to tear down and replace was built in 1997 and was still structurally sound. She stated the roundabout would preserve her property and the property of other land owners in the area.

Ms. Virginia Barnett spoke in favor of the roundabout. She stated a roundabout would not affect her property or her family's property and she would prefer that rather than a signalized system.

After a lengthy discussion over the two options, with Commissioner Edwards in agreement with the SCDOT, County Council Chairman Kirven in favor of the roundabout along with Mayor Eichor the following motion was made.

MOTION: By Mayor Eichor, seconded by Council Chair Kirven to adopt Ms. Creel's proposal as much as possible and fully analyze each option, including a double lane roundabout and come back to the Committee in August with the information. The motion carried unanimously.

FY2013 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM SUBMITTAL FOR APPROVAL

Tiffany Wedmore presented the Committee members with the FY2012 Unified Work Program as provided in the agenda packets. She explained the work program identifies the transportation planning activities being carried out by GPATS with the use for FHWA Planning (PL) and FTA funds.

Pickens Council Chair Willis expressed her concern that Pickens County was not informed of the monies available.

Chairman Thomas suggested contacting Paula Gucker with any questions regarding projects and asked staff to better communicate with the committee members regarding available funding.

Keith Brockington reminded the Committee the funding has been available since 2007 and has been utilized every year.

MOTION: By County Council Chair Kirven, seconded by Commissioner Edwards to approve the FY2012 Unified Planning Work Program,

LRTP UPDATE AND CALL FOR ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee members on the call for Enhancement projects. He stated staff had requested the Study Team members develop their projects with their elected officials and submit them to staff no later than July 1, 2012. Mr. Brockington stated the list of projects will be brought to the Policy Committee at the August meeting.

Mr. Brockington also provided the members with a list of available funds for each jurisdiction using the apportionment formula that was approved last year. He reminded everyone enhancement monies require a 20% local match.

Chairman Thomas informed the newer members that staff (Keith) was available for a tutorial regarding the process.

CENSUS 2010 URBAN AREA EXPANSION

Keith Brockington discussed with the members of the Committee the expansion of the Urban Areas after the 2010 Census. He stated staff would be meeting with elected officials, administrators and planners around the region to resolve the single set of boundaries prior to the August deadline. Mr. Brockington explained the implications of the expansion and stated if a single set of boundaries cannot be agreed upon, GPATS will have to proceed with assumption of the entire Urban Area, by Federal Law.

NEW BUSINESS

Hampton Avenue Bridge

Commissioner Edwards and Steve Gwinn spoke about the Hampton Avenue Bridge. Mr. Gwinn noted it was closed to traffic in 1994 because it was structurally defective. He stated over the last 18 years the SCDOT had placed guardrails and fence to block the bridge off. However, the bridge still is being used for foot traffic. Norfolk Southern will remove the bridge at their cost but in the agreement no bridge will go in its place. Norfolk Southern wants to clear the tracks. Mr. Gwinn stated he has contacted Norfolk Southern, regarding a pedestrian bridge and is awaiting word back. Commissioner Edwards has asked for a cost estimate for a foot bridge and that estimate will be brought to Committee in August.

County Councilor Norris voiced her support for the pedestrian bridge.

Southern Connector Group Informational Presentation

Due to time constraints, the item was held until the August meeting.

Greenlink

Mr. David Mitchell, Chairman of the Greenville Transit Authority Board, introduced Mr. Mark Richards, who is the new Transit Director for Greenlink.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Jolyn Chandler addressed the Committee in opposition to the new design for the Butler Road project. She stated she felt the project was aimed at her and her property.

Ms. Brenda Willis addressed the Committee regarding the Sandy Flats road project. She was in opposition of the signalized option proposed by the SCDOT. She stated of the 1.83 acres she and her husband owned, the project would take .83 acres and asked that the SCDOT look at another option

Chairman Thomas requested information regarding the project be presented at the August meeting.

Mayor Danner was empathetic to citizens within the County who are encountering issues with road projects. However, he would suggest the Committee move with caution in the dark dealing with these issues. He felt the Committee needed to be careful as far as how involved the Committee becomes regarding roads.

Mayor Bagwell requested all to keep Senator Martin in their thoughts as he had laid his father to rest today.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, without objection, Chairman Thomas adjourned the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

Submitted by Recording Secretary