

**MINUTES**  
**GPATS POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE**  
**February 25, 2019**  
**Suite 400 – County Square**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Butch Kirven, Vice Chairman Senator Rex Rice, Senator Turner, Senator Allen, Representative Burns, Representative Cox, Representative Collins, Representative Smith, Councilor Costner, Councilor Norris, Councilor Meadows, Councilor Seman, Councilor Hudson, Councilor Davis, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Willard, Mayor Cook, Mayor White, Mayor Petersen, Mayor Curtis, Mayor Danner, Mayor Durham, Mayor Raines, Mayor Amidon, George Campbell, Ruth Sherlock, and Keith Brockington

**OTHERS PRESENT:** P. Gucker, S. Holt, B. Hansley, A. Ikein, H. Hahn. D. Montgomery, H. Gamble, C. Link, B. Madden, S. Amell-Jackson, G. Gordos, D. Cooper, C. Lewis, S. Limbaker, M. Holden, C. Lucas, J. Keel, K. Larimore, E. Haley, D. Wright, K. Sullivan, N. McAden, L. Estep, J. Chasteen, R. Sloan, and R. Wyatt

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME**

Chairman Kirven called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and welcomed the new members of the GPATS Committee; Senator Ross Turner of Greenville, Representative Wes Cox of Anderson, Councilmember Liz Seman with Greenville County Council, Councilmember Dan Tripp with Greenville County Council, George Campbell GTA Board Chair, Ruth Sherlock, Greenville Legislative Delegation Transportation Chair, and Duane Greene, Pickens Legislative Delegation Transportation Chair, and Jimmy Davis with Anderson County Council.

**APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 15, 2018 COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MOTION:** By Representative Smith, seconded by (inaudible) made to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2018 Committee meeting. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no individuals signed up for public comment.

## **POLICY COMMITTEE ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Mr. Kirven opened the floor to nominations for Chairman of GPATS.

Mr. Costner nominated Mr. Kirven.

**MOTION:** By Representative Smith to close nominations and elect Mr. Kirven by acclamation. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Kirven opened the floor to nominations for Vice Chairman of GPATS.

**MOTION:** By Representative Smith to nominate Senator Rex Rice and close nominations and elect Senator Rice by acclamation. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Kirven asked for a vote of confidence for Keith Brockington, Executive Director.

**MOTION:** By Senator Rice, seconded by Representative Smith for a vote of confidence in the Executive Director, Keith Brockington. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

## **SCDOT PROJECT STATUS UPDATE**

Casey Lucas addressed the Committee members with a brief update and presentation of projects which were included in the agenda packets. At the request of Mr. Brockington she advised there is a new section listed with the report for Signal Projects. She advised the Butler Road Project is currently in negotiations with the consultant and SCDOT recently held a meeting with the City of Mauldin to discuss the scope for this project. The West Georgia Road Bridge Project was let in December and awarded. She stated the Hampton Ave. Pedestrian Bridge Project was awarded; a preconstruction meeting was held last week and construction should begin soon. The Batesville Road Project Right-of-Way has been completed and is scheduled for the March letting. She advised the following three TAP projects are within Anderson County. The Minor Street Sidewalk is currently in Right-of-Way. However, there is not much Right-of-Way mainly permissions are needed and believes the letting date will be moved to this summer. Next, the Ragsdale Road currently has \$200,000.00 of GPATS TAP funding. She advised this project has been on hold until Anderson County secured additional funding which was done in January. The Riverside School plans have been submitted for Right-of-Way and are on schedule. Next, she stated the following two TAP Projects were approved last year by GPATS. Fountain Inn Woodside Connector and the Pickens Doodle Trial Projects are both being sent to a consultant for design. These projects will each have different timelines even though they both will be packaged together. She advised the Clemson University Trail does not require any GPATS funding but is partially within the GPATS' boundary. There will be a phase 2 of this project which will have ARC funding. She stated in the future this project will need to be placed in the TIP so it can be placed in the STIP. She advised the following project's letting dates have been effected due to utilities. The SC 146 Woodruff Road Project letting date has been moved to April,

Roper Mountain Road, Roper Mountain Road Extensions Projects have been moved to August, and Gibbs Shoals Road is not in the Guideshare project but is in GPATS boundary and has been moved several months as well. She stated SC DOT is waiting on guidance from GPATS regarding the Woodruff Road Parallel Project due to State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) which is currently restructuring how they receive SIB applications. Once this process is completed the schedule will be readjusted.

She then showed members progress slides of projects which are currently in construction. She stated the wall for the SC 14 Improvements on Bethel Road is almost completed and grading is scheduled to start in the spring. Next pictures shown were of SC 153 Extension and advised this too is on schedule. She stated work continues on all three bridges and the wall at Norfolk-Southern but that grading is completed and drainage installation is scheduled to begin soon. She then showed slides of the completed Belle Shoals Road Project.

Mr. Kirven asked if SC 153 by-pass was the project held up due to mitigation.

She advised this was correct and that everything has been resolved.

Ms. Lucas made herself available for any questions.

#### **PERFORMANCE MEASURES UPDATE**

Brennan Hansley addressed the Committee members regarding an amendment update to the Performance Measures of the LRTP and TIP. She advised the FAST Act mandates USDOTs, followed by State DOTs, must present different Performance Measures and adopt targets in the national goal areas:

- Safety
- Infrastructure Condition
- Congestion Reduction
- System Reliability
- Freight Movement and Economic Vitality
- Environmental Stability
- Reduced Project Delivery Delay

She advised when a final rule has been published; SC DOT has a year to set their own targets for these Performance Measures. GPATS, MPOs, and COGs have approximately 180 days to either adopt the state's target or set their own. GPATS has currently addressed Safety, Transit Asset Management, Infrastructure Condition, System and Freight Reliability. She stated new Safety targets have been received and in 2018 GPATS adopted the state's targets. Since then four of the five statewide Safety targets have passed. The failed Safety target is with the Non-Motorized fatalities and severe injuries. She advised if the state fails in one more of the Safety targets our state is considered non-compliant in safety. GPATS is not affected directly for a failed target but the state is. She explained it could affect GPATS indirectly with allocation of non-Guideshare funds being reallocated to Safety projects; an example would be possibly a Resurfacing

project diverted to Safety projects. She reviewed with the members the new SC targets which are traffic fatalities 988, fatality rate 1.79, severe injuries 2986, severe injury rate 5.42, and non-motorized 380. GPATS baseline is below the line with the exception of severe injuries rate. She advised GPATS is currently splitting Guideshare funding of 50% roadway corridors, 25% intersections, 10% bike ped, 10% transit, and 5% signal upgrades. She stated this is important considering GPATS bike pedestrian target is the only area which is failing statewide. She advised safety is being used as a ranking criteria when selecting projects. She suggested GPATS could set specific targets and monitor the region then use the information to set data based priorities as an MPO. She advised GPATS must decide to use the state's targets or set their own by February 27, 2019 and advised the Study Team recommended adopting the state targets for the 2019 monitoring period.

There was a brief discussion and Ms. Hansley made herself available to answer all questions.

Mr. Brockington further added the Performance Measures have been making a great impact statewide how projects are selected and evaluating which projects are most effective with the measures that have passed so far. He advised Safety is unique and is done yearly and how this target will be seen more frequently. He stated while there is no direct impact on GPATS funding however; there could be some non-Guideshare affected if the state is not meeting these targets. Especially, if the GPATS or upstate region is contributing to a large percentage of the non-motorized fatalities. Where we currently have a much higher than average severe injury the state may decide to reprioritize non-Guideshare funds for Safety projects which may affect GPATS funding to appropriate share of those projects affected.

**MOTION:** By Mayor Danner, seconded by Mayor Raines to approve LRTP amendment. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**MOTION:** By Mayor Danner, seconded by Representative Smith to approve TIP document amendment. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

## **GPATS TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENT AC #5**

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee regarding changes to the 2018 – 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) financial statement, in an amendment to include the following at the request of SCDOT:

- Addition of Woodside Streetscape Enhancement/ARC Project
- Addition of SC Recreational Trails Projects
  - Arts Park Connectivity Trail
  - Conestee Boardwalk Replacement
- Addition of McKelvey Rd over Huff Creek Bridge Replacement

He advised the Woodside Streetscape Enhancement/ARC Project is from the former Enhancement Program before it was changed to the Transportation Alternative Program. SCDOT and the City of Fountain Inn are ready to begin this project. Funds still exist for the project and have been supplemented with ARC funding. Due to the project being inactive it was omitted from the TIP. This project will be placed in the non-Guideshare program because the prime source of funding is ARC. He stated at the request of SC Recreational Trails Projects the two projects needed to be listed in the TIP and there is no GPATS funds associated with these projects. He advised the last item bridges are usually inserted in batches however; the McKelvey Rd. Project is a special case. He informed the members these projects have been advertised since the Study Team meeting.

Mr. Kirven inquired if there is any financial impact to GPATS funding by these projects.

Mr. Brockington advised they do not.

Mr. Brockington made himself available for any questions.

A question was asked regarding a local discussion for a possible change to the US 29 Bridge height.

Mr. Brockington did have a brief discussion with Kevin McLaughlin and was not advised of any changes.

**MOTION:** By Representative Smith, seconded by Councilor Norris to approve TIP amendment AC #5. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

## **DRAFT 2020 – 2025 TIP DOCUMENT AND DRAFT 2020 – 2021 UPWP DOCUMENT**

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee members advising the two documents are currently in draft form and will be given to the Study Team for their endorsement at the April meeting and then for Policy Committee adoption in May. He stated the current changes have been to policy and program. He advised the largest change is going to be from SCDOT. There will be an added feasibility study or planning phase with all new projects. He stated with all new projects there will be a new planning phase before any engineering, right-of-way, or construction are programmed. He advised this change will get the project to 20% of the plans which will be better cost estimates before additional phases. He used the example of Woodruff Road Parallel costing \$42 million and the final cost over \$100 million. He stated this should provide a better idea of what the project will accurately cost to help make decisions. Current projects will not be affected with this new change.

Mr. Kirven asked if this new change pertained to just GPATS.

Mr. Brockington stated this change will be statewide and affect all MPOs and COGs.

Another concern was who would be paying for this additional planning.

Mr. Brockington advised this will not impact the project cost and that originally this happens later in a project with funds set up for preliminary engineering.

Mr. Brockington made himself available for any questions.

## **TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FISCAL YEAR 2019 – CALL FOR PROJECTS**

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee members regarding the annual cycle for Transportation Alternatives Program opened for Fiscal Year 2019, for all eligible jurisdictions who currently do not have an active application or project less than 50% complete. He advised GPATS is still waiting on the award number but Staff is currently using the amount of \$656,199 which was the amount last allocated. He informed members of a new TAP guideline based on SCDOT guidance. He stated the TAP guideline and application can be found on the GPATS website and the Call for Projects was announced at the Study Team meeting on January 28<sup>th</sup>. He advised applications will be accepted until March 16, 2019 and then submitted to Study Team on April 29, 2019 for evaluation. Recommendations to submit for TIP funding will be presented to the Policy Committee at the May 20, 2019 for approval.

Mr. Brockington made himself available for any questions.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

SCDOT Commissioner Davis advised the position of SCDOT Commission Chairman is a yearly position. He stated GPATS has held this position for two straight years due to his and Commissioner Willard being Chairman. The newly appointed chairman is Robby Robbins and has been moved to Charleston. Commissioner Davis stated he and Commissioner Willard are still on the Commission and will continue to push for activities in the GPATS area. He advised the Commission is aware the roads are in terrible condition. South Carolina has had thirty years of road deterioration and that will not improve in a year or two. He stated this Commission, under this Secretary believes it has planned well for the future. He stated they have a 10 year plan of what they are going to do and how they are going to use the money from the increase of gas user fees. He advised they did a Pothole Blitz around the state, however, due to the continuous rain they need to redo these repairs. He explained there are over 300 projects currently active in the state and \$3 billion dollars' worth of commitments out on the streets. He stated there are 42,000 center line miles of roads and it will take a long time to get to a particular road. He advised they are ranking these roads in an analytical order and not political, and in time we should see an improvement in roads.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** By Representative Loftis to adjourn, without objection Chairman Kirven adjourned the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

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Submitted by Recording Secretary