

MINUTES
GPATS STUDY TEAM COMMITTEE
July 17, 2023
Suite 400 – County Square
10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Keith Brockington, Chip Bentley, Adam Bodner, Kayleigh Cleek, Tee Coker, Mike Forman, Asangwua Ikein, Rashida Jeffers-Campbell, Jason Knudsen, Diane Lackey, Clint Link, Skip Limbaker, Casey Lucas, Lisa Mann, Dyke Spencer, Anna Stewart, and Jim Walden.

OTHERS PRESENT: Senator R. Rice, P. Butler, E. Dillon, B. Groel, J. Harris, C. Hill, K. Kurjiaka, and C. Linvill.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Keith Brockington welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:04 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. RMR curb and gutter is 75% complete, asphalt placed to binder level on approximately 60% of road length. RMRE curb and gutter is 90% complete, asphalt placed to binder level on 90% of roadway length. Phase 1 of 2 bridge foundations complete.
 - 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. Current let date December 2024.
 - S-564 Garlington Road – Consultant kick off meeting was held on June 1st. The planning office is expecting the project to take about a year to complete.
 - SC-183 & Jameson Road intersection – Public involvement is underway. In person Public Meeting was held on July 13th and there were approximately forty people in attendance. The public comment period runs through July 29th. Once the comment period closes, there will be more information to present to Policy Committee in August.

- Bridge updates were as follows:
 - S-75 Cherokee Road over US 29 – Recently completed the first of three bridge deck pours of the new bridge deck. The contractor is now preparing for the final deck pours at each end of the new bridge. The storm drainage installation and earthwork buildup are still progressing.
 - S-154 over Huff Creek – Right of Way is completed and on track for a December let date.
 - S-140 over Shoal Creek – Bridge is completed and open to the public.
 - S-250 over Doddies Creek – Bridge is completed and open to the public.
 - US 29 Church Street – Bridge rehabilitation is now in Right of Way.
 - S-125 over Saluda River – In Right of Way.
 - S-384 over Brushy Creek – In Right of Way.

- TA Programs were as follows:

- Woodside Streetscape – In letting preparation for August.
- Woodside Park Connector and Riverside Middle School Sidewalk –In letting preparation for August.
- West Georgia Road – Construction plans in QA review with a current let date of December.

Ms. Lucas made herself available for any questions.

Keith Brockington asked about the public meeting for SC-183 and Jameson Road and was the Roundabout (RAB) still preferred by most of the public.

Ms. Lucas answered, out of approximately forty-one comments thus far, over half do prefer the roundabout, maybe two are against it, and a small amount would rather see a signal.

Mr. Brockington added there is a meeting in Pickens tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. referencing the SC-183 project. The meeting is to discuss the actual scope of the project as it relates to the State Infrastructure Bank (SIB). Currently there is no real scope for the project other than a brief description.

GPATS Census 2020 Boundary Submission

Keith Brockington presented members with the GPATS Census 2020 Boundary Submission.

Mr. Brockington explained at the end of 2022 and early 2023, the Census and FHWA released the resources for MPOs to begin redrawing their Metropolitan Planning Area Boundaries based off the newly-defined Urbanized Areas from the 2020 Census.

Mr. Brockington said, within the state, most of the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) were agreeable. He explained the Upstate is the only place where three MPOs - Spartanburg Area Transportation Study (SPATS), Anderson Area Transportation Study (ANATS), and Greenville-Pickens Area Transportation Study (GPATS) – are close together and sometimes actually touching boundaries.

Mr. Brockington showed a presentation while explaining many areas actually shrank due to the Census Bureau redefining Urbanized Areas.

Mr. Brockington stated the biggest changes to GPATS boundaries involve the urban areas and GPATS pulled back from the cities of Pickens, Pelzer, West Pelzer and Williamston. GPATS also pulled back from the Pendleton, Clemson, Central and Norris areas. Mr. Brockington explained due to the concentrated growth on US-76, the Anderson Urbanized area extended upwards toward the Clemson area. The boundary on the Spartanburg side was more problematic. SCDOT made the decision that existing jurisdictions should take priority over future jurisdictions. For the most part, areas that were already annexed by Greer but not yet within an Urbanized area, went to GPATS and areas that were not within an Urbanized area went to SPATS.

Mr. Brockington added the areas where GPATS expanded was due to two criteria SCDOT asked for:

- 1) Smooth out the boundary as much as possible; and
- 2) Stick to the census block groups.

Mr. Brockington stated GPATS' northern boundaries were not on block groups so they were expanded to include block groups. GPATS is still including the Slater-Marietta area and keeping City of Pickens. He

said there is little change in the boundary along the Powdersville line, except where adjustments were made for the census block group.

Mr. Brockington reminded everyone that these boundaries are a draft and nothing is final until Christy Hall, Secretary of Transportation with SCDOT, and Governor McMaster sign off on them later this year.

Mr. Tee Coker, Assistant County Administrator for Community Planning and Development with the County of Greenville, requested clarification on current projects that will no longer be within GPATS boundaries, for example US-123 and similar projects.

Mr. Brockington responded the US-123 project in Clemson is currently ranked number two in GPATS Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) but has not yet been brought over to the TIP. Since it is not yet in the TIP, no money has been obligated so GPATS will not be funding any part of it. Our rankings for the US-123 project will be brought over to ANATS as they pick up the project from here.

Mr. Brockington further explained GPATS has planned on money going to the project for the region of Pendleton, Clemson, Pickens, Oconee and Anderson. GPATS will honor their obligations for the funding of that project.

Mr. Coker asked if a project is already in construction phase, will that be carried through until completion.

Mr. Brockington confirmed that is correct.

Mr. Coker asked if GPATS has any projects in the TIP that are not yet in construction.

Mr. Brockington replied, yes, there is one project: Reidville Road. He explained SPATS and GPATS shared that project before boundary changes. Reidville Road turns into South Bennetts Bridge Road and ends at Woodruff Road. When SPATS put the project into their TIP, it ended at SC-101 about where the SPATS and GPATS boundaries meet. Mr. Brockington added SCDOT realized that it may not be appropriate to end the project at SC-101 and it may now go all the way to Woodruff Road. Either way, this particular project will still be shared but GPATS portion will be less than previously expected.

Mr. Brockington added that ANATS and SPATS have both grown a little bit and look a little more equal.

Mr. Chip Bentley, Deputy Director with Appalachian Council of Governments, questioned why the “doughnut hole” was not closed.

Mr. Jim Walden, Regional Planning Manager with SCDOT, stated the FHWA will allow the doughnut hole to remain as is, for now, due to the rural nature of that area. It may still be a discussion point later next month.

Mr. Brockington added if FHWA requires the doughnut hole to be closed, GPATS would let ANATS take the lead on how much of that hole they would want and how much they would like GPATS to take.

Recommendation: Mr. Brockington asked for approval or any objections from the members to recommend approval of the GPATS Census 2020 Boundary Submission to the Policy Committee for their approval. No verbal objections or questions by consensus.

TIP Amendment

Mr. Brockington announced Greenlink (GTA) requested a TIP Amendment for Transit to add the funds they were awarded for Low or No Emissions for CNG buses. The amount awarded was \$6,341,306 for compressed natural gas (CNG) buses.

Kayleigh Cleek, Transit Planning Manager and Grants Coordinator with Greenlink, added that the grant was specifically for four buses and one CNG station.

Recommendation: Mr. Brockington asked for approval or any objections from the members to recommend approval of the TIP Amendment for Greenlink grant to the Policy Committee for their approval. No verbal objections or questions by consensus.

Old Business

County Square has completed their move to the new offices. GPATS address is the same street number but with a new suite number. The new address is now 301 University Ridge, Suite S-3200. The upcoming Policy Committee meeting in August will be held in Council Chambers located in the new building – in the North building.

The Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) meetings, after this month, will also be held in the new building.

GPATS 101 Training will be held later this month or next month in the new building.

Mr. Brockington asked if anyone had any updates, meetings, or events to share with the Study Team.

There were no discussions or comments brought up.

ADJOURN

Without objection, Mr. Brockington adjourned the meeting at 10:37 a.m.



Submitted by Recording Secretary