

MINUTES
GPATS POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE
August 17, 2020
Meeting conducted by remote participation
10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Butch Kirven, Senator Rice, Senator Allen, Senator Turner, Representative Burns, Representative Collins, Representative Smith, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Willard, Councilor Costner, Councilor Davis, Councilor Meadows, Councilor Seman, Councilor Tripp, Mayor Amidon, Mayor Danner, Mayor Durham, Mayor McLeer, Mayor Merritt, Mayor Petersen, Mayor Shewmaker, Mayor Womack, Ruth Sherlock, and Keith Brockington

OTHERS PRESENT: P Gucker, T. Coker, H. Gamble, B. Groel, H. Hahn, D. Montgomery, E. Hailey, C. Lucas, C. Lewis, and, J. Christian

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Chairman Kirven called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and thanked those in attendance on the virtual platform. He requested a roll call of the Policy Committee members present to be administered by Keith Brockington.

Keith Brockington gave procedure instructions for the attendance roll call of panelists, asking each member to unmute their microphone after their name is called and provide an acknowledgment.

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 18, 2020 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:

MOTION: By Councilor Tripp, seconded by Mayor Durham to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2020 Committee meeting as presented. The motion was carried unanimously by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no requests submitted from individuals to speak with the Committee.

SCDOT PROJECT STATUS UPDATE:

Erica Hailey, Assistant Program Manager with the SCDOT, addressed the Committee with a slide presentation update on various projects within the GPATS area, as were included in each member's packet.

- S-272 West Georgia Rd Improvements project was awarded to CECS for preliminary engineering services and was given the notice to proceed in July 2020. She stated the design would include three turn lanes at Neely Ferry, E. Standing Springs Road, and Rocky Creek Road, along with widening from Kettle Oak Way to Rio Grand and Morning Mist Lane to Malibu Lane.

- S-154 over Huff Creek Bridge Replacement preliminary engineering will be completed by CDM Smith. She advised CDM Smith was given the notice to proceed in July 2020.
- Woodruff Rd Parallel's Environmental Assessment (EA) document was signed by FHWA in early April 2020. She advised the virtual public hearing has ended, and SCDOT is reviewing the submitted comments. She stated the next step would be to negotiate a contract for right-of-way plan development with ICE.
- SC-107 Butler Rd traffic analysis is completed and being reviewed by SCDOT. She advised the best fit roadway alignment is under development by ICE.
- Riverside Middle School Sidewalk design has been completed. She stated SCDOT is continuing to work with Anderson County School District for the funding shortfall on this project, and the let date has been pushed back to December 2020 with subject to change based on when additional funds are found.
- Woodside Park Connector consultant AECOM is moving forward with right-of-way plan development.
- S-164 Batesville Rd Widening, the contractor has requested an extension due to delays caused by restricted traffic control hours. She advised the estimated date for project completion is now set for May 2022.
- SC-153 Extension completion is scheduled for December 2020. She stated the round-about (RB) 2 was opened in June, and the multiuse path from RB 2 to Saluda Dam Road is being paved. She advised surface is being placed between RB 2 and RB 3. She stated the bridges are completed with just bridge punch list items left.
- SC-146 Woodruff Rd Widening completion is scheduled for May 2021. She advised utility relocations, and emergency culvert repair caused delays.
- SC-164 Gibbs Shoals Rd has an anticipated completion date of November 2020 and advised the bridge closure went into effect June 1, 2020.
- S-75 Mt Lebanon Church Rd Bridge Replacements completion is scheduled for October 2020. She stated bridge 2 substructure is completed. She advised deck pans and rebar are being set in preparation for deck pouring, with the earthwork 90 percent completed.
- Roper Mtn Rd and Roper Mtn Rd Extension anticipated completion date is February 2024. She advised utility coordination, clearing and grubbing are underway.
- I-385 Pavement Rehab Project's pavement has been completed, and the project is expected to be finished in October 2020.
- SC-153 Intersection Improvements Project was awarded to Thrift Development Corporation in June 2020. She advised a preconstruction meeting will be scheduled, and the anticipated completion date is February 2023.
- Ragsdale Rd Sidewalk is a TA Program project awarded to Thrift Corporation in June 2020. She advised a preconstruction meeting is to be scheduled, and the anticipated completion date is February 2023.
- Minor Street Sidewalk Project is completed with only punch list items left.
- S-272 West Georgia Rd Bridge Replacement is completed.

Ms. Hailey made herself available for any questions.

Mayor Durham asked if there is any update regarding the US-29 Cherokee Road Project scheduled for the year 2021, and stated he was advised an easement purchase was made.

Casey Lucas advised she will be contacting the manager of the project and follow up with Mayor Durham.

GPATS TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM UPDATE:

Brennan Groel addressed the members with a slide presentation showing a status update regarding the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program. She showed a list of projects with unobligated balances, except for Anderson County's Ragsdale Road Sidewalk Improvement Project, advising this project is fully obligated. She stated the amount of \$656,199 was received for FY2020.

• Unobligated Balance:	\$1,174,827.77
• Available Balance (including FY2020)	\$ 939,973.64
• Amount still needed	\$ 234,854.15

She advised when the Transportation Enhancements (TE) Program became the TA Program, all unallocated TE funds were rescinded. She stated GPATS, with SCDOT TA Office approval, elected to allocate approximately five years of future TA funding towards the original TE projects impacted. She advised, over time, the advanced funding was reduced to under three years. She stated TA funds lapse after four years, and the lapsing of funds was not accounted for, nor was GPATS aware TA funds could lapse when the decision to advance TA funding was made.

She stated the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act is set to expire at the end of this fiscal year, and the TA Program receives its funding through this Act. She stated Legislators could extend the FAST Act through a Continuing Resolution or replace it with a new act, and they could extend, replace, or get rid of the TA Program completely. She advised GPATS will not issue a call for projects with the FY2020 allocation this year, but instead will focus these funds towards existing projects to guarantee the already awarded funding. She stated if the TA Program is extended, the next allocation will be directed to existing projects until the program breaks even. She advised if the TA Program is not extended, the following options may be applied:

- A one-time Guideshare allocation to supplement what would have been the TA award funds. She advised this option was written into the TA guidance document in 2013.
- SCDOT has stated they would help fund projects fully obligated by September 30, 2021. She advised this would only apply to projects awarded before or during 2017.

Ms. Groel stated Staff would continue to keep the Policy Committee updated on the situation and bring any information forward for approval as needed.

Ms. Groel made herself available for any questions.

GPATS TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FY2021 – 2026

AMENDMENT AC #1:

Keith Brockington advised the Committee members of amendment AC #1 to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) financial statement included in the agenda packet. He presented the following changes:

- At the Request of SCDOT, included the FY2020 Recreational Trails Program recipients:
 - Parallel Swamp Rabbit Trail in Unity Park
 - \$125k in FY2020
 - Green Crescent Trail, Clemson Park Loop
 - \$125k in FY2020
- GTA Grant, FTA Section 5339(c) “LowNo”
 - \$5.277 million in FY2020
- GTA Maintenance Facility Grant, FTA Section 5339(b)
 - \$11 million in FY 2018
- SCDOT FY2020 State Mass Transit Funding (SMTF)
 - \$316,133.26 for Greenville Transit Authority
 - \$89,114.74 for Clemson Area Transit
- CA4I/SCDDSN Grant, FTA “Mobility for All”
 - \$326,000.00 in FY2020

Mr. Brockington made himself available for any questions.

Senator Allen inquired if the funding for the GTA Maintenance Facility Grant is connected with the location in the New Washington Heights area, in which Councilor Norris and himself are receiving many calls regarding the building of this facility in the area.

Mr. Brockington advised GTA is assessing this location, and the award of the grant was irrelevant to the location of the grant. The funding being requested has already been awarded to GTA and is not contingent upon the location.

Senator Allen asked if GTA is considering other sites.

Mr. Brockington advised he was not told of other sites. He stated several locations were being assessed when the grant was first received and is not aware of any locations being pursued at this time.

Senator Allen voiced a concern if these funds would be connected with the Washington Heights site, then anything we do is unreadiness on our part. He wanted to confirm the funding is completely independent of a site.

Mr. Brockington advised no matter the site GTA selects to move forward with, the funds will be used to develop the transit sector. He stated regardless of which site they choose; these funds are for this purpose.

MOTION: By Senator Smith, seconded by Mayor McLeer to approve the Transportation Improvement Program FY2021 - FY2026 Amendment AC #1. The motion was carried unanimously by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Davis stated he is proud of the work SCDOT is doing to handle the pandemic situation. He advised safety precautions have been implemented at headquarters, and the construction sites are continuing to move along. He stated maintenance crews were dispatched to remove debris due to storms on the coast from the previous week. He advised the ten-year plan is working slowly to get the roads back in better condition.

Commissioner Willard advised traffic volume is down approximately 13%, which influences the amount of tax money towards the ten-year plan. He hopes this will not affect the traffic counts, and it will only be temporary. He advised this could affect the County Transportation Committee (CTC) and overall funding to agencies; however, the Guideshare fund would remain the same.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: By Senator Smith, seconded by Mayor Shewmaker to adjourn. Without objection Chairman Kirven adjourned the meeting at 10:39 a.m.


Submitted by Recording Secretary