

MINUTES
GPATS POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE
February 27, 2017
Suite 400 – County Square
10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Butch Kirven, Representative Smith, Representative Burns, Representative Loftis, Representative Collins, Senator Allen, Senator Rice, Councilor Norris, Councilor Roberts, Councilor Costner, Councilor Hudson, Commissioner Willard, Commissioner Davis, Mayor Raines, Mayor Bagwell, Mayor Danner, Mayor Durham, Mayor Lee, Mayor White, Milton Shockley, Keith Brockington and Addy Matney

OTHERS PRESENT: P. Gucker, T. Barber, H. Hahn, K. Brockington, B. Hansley, H. Gamble, T. Elrod, J. Chasteen, E. Dillon S. Jackson, J. Shelato, M. Forman, S. Limbaker, D. Cooper, V. Holmes, C. Link, J. Horton, D. Dryhaug, B. Harrelso and J. Hector

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Kirven called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. and welcomed the new members of the GPATS Committee; Senator Rex Rice of Pickens, Councilman Costner, Pickens County Council Chair, Councilman Hudson, Pickens County Council; Councilman Roberts, Greenville County Council; and Addy Matney, GTA Board Chair

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 29, 2016 COMMITTEE MEETING

MOTION: By Councilwoman Norris to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2016 Committee meeting. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no individuals signed up for public comment.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairman Kirven stated it was time for the biennial election of GPATS Chair and Vice-Chair. He opened the floor to any nominations.

Representative Smith nominated Mr. Kirven for Chair; he stated Mr. Kirven has served the Committee well. The nomination was seconded by Mayor White.

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

Chairman Kirven opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairman.

Mayor Bagwell nominated Senator Rex Rice for Vice Chairman.

MOTION: By Representative Smith to close nominations and elect Senator Rice as Vice Chairman by acclamation. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Chairman Kirven stated normally a report from the SCDOT Commissioners was given at the end of the regular meeting. He allowed the Commissioners to speak at this time, due to the lengthy agenda.

Commissioner Davis addressed the Committee stating he realized any talk of gas tax was a controversial subject. He stated with Secretary Hall and other staff members Commissioner Davis felt things could get done if there were more funds to do it with. He discussed the increase in gas tax and what monies would be brought in. He noted South Carolina had the second lowest gas tax, with Alaska having the lowest. He stated he felt there were only two choices; continue riding on deteriorating roads that get worse and worse each year or do something to fund the problem.

Commissioner Willard distributed a handout providing some facts for all the members. He stated currently South Carolina had a 16.75 cent gas tax and of that amount 5 cents is required for transfers to other entities, 4 cents required to match federal highway dollars, 4 cents for highway maintenance worker salaries and benefits, 3 cents for materials, supplies, contracts for daily repairs. Leaving one cent to address current state system needs such as congestion, safety enhancements, bridges and improving pavement conditions. Commissioner Willard stated if additional funding were received, most of it would go to the maintenance and supply side. Commissioner Willard stated the handout shows an outline of a plan if additional dollars are received. He stated South Carolina ranks number one in fatalities and critical crashes, 950 fatalities in the state last year. Much of that is due to a lack of deferred maintenance. Thirty percent of the fatalities are occurring on five percent of the roads. He discussed the plan SCDOT has developed to be phased-in with potential additional funding. The Commissioner noted it would take many years to address the decades of deferred maintenance and restore the transportation system to a state of good repair as our infrastructure was in a critical state. Commissioner Willard briefly explained the plan which SCDOT developed; a Rural Roads Safety Program, increasing the resurfacing program, widening roads along freight network, increase routine maintenance, replace more structurally deficient bridges and enhance mass transit services.

At this time Chairman Kirven moved items forward on the agenda which required action.

GPATS 2016-2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENT #6

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee with an amendment/correction #6 to the TIP, which were:

- Addition of the Partial (7/12ths) FY2017 FTA Apportionments
- Addition of the Clemson No-Lo Grant line item for 5339©

MOTION: By Representative Smith, seconded by Mayor Danner to approve the GPATS 2016-2021 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #6. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

SUPPORT RESOLUTION FOR GREENVILLE AND PICKENS COUNTY STATE INFRASTRUCTURE BANK (SIB) APPLICATIONS

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee members stating Greenville and Pickens Counties are developing applications for the State Transportation Infrastructure Bank. He stated as part of the application, letters of support are requested from relevant jurisdictions, including the Metropolitan Planning Organizations like GPATS. He noted Greenville County was requesting \$167.88 million and Pickens County was requesting \$104.6 million. He explained to the Committee the projects which would be funded.

Representative Collins thanked GPATS and Mr. Brockington for the work put into the application process for Pickens County.

MOTION: By Commissioner Davis, seconded by Mayor White to approve the support resolution for Greenville and Pickens County State Infrastructure Bank Applications. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

SCDOT PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

Tommy Elrod addressed the Committee members with an update of several of the projects as were included in the agenda packets.

Mr. Elrod stated the opening bids for the Church Street project were in December, which came in higher than what was comfortable. At the same time the City of Greenville contacted the SCDOT regarding the project. Currently, he was working with Mayor White to try to improve the pedestrian and bicycle access on the bridge before the project is rebid.

Mr. Elrod stated on January 24th there was a Public Meeting on Farris Bridge Road at Jameson Road. There were about 160 people in attendance and received about 80 comments. Mr. Elrod stated a roundabout was being proposed at the location.

Mr, Elrod stated on the SC153 extension, they did not have their permit, but felt sure they would have the Corps of Engineers Wetlands Permit late March, early April and planning on opening construction bids in June.

The Woodruff Road, Scuffletown, going out towards Bennett's bridge, project was completing right of way acquisitions and expecting to open bids this coming summer.

2017 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM CALL FOR PROJECTS

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee noting the annual cycle for the Transportation Alternative Program shall be opened for Fiscal Year 2017, for all eligible jurisdictions who currently do not have an active application or project less than 50% complete. He stated SCDOT has awarded the FY2017 allocation to GPATS for \$643,694. Applications and program information is available from staff or on the GPATS website. Mr. Brockington requested all applications be submitted to GPATS staff no later than March 17, 2017. The applications will be reviewed by the Study Team at their meeting on March 27, 2017. He provided a schedule prior to approval in June 2017.

GPATS FY 2017 TRANSIT ITEMS

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee with information on funding of the Transit operations. He also stated there were still funds available under the 5310, Transit Funding for Elderly and Disabled Persons. He also noted per SCDOT, the new 2017-2022 STIP will no longer include items from previous Fiscal Years. The GPATS TIP will still account for transit Fiscal Years that are still active, and will be summarized in the TIP in a special column for FY2017, highlighted in orange. GPATS will alter its new 2018-2023 TIP in June to account better for this requirement.

HORIZON2040 LRTP UPDATE

Keith Brockington presented an update to the Committee on the LRTP update. He stated the update was proceeding on schedule and gave details of events as were included in the agenda packets. The adoption of the LRTP was on track for October.

SCDOT SAFETY WORKSHOP

Brett Harrelson with the SCDOT Traffic Safety in Columbia gave the members of the Committee a PowerPoint presentation on safety statistic and findings for the GPATS area. The presentation would be available on the GPATS website. The data provided will be used in the LRTP update and the New Federal Highway Bill requires performance measures, five of which are related to safety. Each MPO beginning in 2018 will decide whether to make their own targets or accept the targets from the SCDOT. The presentation showed fatalities were up last year, making South Carolina number one in fatalities. It also gave ranking comparing fatalities in states using a level playing field formula. The presentation provided detailed information on what would be the causes of the fatalities, the most common being road departure. The data also showed in what area the crashes were occurring, mainly on a primary roadway within the GPATS area. Mr. Harrelson also showed percentages of various types of crashes and also broke down

the causes of road departure crashes. Additionally, he showed where the road departures occurred and which roads had the most crashes. Mr. Harrelson provided suggestions of various cost effect safety features.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: By Representative Loftis to adjourn. Without objection Chairman Kirven adjourned the meeting at 11:43 a.m.

Submitted by Recording Secretary