

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Keith Brockington, Chris Brink, Jon Caime, Tee Coker, David Dyrhaug, Lance Estep, Heshia Gamble, Steve Grant, Brennan Groel, Erica Hailey, Valerie Holmes, Ty Houck, Asangwua Ikein, Ashley Kaade, Pete Knudsen, Diane Lackey, Christina Lewis, Skip Limbaker, Heather Lollis, Casey Lucas, Nicole McAden, Besty McCall, Renee Miller-Cotton, Erin Porter, Dyke Spencer, Todd Steadman, Stephen Steese, Kayleigh Sullivan, and Ryan Ward

**OTHERS PRESENT:** A. Hubbard, D. Montgomery, and C. Shivar

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME**

Keith Brockington called the meeting to order at 10:00 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 advised members Mr. Tee Coker, who was formerly with MKSK Studios and Alta, is now the new Planning Director for the County of Greenville.

**SCDOT GPATS PROJECT STATUS UPDATE**

Erica Hailey, 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, SC-153 Ext Project, and SC-146 Woodruff Road Widening are moving along with construction and are all still on schedule for their estimated completion dates.
- Roper Mtn Rd and Roper Mtn Rd Ext projects were awarded to Eagle Construction, and construction has begun with an estimated completion date of February 2024.
- Woodruff Rd Parallel, the virtual public hearing, was launched on July 7<sup>th</sup> and will continue through August 7<sup>th</sup>. She suggested visiting [fixwoodruffroad.com](http://fixwoodruffroad.com) for details regarding the preferred alternatives. She stated for those wanting to ask questions there are two hotline dates remaining for July 30<sup>th</sup> from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and August 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- SC-153 Intersection Improvements was awarded to Thrift Development Corporation, and construction has begun. She advised a pre-construction meeting is to be scheduled, and the project has an estimated completion date of February 2023.

- SC-107 Butler Rd Project’s consultant, ICE, has completed traffic analysis. She advised the best fit roadway alignment is under development with preliminary plans to begin soon.
- I-385 Pavement Rehab is on schedule with all paving completed. She stated permanent line striping and several minor items remain.
- SC-164 Gibbs Shoals Rd Bridge Project’s estimated completion date was moved to November 2020.
- S-75 Mt Lebanon Church Rd construction continues with an estimated completion date of October 2020.
- S-272 W. Georgia Rd is completed, and only punch list items are remaining.
- S-154 over Huff Creek Bridge Replacement design was selected, and the notice to proceed was reissued to CDM Smith on July 2, 2020.
- 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 segments 1 and 2 have been placed on hold by Clemson University.
- Pickens Downtown Doodle Connector TA project was canceled by the City of Pickens in May 2020.
- Woodside Streetscape is in right-of-way with utility coordination underway.
- Woodside Park Connector's preliminary plans are being designed by AECOM.
- Ragsdale Rd Sidewalk Project was awarded to Thrift Development Corporation, and construction has begun. She advised a pre-construction meeting is to be scheduled.
- Minor Street Sidewalk TA project is completed, and only punch list items are remaining.
- Riverside Middle School let date moved to November 2020 due to an increase in the project budget. She advised SCDOT is coordinating with the Anderson County School District to secure additional funding.
- West Georgia Rd Project is in preliminary engineering. She stated CECS design was selected, and the notice to proceed was issued on July 2, 2020.

Ms. Hailey made herself available for any questions.

**TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FY 2020 CYCLE UPDATE**

Brennan Groel addressed the members with a status update regarding the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program. She advised two projects have been canceled. One was canceled due to the reallocation of funding, and the other applicant was able to complete the project themselves. She stated a FY2020 TA allocation of approximately \$656 thousand was received. She advised the following:

• Unobligated Balance:	\$1,174,827.77
• Available Balance (including FY2020)	\$ 939,973.64
• Amount still needed	<u>\$ 234,854.15</u>

She advised the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act is set to expire at the end of this fiscal year, and the TA Program receives its funding from this Act. She stated Legislators could extend the FAST Act through a Continuing Resolution or replace it with a new act, and they could extend, replace, or get rid of the TA Program when addressing the FAST Act. She advised GPATS will not issue a call for projects and applications with the FY2020 allocation this year, but instead will focus these funds towards existing projects to guarantee the already awarded funding. She stated if the TA Program is extended, the next allocation will be directed to existing projects until the program breaks even. She advised if the TA Program is not extended, the following options may be applied:

- A one-time Guideshare allocation to supplement what would have been the TA award funds. She advised this option was written into the TA guidance document in 2013 and would be a decision by the Policy Committee.
- SCDOT has said they will help fund projects fully obligated by September 30, 2021. She advised the project would need the construction phase obligated in the STIP and must have been awarded before or during 2017.

Ms. Groel stated the one-time Guideshare allocation was written into the TA guidance document as a backup should funding ever be rescinded due to the program ending at the end of the FAST Act. She advised the potential lapsing of funds was not taken into account at that time. She explained funding lapses from earlier TA Program years, and funding allocated forward at the beginning of the program resulted in the amount of \$235,000 remaining for the existing projects.

Ms. Groel made herself available for any questions.

Mr. Brockington advised members the TA Program is overextended as a result of the Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program ending in 2013 and then switched to the TA Program. He stated GPATS spent ahead approximately five years' worth of funding to refund the projects rescinded with the TE Program, so these projects were not canceled or delayed when the TA program started.

#### **TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENT AC #1**

Keith Brockington advised members on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment AC #1, included in the Study Team's agenda packets. He stated the changes made to the TIP were as followed:

- At the request of SCDOT, includes the FY2020 Recreational Trails Program participants (highlighted in blue):
  - Parallel Swamp Rabbit Trail in Unity Park
    - \$125k in FY2020
  - Green Crescent Trail, Clemson Park Loop
    - \$125k in FY2020

- GTA Grant, FTA Section 5339(c) “LowNo”
  - \$5.277 million in FY2020
- GTA Maintenance Facility Grant, FTA Section 5339(b)
  - \$11 million in FY 2018
- CA4I/SCDDSN Grant, FTA “Mobility for All”
  - \$326,000 in FY2020
- State Mass Transit Funds (STMF) FY2020
  - GTA \$316,000
  - CAT \$ 89,000

Mr. Brockington made himself available for any questions.

A question was asked if the planning funds are still available for GTA and CAT through GPATS.

Mr. Brockington advised the planning funds have been approved within the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and will continue to be reimbursed as usual.

**Recommendation:** Mr. Brockington asked for approval or any objections from the members to pass the Transportation Improvement Program Amendment AC #1 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 thanked the members in attendance, which are on either the steering or technical meeting for this study. He stated two stakeholder meetings had been held; a kickoff meeting in June and data regarding network assessment in July. He advised the upcoming stakeholder meeting for August 13<sup>th</sup> will be reviewing land use analysis. He stated there is also a Freight Plan Advisory Committee consists of the 20 to 25 members from the public sector with include representation from BMW, Continental Tire, Railroads, and Michelin. He stated the first meeting with the Advisory Committee is scheduled for July 30. He stated the consultant, CDM Smith, is assisting Charleston with their freight mobility plan, and Mr. Estep has joined them in several meetings. He advised with placing the two Stakeholder Committees, together the consultant has created the Palmetto Freight Series. He advised this enabled both Steering Committees to talk about topics important to the freight industry to both plans. He continued the plan’s expected completion date is for early 2021. He advised material for this study can be viewed on ACOG’s website at [www.scacog.org/acog-freight-plan](http://www.scacog.org/acog-freight-plan). He stated the past meetings are listed with the pdf, ppt, and video on this website, and will maintain updating after each meeting.

Keith Brockington provided an update on the FTA Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Study for Laurens Road. He advised this grant was awarded to the County of Greenville last year. He stated COVID has slowed the process, and the County is waiting on

feedback from FTA regarding the Request For Proposal (RFP). He advised the RFP can be viewed on South Carolina Business Opportunities (SCBO). He encouraged the entire region to observe the plan's development, for it could be useful to their jurisdiction in the future.

Keith Brockington gave an update regarding the South Carolina Transportation Infrastructure Bank (SCTIB) applications for the County of Greenville and the City of Pickens. He stated the SCTIB and the SC Commission met and tentatively approved the County of Greenville's application for the Woodruff Road Parallel. He advised the City of Pickens' application was rejected. He stated the SCTIB encourages those applications which were rejected to resubmit their application again in the fall. He advised GPATS will continue to work with the City of Pickens to enhance their application.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There were no items of new business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Without objection, Mr. Brockington adjourned the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

  
Submitted by Recording Secretary