

MINUTES
GPATS POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Special Called Meeting
November 1, 2021
Remote participation by Committee members
1:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice-Chairman Senator Rice, Senator Allen, Senator Turner, Representative Collins, Representative Smith, Councilor Saitta, Council Chair Meadows, Councilor Seman, Councilor Tripp, Commissioner Christopher, GTA Chair O’Neill, Mayor Amidon, Mayor Danner, Mayor McLeer, Mayor Shewmaker, Mayor White, Mayor Womack and Keith Brockington

OTHERS PRESENT: P. Gucker, T. Coker, B. Groel, D. Montgomery, C. Lewis, H. Gamble, C. Lucas, B. Rewis, M. Pleasant, and K. Wunder

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Vice-Chairman Senator Rice called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

Vice-Chairman Senator Rice informed Committee members the purpose of this special called meeting is the State Infrasturue Bank (SIB) requires a signed resolution for the Woodruff Road Congestion Relief Project. He explained this project began in 2014 with the County of Greenville assisting in funding in 2017. He advised GPATS has allocated \$42 million, the County of Greenville \$30 million, and acquiring SIB funding of \$49 million. He stated the request today is to show support. GPATS will continue to look for other funding sources and be responsible for overruns of this project.

WOODRUFF ROAD CONGESTION RELIEF PROJECT FUNDING RESOLUTION

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee members with a brief presentation of the Woodruff Road Congestion Relief Project (WRCRP) funding resolution included in the agenda packet. The resolution, in summary, is needed to affirm the existing GPATS processes of project funding to Greenville County in the interest of the South Carolina Transportation Infrastructure Bank (SIB) funding. The SIB funding and Greenville County’s match would total \$79 million, which will offset additional GPATS Guideshare funding.

Mr. Brockington spoke on the history and benefits of the WRCRP. This project was adopted in the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) in 2013 and ranked number one in the Project List. He explained the project timeline and path forward for the WRCRP are as follows:

- Right-of-Way Surveys are Underway, completion in Fall 2021
- Finalize Right-of-Way Plans in Summer/Fall 2022
- Begin Right-of-Way Acquisition in Spring 2023
- Complete Construction Documents, Utility Agreements, Etc in 2025
- Begin Construction in Summer 2026
- Ideal Completion Timeframe 3 years estimated by the end of 2029

Mr. Brockington wanted Committee members to know that the design is still preliminary during the scope and function may change. The property impacts will not be known until mid-2022. Questions regarding impacts or right-of-way impacts should be directed to SCDOT.

Mr. Brockington explained in 2017, Preliminary Engineering identified increased project cost. Greenville County elected to submit an application in June 2017 to SIB. This application commits Greenville County to 25 percent project local match.

GPATS (Guideshare)	\$42,000,000	35%
Greenville County	\$30,336,733	25%
SC State Infrastructure Bank	\$49,010,199	40%
<u>TOTAL (2022 Dollars)</u>	<u>\$121,346,932</u>	<u>100%</u>

Mr. Brockington stated \$6.9 million is obligated with GPATS Guideshare. The SIB approved funding on July 7, 2020, and requested the Inter-Governmental Agreements between the County of Greenville, SIB, and SCDOT to be finalized by November 30, 2021.

Mr. Brockington read the resolution of the Greenville-Pickens Area Transportation Study (GPATS) Policy Committee reaffirming its commitment to the Woodruff Road Congestion Relief Project to Committee members.

SCDOT Commissioner Christopher stated this is a great project and asked who would be responsible for any cost overruns.

Mr. Brockington answered in the appending Inter-Governmental Agreements the County of Greenville is committing to cost overruns. This resolution does not commit GPATS to anything new. He advised without the County of Greenville and SIB's financial support, GPATS would bear the additional \$79.3 million itself, resulting in delays of other projects. The Guideshare yearly allocation remains at \$18.033 million. GPATS, to date, has successfully completed all of its projects, has never failed to fund overruns, and made sure a project in the LRTP reached completion. He advised GPATS has full

authority to defund or vote against a project brought forward so long as the consequences are known. Projects having gone through the process and been approved by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) that is not funded or completed remain a priority. He stated if a project is not completed, it will be completed farther down the line, or the funds spent must be repaid. He advised from the Travel Demand Model (TDM) the needs will not go away and will likely create additional projects to accomplish should WRCRP not be carried forward. GPATS will continue its mission to fund projects.

Council Chair Meadows, with the County of Greenville, asked if inflation had been factored in with this project's completion.

Casey Lucas, Program Manager with the SCDOT, replied the \$121 million estimate includes contingency and potential overruns for WRCRP based on the knowledge of the timeline.

Vice-Chairman Senator Rice inquired if SCDOT knows how much contingency money is in this project.

Casey Lucas responded this information was not broken out and readily on hand. She advised the contingency usually is 10 percent of a project. She stated due to the size of the project, the percentage factor was slightly more.

Council Chair Meadows asked if \$121 million is the today's cost, what will it be in 2029. He wanted to know what SCDOT anticipates the inflation to be.

Casey Lucas responded the inflation factor was included with the amount SCDOT provided for the SIB application, anticipating the contract being awarded to a contractor in 2026. She stated the inflation factor was not readily available and will inquire.

Mayor Amidon of Travelers Rest inquired if this would be the last major project of Woodruff Road.

Keith Brockington responded the WRCRP is the combination of several small projects recently completed and funded by GPATS. A project on Woodruff Road near the Five Forks area will have some long-range projects, which are not in the 2040Horizon, extending between SC-14 and Five Forks with an unknown timeframe. Within the GPATS' short-term timeframe of the 2040 plan, this would be the final project for Woodruff Road.

MOTION: By Mayor Shewmaker, seconded by Mayor Amidon, to approve the Woodruff Road Congestion Relief Project Funding Resolution as presented. Vice-Chairman Senator Rice requested a voice vote. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no objections.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: By Mayor White, seconded by Mayor Shewmaker, to adjourn. There being no further business, and without objection, Vice-Chairman Senator Rice adjourned the meeting at 1:22 p.m.


Submitted by Recording Secretary