

MINUTES
GPATS POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE
October 17, 2016
Suite 400 – County Square
10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Butch Kirven, Vice Chair Senator Martin, Representative Smith, Representative Burns, Representative Loftis, Representative Collins, Councilor Meadows, County Council Chair Taylor, Councilor Norris, Councilor Payne, Councilor Smith, Commissioner Willard, Commissioner Davis, Mayor Raines, Mayor Danner, Mayor Durham, Mayor Owens, Mayor McCall, Mayor Cook, Mayor Lee, Milton Shockley, Keith Brockington and Matt Carter

OTHERS PRESENT: E. Vinson, P. Gucker, H. Hahn, K. Brockington, A. Ikein, B. Hansley, H. Gamble, T. Elrod, S. Jackson, V. Holmes, L. Estep, M. Forman, J. Valetti, J. Chastain, J. Horton, K. Hamel, E. McNair, K. Hamel, S. Limbaker, K. Turner, D. Cooper, R. Cooper and A. Babinicz

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Kirven called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and welcomed all.

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 29, 2016 COMMITTEE MEETING

MOTION: Without objection the minutes of the June 29, 2016 Committee meeting were approved by voice vote, unanimously as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no individuals signed up for public comment.

SCDOT PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

Tommy Elrod addressed the Committee members with an update of projects as was included in the agenda packets.

Mr. Jack Valetti with SCDOT addressed the Committee members with an update to the Gateway Project. He gave a quick recap of what the project was and the funding that was allocated from Federal Highway and ACT 98 and SCDOT. The substantial work completion date was October 2018 and final work completion date April 2019. He stated before the project got off the ground, there were some issues with the wetlands permit. Resolving the issue cost the project 150 days. Mr. Valetti stated before any of the rehabilitation could be done to I-85, there was a two mile section of pavement which needed additional attention resulting in a \$1.5 million change order. Additionally there was a change to the Flood Map which would mean a significant extension of the

walls to stay out of the enlarged floodway. He stated currently the contractor was working on replacing the loop ramps with fly over bridges. He stated both of the bridges over Garlington Road were originally thought to have new decks put on, but will be getting new structures resulting in a \$5.3 million change order. Additionally another bridge was found to be in need of repair, which closed a portion of the interstate earlier this year and repaired. The current schedule has a completion date of May 2019.

GPATS 2040 LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee members to the progress being made with the LRTP. He stated the Horizon2040 Kick-Off meeting was a success with 118 attendees. Additionally staff has been conducting the Sub-Regional meetings which will be complete at the end of October. He stated the number of attendees at each of the Sub-Regional meetings, and felt the feedback has been good. He stated over the weekend staff had a tent at the Fall for Greenville event which brought a number of additional surveys in. Mr. Brockington stated the Metro Quest survey would be available until February 2017 and it is expected to bring in some good feedback. Mr. Brockington stated he would be updating the Committee early in 2017 with the calculated results from the surveys. He noted on the interactive map there had been 2100 points of data already relating to issues or needs the citizens have.

GPATS 2016-2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENT AC#5

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee with a request to amend the GPATS 2016-2021 Transportation Improvement Program Financial statement to reflect the following changes as Amendment/Correction #5. Transit changes to be made include: Rollover of Section 5307 funding from FY2013 (lapsing) to FY2014, per FTA. Rollover of Section 5339 funding from FY2013 (lapsing) to FY2016, per SCDOT. Lapse of FY2014 Section 5310 funding and the addition of two projects to use FY2015 Section 5310 funding.

MOTION: By Mayor Danner to approve the GPATS 2016-2021 TIP Amendment AC#5. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

FEDERAL NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING – MPO COORDINATION

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee members regarding a letter he sent in response to a Notice of Proposed Rule Making. He stated the proposed rulemaking would dramatically change the way MPO's expand. The rule lays out the policy for merging of MPO's when their Urbanized Area Boundaries are contiguous. He provided the members with a website they could read further about the proposed rule and stated upon issuance of a Final Rule, GPATS would address how future expansions will occur.

Additionally, Mr. Brockington stated the response was in line in intent and verbiage with the SC DOT response.

US – 25 STUDY PRESENTATION

Rebecca Cooper, with the Travelers Rest City Council, the Greater TR Chamber of Commerce and GHS North Greenville Hospital addressed the Committee members with a PowerPoint presentation discussing the assessment of Highway US-25 between Travelers Rest and the State Line. She stated it was determined several safety issues existed and needed to be addressed. Among the concerns were the center concrete median, the drainage systems and the inside lanes and shoulders. She noted GPATS had the section of this highway between Tigerville Road and Hwy 414. She requested the Committee consider assisting with repairs to the section noted.

GPATS 2017 MEETING SCHEDULE

Keith Brockington presented the 2017 schedule for the Policy Committee as well as the Study Team and requested the approval of the dates from the Committee.

MOTION: By Representative Loftis, seconded by Councilor Norris to approve the 2017 GPATS Policy Committee and Study Team schedule. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

TRANSIT UPDATE

Matt Carter, Chair of the Greenville Transit Area Board stated in November there would be a new Transit Director, Gary Shepard. He also stated the Comprehensive Operational Analysis is ongoing and is an eight to twelve month process, of which was about half through. The advertising dollars are up and there are continued updates to the facility. He stated the City of Greenville will be adding two new trolleys' to the system and will be funding all four trolleys. Mr. Carter stated he would like to have an opportunity in the future to discuss the State Budget process and to request the inclusion of transit.

Al Babinicz, with Clemson Area Transit gave an update stating they were looking at some transformational analysis as to what was best for the Clemson area what the possibilities could be. He stated CAT was in the process of writing an RFP for the ten electric busses which will be used on the Clemson University Campus. Mr. Babinicz stated he was pleased at the turnout at the Clemson sub regional LRTP meetings. He agreed with Mr. Carter as to being involved in the budget process in order to perhaps receive match dollars to be used to apply for grants on the Federal level.

NEW BUSINESS

SCDOT Commissioner Davis spoke about roads in general. He stated no one likes additional taxes. He spoke about the presentation on US-25 up to North Carolina. He stated North Carolina's gas tax is over twice that of South Carolina's. It is in the 32 cent range and ours is sixteen cents. He stated when ours was set thirty years ago, the dollar produced then, produces forty seven cents today because of inflationary problems.

Commissioner Davis stated something had to be done to stabilize that and get a regular amount of dollars coming into DOT that can be depended on to have an inflationary change each year also. He stated these kinds of situations are tragic and terrible but basically boils down to a money situation of not having the dollars to do what we need to do.

SCDOT Commissioner Willard agreed with Commissioner Davis's comments. He stated one of the other challenges they will be facing is, not only here on the local level, but the CTC's is capacity issues. A lot has to do with labor, availability of truck drivers and equipment operators. He stated he was not sure what the answer is. DOT is talking about putting out over the next ten years 40 billion dollars' worth of work; the question will be can the industry handle it.

Senator Larry Martin thanked the Chairman for the great job he has done. He stated he thought progress was made regarding funding in the DOT, but more was needed. Long term he stated there was no question something has to be done. He stated it was going to take some courage on the votes that are in Columbia. It is going to take some courage to do the right thing, the next Governor is going to have to step up and do the right thing.

Commissioner Davis stated Senator Martin would be missed; he had been a real friend to the DOT. He stated it would take a long time to get the years of expertise and years of service. He saluted and thank Senator Martin for his service.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, and without objection Chairman Kirven adjourned the meeting at 11:36 a.m.

Submitted by Recording Secretary