

**MINUTES**  
**GPATS STUDY TEAM COMMITTEE**  
**April 27, 2020**  
**Meeting conducted by remote participation**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Keith Brockington, Clint Link, Julie Barker, Mark Pleasant, Brandon Madden, James Keel, Asangwua Ikein, Patrea St. John, Ty Houck, Ashley Kaade, Steve Grant, Peter Knudsen, Skip Limbaker, Ryan Ward, Dyke Spencer, Brennan Groel, Todd Steadman, Kayleigh Sullivan, Dwayne Cooper, Christina Lewis, Nichole McAden, Brandon Wilson, Casey Lucas, Diane Lackey, Renee Miller-Cotton, Lance Estep, Hesha Gamble, Heather Lollis, David Dyrhaug, Chris Brink, Greg Gordos, and Jon Camie

**OTHERS PRESENT:** J. Chasteen, D. Montgomery, and G. Malone

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME**

Keith Brockington called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Keith Brockington welcomed all in attendance and requested members acknowledge verbally once their name was called due to the meeting being held remotely.

Mr. Brockington reminded the general public this is a technical meeting of the committee and any comments are to be sent by email. He advised the contact information can be found on the GPATS website, or comments may be made at the Policy Committee meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

**SCDOT GPATS PROJECT STATUS UPDATE**

Casey Lucas, Program Manager with the SCDOT, addressed members with a brief status update on projects within the GPATS area that was included in their agenda packets.

- SC-164 Batesville Road Widening construction is moving along with widening being done in some areas. Construction is continuing on the walls as utilities continue to be relocated.
- SC-153 Ext Project is close to being completed. She advised Roundabout (RB)1 is rough graded, RB 2 is 95 percent completed, and RB 3's curb and gutter will be installed this week.
- SC-146 Woodruff Road Widening has developed delays due to utility relocations and emergency repairs caused by recent floodings.
- SC-14 Improvements Project is complete, except for a few miscellaneous items.
- Roper Mtn Rd and Roper Mtn Ext letting occurred in April 2020. She advised bids were submitted to the construction office.

- Woodruff Rd Parallel, the Environmental Assessment (EA) document, was signed by FHWA in early April 2020. She advised SCDOT is working on the logistics to hold a public hearing due to the current situation to avoid delays in the project.
- SC-153 Intersection Improvements were added to the May letting.
- SC-107 Butler Rd Project's consultant ICE is currently doing the traffic analysis and Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE).
- I-385 Pavement Rehab was restarted in April 2020. She advised guardrails will be reset first before paving operations begin.
- SC-164 Gibbs Shoals Rd Bridge Project was awarded to Eagle Construction and construction has begun. She stated the pre-construction meeting was held in the middle of April 2020 and advised the bridge will be closed beginning June 1, 2020.
- S-75 Mt Lebanon Church Rd construction continues on both bridges, and the fill began on one side. She stated the road is scheduled to close beginning May 15, 2020.
- S-272 W. Georgia Rd asphalt has been laid with the exception of the surface and tie-ins. She advised the railings and walls have been formed, and traffic will be switched to the new roadway beginning April 27, 2020.
- S-154 over Huff Creek Bridge Replacement is in negotiations between SCDOT and the consultant.
- S-140 and S-250 Projects are both in design and have moved to right-of-way. She stated these two bridges are part of the SCDOT Ten Year Plan.
- Clemson University Trail TA project is experiencing TA budget issues, and SCDOT is working with Clemson University to coordinate possibly reducing the scope to fit within the budget.
- Clemson University Trail Segment 2 is an ARC grant project, but is within GPATS boundaries. A survey has been requested.
- Downtown Doodle Connector TA project consultant is working on preliminary plans, and SCDOT is waiting on feedback results from the City of Pickens on recently sent alternative plans.
- Woodside Streetscape right-of-way is to be submitted in May 2020.
- Woodside Park Connector's preliminary Design Field Review (DFR) occurred in February 2020, and the consultant is continuing to work on suggestions from SCDOT from their findings when at the location.
- Ragsdale Rd will be let in June 2020.
- Minor Street Sidewalk TA project was awarded to S & S Construction with an estimated completion date of September 2020.
- Riverside Middle School right-of-way and utilities have been completed. The project is ready for letting prep to receive an estimate. There are concerns the project is underfunded.
- Fairforest Way was awarded to Capitol Construction of the Carolinas.
- West Georgia Rd Project is currently in negotiations between SCDOT and a consultant.

Ms. Lucas made herself available for any questions.

A question was asked if there was a possible opening date for SC-153 traffic.

Ms. Lucas advised the completion date is December 2020, but she has been told the project is ahead of schedule.

A question was asked if there was a completion date for the SC-164 Gibbs Shoals Rd Bridge Replacement project.

Ms. Lucas advised the estimated completion date is October 2020.

### **FEDERAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY FY2020 APPORTIONMENTS**

Asangwua Ikein addressed members with a slide presentation on the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) FY2020 apportionment. He advised the CARES Act granted Transit agencies across the country approximately \$25 billion. He explained the funding would be used for agencies' operational expenses, sanitation, and paid sick leave, but may not be used for expanding the agency's services.

Mr. Ikein stated CATbus has shut down three routes, and ridership is down due to Clemson University closing their campus and sending students home. He advised Greenlink is down 7 percent in ridership. He stated GTA suspended collecting bus fares, instituted rear door boarding, asked riders to only make essential trips, and limited ten passengers maximum to a bus. He stated approximately \$6.5 million was going to GTA, over \$3 million to CATbus, and \$4.6 million to the Mauldin-Simpsonville urbanized area.

Mr. Ikein made himself available for any questions.

Mr. Brockington stated the 5307, 5339, State Mass Transit Funds, and CARES Act funds are to be added to the TIP.

### **TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FY 2020 CYCLE**

Brennan Groel addressed the members with an update regarding the Transportation Alternative (TA) program. She confirmed GPATS received last years' appropriation of approximately \$656 thousand. She advised GPATS is still waiting to hear from SCDOT to confirm the lapse balance and how it will impact the TA program. She stated there still is no call for projects at this time.

Ms. Groel made herself available for any questions.

Mr. Brockington advised members there would be no allocations for the TA program in the Transportation Improvement Program. He advised the matter may be resolved, and a call for projects could happen for the upcoming Study Team meeting in July.

## **TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FY2021 – FY2026**

Keith Brockington advised members on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) document and financial statement. He stated SCDOT is requesting to change the TIP fiscal years to FY2021 to FY2026 to align with the SCDOT State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). He advised the TIP document is in draft form and available to view online, and all changes from the draft TIP document have been included in the TIP Financial Statement. He stated the changes made to the TIP were as followed:

- The combining of FY 2019 into the Previous Obligations column
- The addition of FY 2026 to the back end of the TIP
  - Funding Allocation of \$18.066 million per year was assumed
- After coordination with SCDOT, allocation of funding for projects and balancing of Guideshare spending and clearing completed or canceled projects. New Projects added per the GPATS LRTP and SC Act 114. Details of these changes are in the Financial Statement, with additions and changes highlighted in blue and removals highlighted in red.
- GTA/CAT Funding Allocation for FY2020
- Safety Project additions as requested by SCDOT.

Mr. Brockington advised the new Guideshare projects in the TIP will only show a planning phase amount as estimated by Betsy McCall with SCDOT. He stated preliminary engineering, right-of-way, and construction costs would not be funded in the TIP until the project completes the planning phase. These projects were as follows:

- Laurens Rd from I-85 to Innovation Drive
- US-123 / Academy St widening beginning from Pendelton St to Washington Ave – scope to be determined. He advised for this project to coincide with the Judson Mills phase 2 project, and the developer has stated interest in contributing financially to this project.
- Whitehorse Rd at West Blue Ridge Rd Intersection
- East Blue Ridge Rd at State Park Rd and Poinsett Hwy Intersection
- City of Greer and Taylors Greenway
- Travelers Rest Area Bike and Pedestrian Network Expansion

He advised \$900 thousand per year would be added for the fiscal year 2026 to GTA and CATbus. He stated GPATS determines the TIP Signal Retiming Corridor Projects based on SCDOT ability to do these projects. He advised funding is allocated but has not yet been identified. He stated there are four projects on hold for additional funding that have been moved out to FY2021, so these can be programmed in the STIP. He advised several Safety Projects were added to the Non-Guideshare portion of the TIP, and the Transit section added Greenlink's Human Trafficking Grant for \$21 thousand and CARES Act funding to FY 2020.

A member asked in regards to the Transit UZA amounts.

Mr. Brockington stated the amounts would be updated.

Mr. Brockington made himself available for any questions.

Clint Link, with the City of Greenville, updated members on the Academy St Corridor Plan. He advised the City of Greenville is conducting a traffic study at the intersection of Academy St and Pendleton St. He stated because of previous traffic studies completed from this area, they are postponing this study until Fall 2020. He advised a developer has had discussions with the City of Greenville regarding intersection improvements at Andrews St and Academy St coming into the City and expressed a willingness to contribute funds for these improvements.

**Recommendation:** Mr. Brockington asked for approval or any objections from the members to pass TIP recommendations to the Policy Committee for their approval. No objections or questions by consensus.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Lance Estep gave an update to the members on the Appalachian Council of Government (ACOG) Freight Study. He stated several webinars had been held with consultant CDM Smith and the three MPOs in the region. He advised during these webinar sessions the discussion was what the data needs are for this study. He stated CDM Smith would be meeting with the Steering Committee, which consists of thirty members, and the first meeting will be in May 2020. He advised they would be partnering with Berkley-Charleston-Dorchester (BCDCOG) in Charleston since they are doing a freight study, and these meetings will be available online to the public. He stated links would be provided for these meetings. He advised the Freight Study is estimated to be completed by the end of 2020.

Keith Brockington provided an update on the FTA Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Study. He advised GPATS is waiting on the Notice to Proceed from FTA, and County of Greenville has the Request For Quote (RFQ) ready to release to the public. He stated the County of Greenville had changed its policies to accepting online submissions only and are no longer taking hard copy submissions.

### **CITY OF GREENVILLE DOWNTOWN TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN**

Keith Brockington informed members of the City of Greenville's Council, passing the Greenville Downtown Transportation Master Plan (DTMP). He stated their recommendation would go before the Policy Committee and introduced City of Greenville and HDR representatives to give members a status update.

Jonathan Chasteen, with HDR, advised members the plan was presented to them at the Study Team meeting in January. He stated the presentation to the Policy Committee was postponed until the DTMP received approval from the City of Greenville.

Dwayne Cooper, with the City of Greenville, stated the city is ready to move forward with information from this study for future plans.

Mr. Brockington advised the DTMP study is available for viewing on the GPATS and the City of Greenville websites.

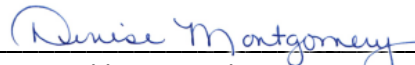
**Recommendation:** Mr. Brockington asked for approval or any objections from the members to pass the City of Greenville Downtown Transportation Master Plan to the Policy Committee for their endorsement. No objections or questions by consensus.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There were no items of new business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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



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Submitted by Recording Secretary