

MINUTES
GPATS POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE
March 16, 2015
Suite 400 – County Square
10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Butch Kirven, Vice Chairman Senator Martin, Representative Smith, Representative Hamilton, Representative Collins, Councilor Meadows, Councilor Payne, County Council Chair Taylor, Pickens Council Chair Willis, Councilor Smith, Commissioner Willard, Mayor Raines, Mayor Danner, Mayor Baughman, Mayor Durham, Mayor Cook, Mayor Bagwell, Mayor White, Mayor Owens, P. Dilger and K. Brockington

OTHERS PRESENT: E. Vinson, P. Gucker, H. Hahn, M. Floyd, S. Julius, T. Elrod, P. Phillips, E. Dillon, C. Nelson, J. Horton, D. Cooper, C. Link, L. Estep, M. Forman, J. Heckter, F. Curti, M. Rickerts, K. Vass, J. Gardner, K. Walters, H. Gamble, R. Jerry, D. Burges, J. Chastain, E. Dillon, C. Nelson, P. Phillips, J. Horton and M. Sullivan

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kirven called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. He welcomed everyone and recognized Commissioner Willard and Mayor Eric Baughman.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 26, 2015 COMMITTEE MEETING.

Two corrections to the January minutes were noted, one to show Mayor Pro Tem Geneva Lawrence as being present and the second to correct page 5, noting Fox Simons as being the Easley City Administrator and not the Pickens County Administrator.

MOTION: By Council Chair Willis, seconded by Councilor Smith to approve the minutes with the amendments of the January 26, 2015 meeting. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no individuals signed up to speak.

SCDOT PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

Tommy Elrod, Project Manager with the SCDOT updated the Committee members, with responses to questions asked at the January Committee meeting. He stated the Memorial Dr. Ext. Bridge is scheduled for completion in April. Additionally, the Old Augusta Road project of installing traffic signals is complete.

Mr. Elrod stated the TIP projects; SC 101/ in Greer, completion date is expected to be May 2016. The Roper Mountain Road project, between Garlington and Feaster, had been placed for rebidding; having only one bidder and the amount was high. Mr. Elrod felt the project would be placed out for bids again. He stated the City of Liberty was working on replacement sewer lines and tentatively construction would begin late 2015 or early 2016. Mr. Elrod stated the right of way acquisition process has begun on the Salters Road project and construction is anticipated for early 2016. The Woodruff Road widening from Scuffletown Road to Bennetts Bridge Road is having environmental studies underway, with Right of Way acquisition scheduled for 2015/2016 with construction beginning in FY17. He stated there would be a Public Information Meeting at Monarch Elementary tomorrow (March 17, 2015).

WOODRUFF ROAD PARALLEL AND SC 153 ACCELERATION

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee members with a proposal to accelerate two projects into the TIP (Transportation Improvement Program). He stated with the impact of the redevelopment of Magnolia Park, a discussion regarding ways to alleviate traffic congestion on Woodruff Road occurred. Out of the discussions, a proposal was made for GPATS to consider accelerating the top-ranked projects in the LRTP (Long Range Transportation Plan) the Woodruff Road parallel and improvements to SC-153. Staff's goal is to incur as few delays as possible in other projects while getting these two projects moving.

Mr. Brockington stated the acceleration of these projects would delay by one year the Roper Mountain Road Extension to Garlington Road project, the Roper Mount Extension from Pelham to Roper Mountain and the SC 183 Intersection Improvement at Jameson Road.

Councilor Willis requested a little more background work from the Study Team as to why a critical safety project as SC183 and Jameson Road would be delayed for another project.

Mr. Brockington stated the delay in the Jameson Road project was done mainly in order to balance the TIP.

Mayor White stated this was a good way to address the Woodruff Road issues. It would be up to the City and County to make sure any development along the new road are managed in the right way. The thinking is this should be a bypass or corridor that is

mainly office development and residential development with light commercial, certainly no traffic generating commercial.

MOTION: By Mayor White, seconded by Representative Smith to approve the Woodruff Road parallel and SC 153 acceleration. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EMMAS LAW IMPACT TO GUIDESHARE

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee regarding a letter from the United States Department of Transportation to the South Carolina Department of Transportation Secretary of the impact of SC Act 158(Emma's Law) on Federal funding of transportation projects to South Carolina. The Law addresses repeat DUI offenders and noted South Carolina was in noncompliance and had enacted new legislation eliminating the suspension and revocation requirements that previously existed for repeat offenders. For noncompliance with the Section 164 requirements the State is subject to a reservation of 2.5% of the FY 2015 funds apportioned. The funds must be used instead for alcohol-impaired driving countermeasures. The decrease for GPATS being \$419,198.00 will be reflected in the upcoming item regarding the TIP Amendment.

Senator Martin stated what he knew was South Carolina was not notified of the changes which were needed in the existing law regarding repeat DUI offenders. There is no law concerning funding, only the way it is allocated. He felt better communication was needed between the Legislature and SCDOT.

Commissioner Willard stated as it was explained to him, it was a loss of money to the MPO's but not a loss to the SCDOT. It is money shifted into the Safety Project, which is a state wide fund and could be applied for to use towards safety projects.

Council Chair Willis stated she was concerned with placing mandates on small businesses. An employer should not need to retrofit a vehicle for an employee. She felt it should be looked into just how many repeat offenders are working for a company and driving a vehicle. Ms. Willis voiced her concern about the money being shifted away from GPATS and the ability to compete on a state level for those funds.

GPATS 2014-2019 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENT/REVISION #8

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee regarding changes to the TIP, in an amendment to:

Adjust Guideshare funding as discussed in Item 5 of the agenda, per Emma's Law impact.

Inclusion of Preliminary Engineering in FY2015 of the Batesville Road project, no funding change.

Increase funding for Bridge Replacement S-23-272 (W. Georgia) at Reedy River, from \$50k ROW and \$3.394 mil. Construction to \$400k ROW and \$5.5 mil const.

Possible inclusion of Woodruff Road Parallel and SC-153 Acceleration Projects.

MOTION: By Councilor Payne to approve the Transportation Improvement Program Amendment/Revision # 8. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM , FY 2015 CYCLE

Monica Floyd addressed the Committee with an update on the Transportation Alternative Program for the FY 2015 cycle. She stated two applications were received as follows:

Greenville County – Poinsett District Streetscape, Phase 2, \$315,000

Town of Williamston – Minor Street Sidewalks, \$200,000

Ms. Floyd stated the amount being applied for does not exceed the GPATS allocation of TAP funds, and no decision needs to be made on which must be selected, both projects meet the eligibility requirements. She noted she would make the applications available to anyone who would like to review them. The item will be in the June agenda for approval.

FTA DIRECT RECIPIENT APPLICATION AND RESOLUTION

Sam Julius, GPATS Transit Planner updated the Committee on the application process and requested approval of a Resolution to be permitted to serve as a Direct Recipient. Mr. Julius requested the Committee approve the resolution and permit the Chairman or his designee to sign the supplemental forms on behalf of GPATS.

MOTION: By Councilor Smith, seconded by Senator Martin to approve the resolution and authorize the Chairman or his designee to sign the supplemental forms on behalf of GPATS. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

SCDHEC AIR QUALITY STATEWIDE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Keith Brockington introduced Mr. Roger Jerry, from SCDHEC Bureau of Air Quality who gave a short presentation on the need for GPATS approval of the State Implementation Program. He stated DHEC was required to re-up their EPA required State

Implementation Plan every five years. He stated the Memorandum of Understanding has had the language changes and notations relevant to MAP-21 but the document changes nothing that GPATS must do that it hasn't been doing. The majority of the document focuses on requirements of jurisdictions that are in nonattainment, which does not apply to GPATS at this time. One concern expressed was GPATS could possibly be drawn into an area of nonattainment as Augusta takes in part of Aiken County and Edgefield County and Charlotte takes in part of York County and Lancaster County.

MOTION: By Councilor Smith, seconded by Mayor Raines to approve the Memorandum of Agreement regarding the SCDHEC Air Quality Implementation Plan. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

GPATS AND SPATS BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee with a request to adjust the boundaries of GPATS and SPATS due to an oversight of an overlap. The change is a parcel not within either Urbanized areas but claimed by both MPO's will be yielded to SPATS, as it lies within Spartanburg County. A smaller parcel previously claimed by SPATS will be yielded to GPATS as it is included in the Greenville Urbanized Area and must not be included in SPATS to avoid SPATS falling under Transportation Management Area regulations. GPATS already falls under those regulations.

MOTION: By Councilor Smith, seconded by Council Chair Willis to approve the GPATS and SPATS boundary adjustment. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Bagwell asked about Pickens County having a SCDOT Commissioner

Senator Martin stated the current Commissioner is from Greenwood, Ben Davis.

Chairman Kirven recognized Congressman Jeff Duncan's representative from the Third Congressional District.

Mayor Danner voiced his concern over unfunded mandates regarding Emma's Law, he felt the Legislators needed to work on this issue.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Chairman Taylor stated Clemson was in contract with Protera for buses and GTA was currently looking to see if they could do the same, which would help with the ozone attainment issue.

Mayor Cook announced the ribbon cutting in Seneca and they have not bought Diesel Fuel since last year. He stated they now have a billion miles without using Diesel Fuel. Mayor Cook stated currently there was dialog with Clemson University to change all of their busses over to electric.

Also, Mayor Cook stated Clemson Area Transit has completed everything it needs with the FTA and are now Direct Recipients. He expressed his appreciation to CAT and GPATS for their assistance.

Chairman Kirven introduced Pat Dilger, who is the new Chairman of GTA.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Danner moved to adjourn the meeting. Without objection the meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

Submitted by Recording Secretary