

**MINUTES**  
**GPATS STUDY TEAM COMMITTEE**  
**September 30, 2019**  
**Suite 400 – County Square**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Keith Brockington, Brennan Groel, Asangwua Ikein, Christina Lewis, Skip Limbaker, Heshia Gamble, Paula Gucker, Stephanie Jackson-Amell, Craig Nelson, Dyke Spencer, Gregory Gordos, James Keel, Kayleigh Sullivan, Nicole McAden, Pete Knudsen, Todd Steadman, Chris Brink, Rhonda Sloan, Jon Caime, Clint Link, Rick Wyatt, Blake Sanders, Mark Pleasant, Erica Hailey, Casey Lucas, and David Dyrhaug

**OTHERS PRESENT:** B. McCall, A. Reid, (inaudible), D. Montgomery, J. Mustar, J. Chasteen, P. Butler, E. McMann, E. Dillon, E. Swearingen, and R. Ward

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME**

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

Keith Brockington welcomed all in attendance and requested those in attendance to introduce themselves.

At this time Mr. Brockington moved item number 3 forward.

**L RTP AND TIP AMENDMENTS, SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

Brennan Groel addressed members regarding an amendment change to the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). She stated the Safety Performance Measures will need to be adopted by February 27, 2020. She advised the new Safety Targets for the State are:

- Traffic Fatalities: 1,011
- Fatality Rate: 1.8
- Severe Injuries: 2,781
- Severe Injury Rate: 4.98
- Non-motorized: 380

She presented slides of the LRTP pages updated that was included in their electronic message. She stated the reason for increase in targets is because as the baseline rolls off SCDOT is expecting the fatalities to increase.

Question was asked if the word Improvement could be used in place of Safety Target.

Brennan Groel advised it is a Federal terminology.

Keith Brockington advised GPATS will talk to FHWA and see what the leeway on the language can be. He stated Target is the technical term from how the Performance Measures were adopted in Federal Legislation and then was passed along to GPATS.

Brennan Groel stated that the physical documents placed at each table shows the changes highlighted in both the LRTP and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) documents.

Ms. Groel made herself available for any questions.

**Recommendation:** Mr. Brockington asked for approval or any objections from the members to pass LRTP amendment recommendation to Policy Committee for approval. No objections or questions by consensus.

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

### **SCDOT PROJECT STATUS UPDATE**

Casey Lucas addressed members with a brief update of projects from the form included in the electronic message.

- Batesville Rd Widening Project is in construction.
- SC-183 Jameson Project to be approved for the STIP during the October Commission Meeting.
- SC-153 Extension Project construction is ahead of schedule and a great deal of progress has been made on the roundabouts.
- SC-146 Woodruff Rd Widening Project is currently working on relocations of the utilities. She stated updates on this project can be found live on the SCDOT construction website.
- SC-14 Improvement project's walls have been completed and the contractor is expected to return as of last week.
- Roper Mtn. Rd and Roper Mtn. Road Ext Projects are still waiting on certifications on utilities and right-of-way, causing the projects to have a rolling let date.
- Woodruff Rd Parallel Project Environmental Assessment was reviewed by SCDOT and awaiting \ FHWA approval.
- SC-153 Intersection Improvement Project is waiting for utilities certification.
- Mt. Lebanon Church Rd Project had a preconstruction meeting on September 4, 2019.
- S-272 W. Georgia Rd the bridge over Reedy River is in construction. She stated Earthwork and drainage activities are currently active.

- Hampton Ave Pedestrian Bridge Project construction is being done by Greenville County.
- Pickens Downtown Doodle Connector and City of Fountain Inn Woodside Park Connector TA Projects can begin once the contract has been signed.
- Clemson University Trail – Phase 2 TA project can move forward once the project is included in the STIP.
- Haywood Rd Sidewalk TA Project funds were approved for all phases of work. She stated SCDOT is assisting City of Greenville with the wall design.
- Fairview St over I-385 Project will have a bridge closure beginning October 4, 2019 and will continue to be closed for two weeks.

Ms. Lucas made herself available for any questions.

### **SCDOT FEASIBILITY REPORT PRESENTATION**

Betsy McCall with SCDOT presented members with a slide presentation on the SCDOT Feasibility Report (FR). She stated the main goals of a FR are to develop the purpose and needs, project goals, and scope which will determine a more accurate cost and schedule for the project. She advised for each project there will be a Project Development Team (PDT) put in place and that a Project Sponsor would be someone from GPATS. She stated the FR will be an agreement between SCDOT and the Project Sponsor. She stated there are four phases of the FR.

- PDT Scoping Meeting
- Final PDT Meeting
- Subcommittee Meeting
- Report Compilation and Adoption

She advised the benefits and uses of an FR for the COG/MPOs are to Evaluate Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Rankings, Budgeting, Regional Planner Discussions, and Communication with Partners. She stated the FR will assist SCDOT to be more efficient should there be a change in personnel in the department. She stated the FR will assist the public with questions or concerns due to data driven answers and consistency in the reporting. She stated the FR is adding one more phase to the project, not more funds; the Preliminary Engineering (PE) is now going to be divided into two phases. She stated the role of the Study Team in the FR process is to communicate with the COG/MPO and to assist with developing a LRTP. She stated the role of Policy Committee in the FR process is to communicate with the COG/MPO and sign the FR.

Ms. McCall made herself available for any questions.

Question was asked if every project in the TIP or STIP will go through the process of an FR.

Ms. McCall stated not every project will have a FR. She advised only Intersections, Widenings or Corridor Improvements, and all Interstate Projects.

Mr. Brockington stated currently the FR is scheduled for new TIP Intersections, Corridor Projects, and Guides share monies spent on Bike and Pedestrian. He stated it is unknown at this time if these will get FRs due to TIP monies already being scheduled for FY2022. He advised there may be some projects which do not need an FR.

Question was asked with the PE phase being split into Planning and PE, is the schedule and cost being split as well, or is it adding cost to the project.

Ms. McCall stated the FR is not adding cost to the project. She stated the FR will be done in the Planning phase to assist with better schedule and cost for the project.

Question was asked at what point is the Local Public Administration (LPA) process initiated in the PE phase.

Ms. McCall stated this was a good question and will advise at a later date.

Question was asked even though a representative from the MPO will be on the PDT, could other stakeholders and city or county officials who are members of Study Team and relevant to the project be on the PDT.

Ms. McCall stated it depends on the project. She stated yes if they have funds invested, partnered with somebody, or the project makes a substantial effect to their area.

Question was then asked how SCDOT determines when it makes an impact to the town if there is not a local representative at the table for local input.

Ms. McCall advised it is based on rough estimates. She stated having stakeholders at a PDT meeting is not as common as it is not having them there. She stated the town affected by a project is asked before the process begins and the town will continue to be involved but not necessarily attending each and every PDT meeting.

Question was asked if it was mentioned that the FR is not a static process but a dynamic process.

Ms. McCall stated the FR has a timeline in the report. She advised the timeline in the FR will give those handling the project a better idea of when it can start and the cost to help with determining to proceed or not with the project. She stated the FR will assist with explaining to others about the project to help set project expectations.

Mr. Brockington stated if a project is too expensive the FR can be laid aside and used at a later date with a new LRTP by breaking down the larger project into smaller ones.

Question was asked which department in SCDOT is over the FR.

Ms. McCall stated the SCDOT Planning Office.

### **FTA SECTION 5310 (ELDERLY AND DISABLED) FUNDING CALL FOR PROJECTS**

Asangwua Ikein addressed the members regarding a Call for Projects under Section 5310 funding. He stated Section 5310 funding is available to providers of transit service for elderly, disabled, and for job access. He stated if anyone needs assistance with the application or has questions to contact him. He stated this project is being advertised in the local newspaper, GPATS website, and is sent with each email he creates. He advised there is approximately \$580 thousand available. He stated this is a combined amount based on the prior and current year average amount spent of \$350 thousand.

Mr. Ikein made himself available for any questions.

Question was asked how funds are utilized.

Mr. Ikein gave an example of one applicant applied for over \$400 thousand which is more money than was allocated over one year. He stated this amount was due to three years' worth of accumulating funding due to getting the program started.

Question was asked if other money is available outside the GPATS region.

Mr. Ikein advised for outside the GPATS region, they would need to contact the COG.

### **GPATS INTERACTIVE MAPPING PROJECT**

Asangwua Ikein addressed members with a presentation update to the GPATS Interactive Mapping Project. He stated improvements were made to the project since the last Study Team meeting to make it less confusing. He continued the presentation showing members how to navigate the map online. He advised projects are continually being updated, but should anyone see a need for a correction to contact him. He stated a link will be added to these projects which will then transfer the user to the GPATS website for more information on the projects.

Mr. Ikein made himself available for any questions.

Question was asked if there was mapping from the points he presented.

Mr. Ikein advised SCDOT supplied him with the data which he then applied to the mapping project.

Keith Brockington advised the website will be available when finished. He stated the intent for this project is coordinated regional calibration. He stated when it is completed there will be a formal process for other jurisdictions to add their projects.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Keith Brockington addressed the members that Lance Estep was not able to attend this meeting but gave him updated information regarding the Freight Study. He stated

ACOG is close to signing a vendor for this study once they receive the notice to proceed from SCDOT.

Jonathan Chasteen addressed the members with an update on the City of Greenville Downtown Transportation Master Plan. He stated they are finalizing the plans and will be submitting them in the next couple of weeks.

Keith Brockington advised a presentation of the City of Greenville Downtown Transportation Master Plan should be ready to present to Study Team at the January meeting and then at the February Policy Committee meeting for their endorsement.

Keith Brockington addressed the members regarding the Transit-Oriented Development Freight Study (TOD). He stated Greenville County has secured a grant for this study and the study area will be the Laurens Rd Corridor between Greenville and Mauldin. He advised GPATS is still waiting on the draft scope and memorandum from stakeholders. He stated once these are completed then the Procurement Department can begin. He advised this study could start at the beginning of the year.

At this time Mr. Brockington moved to item number 6.

#### **GPATS 2020 MEETING SCHEDULE**

Keith Brockington addressed the members with the new GPATS 2020 meeting schedule. He stated proposed date schedule was included in their electronic packet.

Mr. Brockington made himself available for questions.

**Recommendation:** Mr. Brockington asked for approval or any objections from the members to pass GPATS 2020 Meeting Schedule recommendation to Policy Committee for approval. No objections or questions by consensus.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Keith Brockington addressed the members regarding guests with the MetroPlan MPO from Little Rock Arkansas are arriving Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> and will be here through the week. He stated City of Greenville and City of Travelers Rest will host several of the planned meetings. He stated GPATS will be spending most of Thursday with the group, and a panel discussion is scheduled with several Policy Committee members and elected officials.

Keith Brockington advised members that Georgia DOT (GDOT) is having a public meeting on October 23, 2019 for the High-Speed Rail Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). He stated this is the only meeting being held in South Carolina and it will be in Greenville. He advised GPATS needs to be prepared and a part of the planning process as it moves forward. He stated GDOT has the Tier 2 phase funded. He advised he will be sending information links to the draft documents online for their viewing. He stated

the meeting location will be held at County Square, 301 University Ridge - Suite 400 at 5:30 p.m.

Question was asked if he could advise further what is being studied.

Mr. Brockington advised the Tier 1 EIS is looking at the High-Speed Rail Feasibility from Charlotte, NC to Atlanta, GA through South Carolina. He stated when the plan began there were six routes being evaluated three through the Upstate and the other three through the Columbia area. He stated during the process the three through Columbia were removed and the focus was then placed on the Upstate area which are:

- Crescent line – existing Norfolk Southern Line
- I-85 Right-Of-Way Corridor
- Greenfield Route – passes through Anderson and Fountain Inn then back through GSP and Spartanburg

He stated heavy analysis has been done regarding which route is more feasible. He explained the analysis was based on ridership, timing of the routes, speed of the trains, and which route can provide the most effective High-Speed Rail system.

Question was asked if the High-Speed Rail System is primarily moving people, freight, or both.

Mr. Brockington advised it would be to transport people, would reduce commuting traffic on I-85, and make the distance from Atlanta to Charlotte a shorter commute. He advised there maybe freight benefits; however, this is not the intent. He stated this would change the transportation and land use in the Upstate. He advised there may be only one or two stations placed in the Upstate. He stated with the possibility of the few stations there will be a need to get the other municipalities and universities involved.

Keith Brockington addressed members that the Plan Greenville County Unveiling will be held at the Greenville Convention Center, formerly known as TD Convention Center, on October 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. He stated the Comprehensive Plan will include Transportation with Regional and Municipal impacts. He stated there has been a lot of growth since the last Comprehensive Plan and the new Comprehensive Plan is different than any others in the past.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Without objection Mr. Brockington adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.



---

Submitted by Recording Secretary