

MINUTES
GPATS POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE
August 16, 2021
Suite 400 – County Square – with limited seating
Remote participation by Committee members
10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Butch Kirven, Vice Chairman Senator Rex Rice, Senator Allen, Senator Turner, Representative Collins, Representative Smith, Councilor Davis, Council Chair Meadows, Councilor Alex Saitta, Councilor Seman, Commissioner Christopher, Commissioner Willard, GTA Chair Dick O’Neill, Mayor Amidon, Mayor Danner, Mayor Halfacre, Mayor McLeer, Mayor Petersen, Mayor Sanders, Mayor Shewmaker, Mayor Womack, and Keith Brockington

OTHERS PRESENT: P. Gucker, T. Coker, B. Groel, D. Montgomery, J. Chasteen, J. Christian, B. Rewis, C. Lewis, C. Lucas, E. Hailey, R. Ward, J. Chandler, R. Pickney, E. Dillon, and J. Mustar

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Kirven called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 17, 2021 COMMITTEE MEETING

MOTION: By Councilor Meadows, seconded by Senator Turner, to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2021 Committee meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no individuals signed up for public comment.

SCDOT PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

Casey Lucas addressed the Committee members with a brief project updates presentation included in the agenda packets:

- Woodruff Road Congestion Relief Project Phase II began in June 2021, allowing the consultant to pull surveys and designs into right-of-way plans then into construction plans. She stated the right-of-way obligation is scheduled for December 2022 and the construction obligation for October 2026.
- Butler Road Project; SCDOT has continued conversations with the City of Mauldin, discussing the project’s path forward. From the July 9, 2021 meeting with the City of Mauldin, a decision was made to have an additional public meeting at the end of the year to receive public comments on the refined preferred alternative. She advised the right-of-way obligation is now scheduled for Fall 2022 and the construction obligation for Fall 2024. SCDOT is pursuing a contract modification with the consultant for the additional work required on

the preliminary engineering based on the preferred alternative. She advised this is not causing a delay in the design development.

- Riverside Middle School Sidewalk; SCDOT continues to coordinate with ACSD 4 to secure additional funding for letting.
- Fountain Inn Woodside Streetscape and Fountain Inn Woodside Connector, SCDOT is working with the City of Fountain Inn to look for alternative sources of funding with the possibility of combining the two projects to reduce cost. She advised a possible let date for the beginning of 2022.

- Projects in construction
 - Batesville Road
 - Woodruff Road Widening the estimated completion date has been pushed to May 2022
 - Roper Mtn Road/Roper Mtn Road Extension, the contractor, anticipates roadwork to begin in September 2021 after all utilities are relocated. Work has started on the box culvert extension and retaining wall.
 - SC-153 Intersection Improvements
 - ◆ Old Pendle Road is almost completed. Concrete median, loops, and pavement markings remain.
 - ◆ River Road culvert replaced, and headwalls are being installed with the Southern section to begin paving soon.

Ms. Lucas made herself available for any questions.

Representative Smith asked if a date for the public meeting for Butler Road Project has been made.

Ms. Lucas advised a date has not been scheduled and would be towards the end of the year. She stated SCDOT will coordinate with the City of Mauldin regarding selecting the date for this meeting, advertising, and location. She explained SCDOT is working on the design plans to have a more exact location to present at the public meeting.

GPATS TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENT FY 2021 – 2026

AC #5

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee members, stating included in their packets were the Draft Financial Statement for the GPATS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), FY2021-FY2026. The proposed amendment would be known as AC #5.

Mr. Brockington explained the following changes being made to the TIP at the request of SCDOT:

- Woodruff Road Widening – Scuffletown to Bennetts Bridge
 - \$9.5 million in FY2019 as AC
 - \$4.5 million in FY2020 as ACC (spending of AC)
 - \$5 million in FY2021 as ACC (spending of AC)

- CRRSAA (Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act) the addition of \$2.721 million from Woodruff Road Congestion Relief Project for FY2022
- Woodruff Road Congestion Relief Project (Woodruff Parallel)
 - Shift of ROW
 - Shift of ROW and AC to FY2023
 - Addition of ROW ACC to FY2026
 - Removal of CRRSAA funding from FY2022 and applying to Woodruff Road Widening Project
- SC Recreational Trails Program Grants – FY2021
 - Bolick/Cannon Trail – Town of Central, \$125,000
 - The Pavilion Miniature Rail-Trail – Greenville County, \$125,000
- CATbus Planning Administration/Security
 - Extrapolation of \$10,000 per year in FY2022-2025
- American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act 21
 - Addition of \$69,790 FY2021 – 5310 funding
 - Addition of \$533,200.00 FY2021 – 5307 funding
 - ◆ GTA Greenville UZA \$351,105.53
 - ◆ CAT Greenville UZA \$182,094.47

Commissioner Willard inquired if GPATS received notification refunded an additional amount of \$420,000.

Mr. Brockington advised notification of CRRSAA funds for FY2022 \$840,000 was received and noted in the previous TIP Financial Statement AC #4. He stated the correction to remove \$420,000 in FY2022 and FY2023 would be made after the meeting then posted on the website for viewing.

Mayor Danner read a summary from Municipal Association announcing the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding will be available to municipalities soon. He asked if agencies could use GPATS Staff or connections at the State to assist with the proper use of these funds.

Mr. Brockington advised that he and SCDOT are unaware of ARP allocations outside of MPO areas only for GPATS use and will share information when made available.

Chairman Kirven wanted to confirm the information was found on Municipal Association.

Mayor Danner stated this was correct and would forward the article. He advised there were instructions on how to be placed on a list.

MOTION: By Mayor McLeer, seconded by Representative Smith, to approve the Transportation Improvement Program Amendment FY2021-2026, AC #5. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

GPATS FY2022-2023 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AMENDMENT

Keith Brockington addressed the Commission members with an amendment to the FY2022-2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) included in the agenda packets. This amendment allows a purchase order to be generated through the County of Greenville for payment to the Appalachian Council of Government (ACoG) for annual maintenance of the Regional Travel Demand Model for \$14,500. He explained these funds are from the UPWP carryover and will be placed with the Element 403 Special Studies as a line item for a purchase order to be created.

Chairman Kirven inquired if this would be an occurring annual expense.

Mr. Brockington stated this would be a yearly expense. ACoG has a full travel modeler on staff, making this financially beneficial for GPATS. GPATS can avoid hiring a consultant every two years at the cost of over \$200,000. He advised this expense will be included as a line item within the Planning Activities in the upcoming fiscal years.

MOTION: By Representative Smith, seconded by Senator Turner to approve the FY2022-2023 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FISCAL YEAR 2021 UPDATE – NO CALL FOR PROJECTS YET

Brennan Groel addressed the Committee members with an update for the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program. She advised since the last Policy Committee meeting, GPATS received a new funding summary advising on possible construction obligation reduction for the following:

- City of Greenville’s Haywood Road Sidewalk \$278,000
- Town of Williamston’s Minor Street Sidewalks \$169,000

Ms. Groel stated should these TA projects close-out at the estimated lower construction cost, approximately \$42,000 thousand would still be needed for obligated TA projects. SCDOT advised potential other alternatives:

- 1) Haywood Road Sidewalk closing at \$278,000 would create a positive TA balance of \$79,000.
- 2) Woodside Streetscape may qualify for Transportation Enhancement (TE) funds if funds are available at the time of its construction phase, making a positive TA balance of approximately \$150,000.

Ms. Groel advised there is no call for projects and will continue to update the Committee of all changes.

2021 GPATS QUADRENNIAL CERTIFICATION REVIEW

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee members that GPATS is classified as a Transportation Management Area (TMA). Every four years, a review and certification are done by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT). He advised the GPATS 2017 review can be found on the website.

Mr. Brockington advised the TMA review meeting is scheduled for August 24, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with a public session from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Greenville County Square Conference Rooms A & B. Public comments will only be accepted during the scheduled session time. All members of the Policy Committee, Study Team, and Informational Attendees are welcome to attend. He stated links are available for those wanting to attend virtually.

Chairman Kirven asked when the certification results would be available.

Mr. Brockington stated at the end of the day, the panel will provide what they collected. He advised GPATS in the next few months expects to receive a preliminary report and will present this at the next Policy Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Kirven asked if SCDOT Commissioners would like to address the members of the Committee.

SCDOT Commissioner Willard stated the census tract data information is arriving and will impact some future funding elements. He advised the Commissioners have a workshop in two weeks, with this being a topic of discussion. He is hoping the result will result in additional funding to the MPOs and COGs.

SCDOT Commissioner Christopher commented on the Federal Infrastructure Bill. She stated the US Senators' requested them to go through the 2,500-page document and send back a report. She advised SCDOT currently receives \$733 million. Under this bipartisan proposal, South Carolina is poised to receive over a thirty percent increase in federal road and bridge funding over the next five years. This 30 percent increase total estimates in \$1 billion additional federal funding directed to the State's roads and bridge network over the next five years. She stated from the Infrastructure Plan, SCDOT wants to increase investment in projects to improve safety, mobility, and quality of life for residents, businesses, and visitors. She will continue to monitor and advise the Committee during the legislative process. This Infrastructure proposal also includes funding for transit, rail, and broadband deployment. She wanted everyone to know SCDOT will continue to look at how to increasing funding for MPOs and COGs.

Mayor Halfacre wanted Committee members to know in the year 2022, Highway 93 Feasibility Study to be updated. He inquired to see how the scope was determined and who would be in charge of the project.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: By Senator Turner, seconded by Mayor Petersen, to adjourn. There being no further business, and without objection Chairman Kirven adjourned the meeting at 10:39 a.m.



Submitted by Recording Secretary