

GPATS STUDY TEAM COMMITTEE
MINUTES
April 17, 2023
Suite 400 – County Square
Remote participation by members
10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Keith Brockington, Kayleigh Cleek, Tee Coker, David Dyrhaug, Lance Estep, Mike Forman, Heshia Gamble, Valerie Holmes, James Keel, Diane Lackey, Christina Lewis, Casey Lucas, Lisa Mann, Dyke Spencer, Anna Stewart, and Jim Walden

OTHERS PRESENT: Senator R. Rice, D. Beaty, P. Butler, E. Dillon, B. Groel, J. Harris, C. Hill, F. Payne, and W. Smith

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Keith Brockington welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

GPATS PRODUCT STATUS UPDATE

Casey Lucas, Program Manager with the SCDOT, addressed members with a status update on projects within the GPATS area.

- Projects in construction were as follows:
 - Roper Mtn Road (RMR) and Roper Mountain Road Extension (RMRE) - work is continuing on both. Drainage and sidewalk work continuing on RMR. For RMRE, Phase I, bridge work has started and the sidewalk work is continuing.
 - Woodruff Road Congestion Relief – Right of Way (ROW) has been obligated and SCDOT plan to move forward with ROW acquisition.
 - S-107 Butler Road - Right of Way (ROW) has been obligated and the kick off meeting was held at the end of March.
 - S-564 Garlington Road – In feasibility study with planning office and consultant was selected. Expected completion is Spring 2024.
 - SC-183 & Jameson Road intersection – project under review to verify current design (roundabout) is still appropriate. Next steps, restart public involvement.

- Bridge updates were as follows:
 - S-75 Cherokee Road over US 29 – The bridge deck is being bought and installed along with the ramp being completed. The new roundabout at Cherokee Road and Joe Black Road was recently opened.
 - S-154 Over Huff Creek – Construction plans are currently in review.
 - S-140 Over Shoal Creek – Bridge completed recently. Waiting for utility relocation to finish installation tied to bridge.
 - S-250 Over Doddie’s Creek – Bridge deck is being poured.
 - US 29 Church Street – Plans submitted ahead of ROW Obligation.

- TA Programs were as follows:
 - Woodside Streetscape – The revised plans from consultant has been received. Will be re-letting with the Woodside Park Connector.

- Woodside Park Connector and Riverside Middle School Sidewalk – Needed additional funds and were awarded by GPATS. Supplemental FPA have been routed for execution and the municipalities have been invoiced for their match.

Ms. Lucas made herself available for any questions.

Ms. Hesha Gamble asked if there was any discussion about McKelvey Bridge being pushed forward.

Ms. Lucas answered the critical paths for that project are the utility coordination and the ROW acquisition. The construction plans are in review and SCDOT is working to get it moved forward. Technically, it is not currently an expedited bridge but that could change at any time.

Transportation Alternatives Program FY 2023 Cycle Recommendations

Anna Stewart presented the TAP Program and the one application GPATS received this year. The application was from the City of Greer and the project is called Wards Creek Trail – Phase I. Ms. Stewart explained the description of the project is the construction of a 12’ wide trail that is located along Wards Creek, connecting Wards Creek Park to Biblebrook Drive. The trail will accommodate pedestrians and cyclists and will total approximately 0.45 miles. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinating Committee (BPCC) evaluated this project and gave it a score of 16 out of 21 and recommends that GPATS award funding to City of Greer’s project.

Mr. Brockington explained the process is the Study Team would issue a recommendation for inclusion of the project into the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Then the Policy Committee would not take up this project individually, but take it on as a part of the TIP amendment to be voted on at the meeting in May.

Recommendation: Mr. Brockington asked if there were any objections from the members for the recommendation of approval for the City of Greer’s TAP application. No verbal objections or questions by consensus.

GPATS 2023-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, AMENDMENT AC#4

Keith Brockington presented members with the proposed Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment AC #4 and explained the following changes:

- At the request of SCDOT, based on the Annual Obligations for GPATS, the Guideshare Carryover Balance from FY2022 is adjusted from the TIP-Estimated \$27,977,390.03 to an Actual \$22,864,795.85.
- At the request of SCDOT, due to delays in the Feasibility Report process, shifts of the following projects:
 - US-29/Mills Ave. – 2023 to 2026
 - Grove Rd – 2023 to 2025
 - Laurens Rd – 2025 to 2027
 - Mauldin Golden Strip Greenway – 2023 to 2024
 - Greer to Taylors Greenway – 2025 to 2026
- Transit Apportionments for FY2023 of Section 5307, 5339, and 5310, and State Mass Transit funds for GTA/Greenlink and CATbus, based on formula in agenda packet.
- Award from SCDOT of Supplemental Funding for the Greenlink Maintenance Facility, \$7.2 million in Section 5311 (Rural) funding converted to 5307, and \$1.8 million of SMTF funding as match.

- Award from FTA to CATbus for Section 5339(c), “Low/No” Grant, \$3.93 million.
- Addition of TAP Allocation to total \$1.326 million.
- Award to the City of Greer of TAP funds, \$1,090,345.60 pending GPATS Policy Committee approval.

Mr. James Keel, Director of Greenlink, stated SCDOT recently re-allocated funds and total amount of funding is actually going to be \$8,603,597. He explained the email just came through and he just forwarded email to Mr. Brockington

Mr. Brockington thanked Mr. Keel for the updated information and stated GPATS will update the records.

Mr. Brockington explained the TIP amendment will be advertised through May 15th. The recommendation of the Study Team will be passed on to the GPATS Policy Committee for their consideration and Adoption.

Mr. Brockington made himself available for any questions.

Recommendation: Mr. Brockington asked for approval or any objections from the members to pass the Transportation Improvement Program amendment AC #4 recommendations to the Policy Committee for their approval. No verbal objections or questions by consensus.

Title VI Plan Update

Keith Brockington explained Asangwua Ikein was unable to be here today.

In Mr. Ikein’s absence, Mr. Brockington presented the Title VI Update. He explained Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requires GPATS to update Title VI documents to come in compliance with current FTA standards and the updates include:

- 1) Updating the DRAFT GPATS Title VI Plan 2023,
 - i. Updating Demographics Data with the latest US Census data.
- 2) Updating the DRAFT Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan 2023,
 - i. Updating Demographics Data with the latest US Census data.

The Title VI Plan and LEP documents will be advertised through May 15th.

Mr. Brockington asked if there were any questions or comments.

Fred Payne asked for clarification on demographics not being up to date.

Mr. Brockington responded GPATS updates demographics on Title VI and LEP plans so they will be deemed as representative of actual demographics as possible.

Recommendation: Mr. Brockington asked for approval or any objections from the members to recommendation of approval of these two plans to the Policy Committee for their approval. No verbal objections or questions by consensus.

GPATS Performance Measures Presentation

Anna Stewart presented the Performance Measures update. Ms. Stewart explained the Performance Measure items being amended are:

- Infrastructure Condition
- System and Freight Reliability
- SCDOT STAMP System Performance Report 2022

Ms. Stewart stated there are new targets for Infrastructure and System & Freight Reliability and these are on two and four year intervals. The target did improve from last time. Ms. Stewart also explained that at the request of SCDOT, the System Performance Report needs to be included in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) which is available on GPATS website.

Mr. Brockington added that the full SCDOT STAMP System Performance Report was included in the agenda packet.

Ms. Stewart made herself available for any questions.

Recommendation: Mr. Brockington asked for approval or any objections from the members to recommendation of approval of the GPATS Performance Measures update to the Policy Committee for their approval. No verbal objections or questions by consensus.

GPATS FY 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program and Special Studies

Keith Brockington presented the draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for FY 2024-2025. Mr. Brockington explained the entire document is on GPATS website and the funding summary was included in today's agenda packet. He added this is a biennial document and FY 2025 will be adjusted and ratified in May of next year.

Mr. Brockington explained GPATS made slight changes based on allocations and the PL and 5303 allocations did increase slightly to just over \$905,000 so GPATS has allocated that out to programs.

Mr. Brockington went on to say GPATS advertised a call for projects and there were no applications received for the 5310 Grant and GPATS will be looking for internal projects to do directly. He said it is likely to be a bicycle and pedestrian project and there is a provision that is allowing complete street eligible plans to not need to have a match. Mr. Brockington explained if GPATS does spend carry over on a bicycle and pedestrian plan then we should be able to do that without any local match required.

Mr. Brockington stated the UPWP funding summary is for the coming fiscal years (2024-2025). He explained the Laurens Road Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Study has been completed and a full presentation will be made probably at the next meeting or as soon as possible thereafter.

Mr. Brockington asked for any questions regarding the Unified Planning Work Program.

Fred Payne asked when the next meeting will be that we might get the full presentation.

Mr. Brockington stated the next Study Team meeting is scheduled for July 17.

Mr. Payne asked can there be open discussion now as it seems there are some great possibilities here.

Mr. Brockington answered yes, there can be discussion but because it has been so recently received, we want to make sure that the implementation of that study is done in an appropriate, positive way and more review time is needed before deciding how to best utilize the study and it will take a bit more time than what we had to prepare for this meeting.

Mr. Brockington asked for any other questions regarding the Unified Planning Work Program. He explained GPATS will be finishing the draft and submitting it to SCDOT for their review. He then invited members and attendees to read through the entire document and if there are any questions regarding GPATS activities for the next two years to please let staff know.

Recommendation: Mr. Brockington asked for approval or any objections from the members to recommendation of approval of the Unified Planning Work Program FY 2024-2025 to the Policy Committee for their approval. No verbal objections or questions by consensus.

Old Business

GPATS Policy Committee Subcommittee regarding Woodruff Road Congestion Relief (WRCR) and Butler Road projects will be updated before the Policy Committee next month. The Subcommittee had a zoom meeting and conversations with SCDOT and updates will be discussed in Policy Committee meeting. Mr. Brockington asked GPATS Policy Committee Chairman, Senator Rex Rice, if he would like to add anything in regards to the Subcommittee.

Chairman Senator Rex Rice replied that the Subcommittee is working with SCDOT in an attempt to insure the taxpayers' money is being spent to the best of their ability.

Mr. Brockington spoke briefly on the Census 2020 update stating that GPATS had a meeting with SCDOT about a month ago. Jim Walden, Regional Planning Manager with SCDOT, is working on scheduling the MPOs (Metropolitan Planning Organizations), COGs (Council of Governments) and stakeholders to meet later this month. Mr. Brockington is hopeful to have a federal report after that meeting and before the Policy Committee meeting. It is likely Clemson area will probably go over to ANATS (Anderson Area Transportation Study). It is unclear what will happen on the Spartanburg side and Williamston side just yet. More will be cleared up in the conversations due to take place later this month. Mr. Brockington asked Mr. Walden if he'd like to comment.

Mr. Walden replied he is expecting to meet with Spartanburg and Greer to discuss possible changes on that portion of the MPO boundary and he is still working with the Anderson side to schedule a meeting. He agreed with Mr. Brockington that it is likely the Clemson area and some of the surrounding municipalities may be moving over to ANATS due to the 2020 Census.

Mr. Brockington added GPATS is hopeful to have a final boundary by the October Policy Committee meeting and his understanding is GPATS has until April of next year to actually get those boundaries approved. At that time, GPATS will begin updating all plans and documents. More information will be coming soon.

New Business

Mr. Brockington spoke about GPATS 101 Training Session and the plan to have another very soon. He mentioned this would be for any new Policy Committee members or members that may want a refresher. In the meantime, he reminded all in attendance that GPATS is available to answer any questions or

concerns about the general functions of GPATS or how business is done. He then added, hopefully, the training session will be held in May or June.

Mr. Fred Payne asked for clarification on the potential boundary changes for GPATS in relation to county lines, specifically Anderson County, and expansion of GPATS boundaries.

Mr. Brockington explained currently GPATS boundary does go into Anderson County. Most urbanized areas in the country shrank because the census recalibrated what they considered the urban versus the rural. GPATS will not be expanding beyond the current boundaries and it is likely the Clemson area will go over to ANATS (Anderson Area Transportation Study). He then explained more will be cleared up in the conversations due to take place later this month.

Mr. Payne asked Mr. Brockington if the (NEVI) National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure funds have anything to do with GPATS and what insight could he give on that funding.

Mr. Brockington replied GPATS does not have money to spend on the NEVI program.

Mr. Payne asked would the NEVI funds help Greenlink with charging?

Mr. Brockington responded that his understanding is the NEVI program is specifically to allow the consumers with electric vehicles, and the increase that is projected, to have enough charging stations for those vehicles.

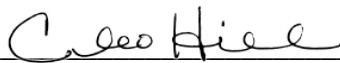
Mr. Payne thanked him for his clarification that the NEVI program is for consumers.

Mr. Brockington asked if anyone wanted to talk about any plans or studies that are being done with their municipality or any updates they may want to give.

There were no discussions or comments brought up.

ADJOURN

Without objection, Mr. Brockington adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m.



Submitted by Recording Secretary