

**MINUTES**  
**GPATS POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE**  
**January 28, 2013**  
**Conference Room A – County Square**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Kirven, Vice Chair Senator Martin, Representative Loftis, Representative Putnam, Representative Gary Smith, County Council Chair Taylor, Councilor Norris, Councilor Payne, Councilor Meadows, Mayor Danner, Mayor Long; Mayor Raines, Mayor Eichor, Mayor White, Mayor Bagwell, Pickens Council Chair Willis, Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Edwards and J. Owings

**OTHERS PRESENT:** K. Brockington, T. Wedmore; H. Hahn; P. Gucker, H. Gamble, K. Walters, E. Dillon, T. Elrod, S. Gwinn, J. Chasteen, F. Simmons, B. West, G. Baney, J. Hecter, J. Frierson, M. Sullivan, P. Phillips, F. Curti, V. Holmes, G. Sprague, R. Hawes, J. Allison, and D. Druhaug

Vice Chair Martin called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 17, 2012 MINUTES**

**MOTION:** By Councilor Meadows, seconded by Representative Smith, to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2012 regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously by a show of hands.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Vice Chair Martin opened the floor to nominations for Chairman of GPATS.

Representative Loftis, nominated Councilor Kirven for Chairman and Mayor Eichor seconded the nomination.

Mayor Bagwell, nominated Senator Martin form Chairman seconded by Councilor Willis.

Mayor Bagwell voiced his concern over not having a chair from Pickens County. He felt it was a slap in the face for the County.

**MOTION:** By Representative Smith, seconded by Mayor Eichor to close nominations. The motion carried by a show of hands.

Mayor Bagwell suggested the committee postpone the election of officers until the new members, from the expanded area join in.

Senator Martin stated at this time there was a motion to close nominations on the floor and he would need to continue.

By a show of hands, Councilor Kirven was elected by a vote of twelve in favor (Payne, Meadows, Taylor, Norris Danner, Raines, Long, Eichor, White, Loftis, Smith and Kirven) and Senator Martin received six votes (Bagwell, Willis, Putnam, Edwards, Adams and Martin).

Senator Martin passed the gavel to Chairman Kirven.

Chairman Kirven stated everyone was aware there were critical needs in all corners of the GPATS area. Those needs transcend the political boundaries and they greatly exceeded the resources available. He stated the committee did not need to waste a lot of time and energy squabbling amongst each other. Mr. Kirven stated all had to approach their job judiciously in order to reach the best decisions for all our citizens. As for the role of Chairman, he stated he felt meetings should be conducted business like, everyone should be well prepared for the agenda items and be knowledgeable of the GPATS functions and issues and support all members fairly. As Chairman that was his pledge to the Committee members, and it was his job as Chairman to support the Committee members and facilitate the group to make the best decisions it could.

#### **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

Chairman Kirven opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairman.

Mayor Danner nominated Senator Martin for Vice Chairman and seconded by Mayor Eichor.

**MOTION:** By Representative Smith to close nominations and elect Senator Martin as Vice Chairman by acclamation, seconded by Mayor Eichor. By a show of hands the motion carried unanimously.

#### **TIP AMENDMENT – GTA 5307 ANNUAL APPORTIONMENT**

Greg Baney, Greenlinks Planning and Grants Manager addressed the Committee with a request to amend the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) to include the remaining FY2012 Federal Transit Authority annual apportionment in the amount of \$879,221 as well as the FY2011 apportionment in the amount of \$2,123,657. The funds would allow Greenville Transit Authority (GTA) to provide fixed route and demand response service e throughout Greenville County by covering capital replacement, vehicle maintenance and non-vehicle maintenance.

Chairman Kirven requested Mr. Baney present the next item and the Committee would vote for both items together.

### **TIP AMENDMENT – GTA 5316/5317 JARC/NEW FREEDOM**

Mr. Baney presented to the Committee members a request to amend the TIP to include its FY2011/2012 Section 5316 and 5317 totals in the amount of \$369,413 and \$242,833. He explained the funds represent the Jobs Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom programs. The JARC grant program is intended to fund the development and maintenance of transportation services designed to transport low income individuals to and from jobs and activities related to their employment. He explained the New Freedom grant program provided improved public transportation services and alternatives to public transportation for people with disabilities, beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).

Mr. Baney mentioned at this time there was not a project for the JARC grant program and GTA was accepting applications through January 31, 2013.

Councilor Willis asked how to obtain an application for those funds.

Mr. Baney stated there was a link on the GTA website and offered Ms. Willis assistance from Mr. Dave Baxter, who is the GTA's JARC and New Freedom project coordinator who was in attendance.

**MOTION:** By Mayor Danner, seconded by Senator Martin to approve both requests for TIP amendments by GTA. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

### **FY2014-2019 TIP UTDATED SCHEDULE**

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee members with an updated schedule on the FY2014-2019 Transportation Improvement Program. He stated in June 2013, the Policy Committee will be presented with a final TIP for Fiscal Years 2014 through 2019. He stated in March the Committee will be presented with a Draft Tip for consideration and discussion. Staff and the Study Team would be working behind the scenes to finalize the TIP well ahead of the June adoption. Mr. Brockington stated the funding would decrease in FY2014 and the guideshare for FY2015 and onward was still unknown but would be determined by the SCDOT before the TIP was drafted. He stated other required changes would be implemented and presented to the Policy Committee at the March meeting.

### **GPATS/SCDOT PROJECT UPDATES**

Tommy Elrod updated the Committee members with a status report of GPATS projects as were made available in each member's agenda packet. He made himself available after the meeting to anyone that had any questions and also reminded the Committee members he was available at any time to meet with them or any of their constituents.

### **BATESVILLE ROAD PROJECT ROUNDABOUT**

Gay Sprague with Sprague and Sprague Traffic Consultants addressed the Committee members regarding a request for information by the Committee in regards to a roundabout alternative to the Batesville Road project. Ms. Sprague showed the results of the traffic study indicating a level of service delay in a traffic signal being 88 seconds versus a 207 second delay with a one lane roundabout during morning peak hours. She

also provided information regarding the afternoon peak hour and showed in a slide the length of traffic back up indicated in her findings. Ms. Sprague recommended in the Batesville Road project a traffic signal would be appropriate verses a roundabout.

#### **GPATS REORGANIZATION SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Keith Brockington updated the Committee members on the work the Sub-Committee has done regarding the reorganization. He summarized the discussions and stated the Sub-Committee would meet again in February and March to resolve all issues regarding membership and Bylaws prior to the March Policy Committee meeting. Mr. Brockington stated the primary task at this time was determining voting membership. He presented several scenarios which were discussed, but no scenario was the most favorable. The Committee would be meeting again on February 11, 2013.

Chairman Kirven invited any member to attend the February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting as it was an open meeting.

Mayor White asked how membership was determined in other areas and was there a formula.

Senator Martin requested staff to research and let the Committee know how other MPO's determine membership.

#### **REQUEST FOR ENDORSEMENT – TRI COUNTY MPO**

J. C. Cook, Mayor of Clemson addressed the Committee members requesting a letter of recommendation formally endorsing the dubbed "Tri-County MPO".

Chairman Kirven stated the Mayor's request would be taken under advisement and discussed at the Sub-Committee meeting and brought back at the March Policy Committee meeting.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Elaine Creel addressed the Committee members regarding the Batesville Road project. She discussed moving the road in a prior meeting and she had assumed that would be brought up again. She again asked to do what was less invasive when it came to her property.

Tommy Elrod stated there would be a public hearing within the next three to four weeks and notification would be made for the time and place of the public hearing.

#### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Kirven made the following project nomination for consideration at the March meeting for GPATS/SCDOT to issue an RFP for an outside firm or agency to perform a corridor study to evaluate an alternate route to I-85. This study would evaluate a minimum of three (3) alignment alternatives to the south of I-85 between I-385 in Simpsonville to the SC Hwy 290/I-85 interchange in Spartanburg County, to serve as a by-pass or alternative to Interstate 85. The corridor study will consider alignments either on a new location (route), existing location (route), or a combination of the two. The

final deliverables will include conceptual alignments overlaid on aerial photography, preliminary cost estimates for each alternative, and a conceptual-level assessment of environmental impacts, and impacts to traffic, utilities, and rights-of-way. The budget for the study would be \$30,000.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, without objection, Chairman Kirven adjourned the meeting at 11:14 a.m.

---

Submitted by Recording Secretary