

MINUTES
GPATS POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

March 21, 2011

Conference Room A – County Square

10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Senator Thomas, Chairman; Senator Martin; Senator Shoopman; Representative Dwight Loftis; Mayor Danner; Mayor Long; Mayor Bagwell; Mayor McCall; Mayor Owens; County Council Chair Kirven; Councilor Meadows; Councilor Payne; Councilor Norris; Councilor Burns; Commissioner Edwards; W. Mowry; C. Burgess; D. Mitchell; and M. Long;

OTHERS PRESENT: J. Owings; D. McGee; K. Brockington; T. Wedmore; H. Hahn; T. Elrod; B. Jordan; E. Dillon; F. Simmons; G. Sprague; R. Kneese; J. Horton; G. Hunter; A. Doyle; V. Barnette; M. Phillips; D. Barnette; C. Link; and J. Gardner

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2010 MINUTES

MOTION: By Senator Martin, seconded by Mr. Edwards to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2011 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Thomas moved the following item forward, awaiting the arrival of a quorum.

PROJECT UPDATES

Tommy Elrod with the South Carolina Department of Transportation presented the Committee members an update of projects within the GPATS area as included in their agenda packets. Mr. Elrod requested the Committee approve extending the project termini on Batesville Road from Anderson Ridge Road intersection to extend to the Roper Mountain intersection, which would change the description in the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

MOTION: By Councilor Payne, seconded by Mayor Danner to approve the request of changing the TIP to reflect the project termini Mr. Elrod explained. The motion carried unanimously.

BY-LAW AMENDMENT

Ballot Vote

Tiffany Wedmore presented the Committee members a proposed amendment to the GPATS By-Laws to conduct the election of Chairman and Vice Chairman by paper ballot vote and counted by the secretary and made on a biennial basis.

Chairman Thomas noted in order for the By-Laws to be amended there would need to be a three quarters vote in favor of the proposed.

County Council Chairman Kirven stated during the last Policy Committee Meeting there had been discussion about a secret ballot. He stated for clarification, as a public body the Committee would be prohibited from secret ballot in order to meet the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act. Mr. Kirven stated a paper ballot would have to be signed and maintained and subject to Freedom of Information.

After further discussion amongst the Committee members the following motion was made.

MOTION: By Mayor Bagwell, seconded by Senator Martin to withdraw the amendment to the By-Laws regarding paper ballots. The motion carried with one in opposition (Owens).

BY-LAW AMENDEMENT

Chairman Position

Tiffany Wedmore presented the Committee members a proposed amendment to the GPATS By-Laws to rotate the Chairmanship and Vice Chairmanship between Greenville and Pickens County beginning in 2013.

Mayor Danner stated as long as he had been on the Committee, the Chair had always been a member of the Legislative Delegation, and asked if it was just protocol.

Chairman Thomas stated there was nothing written regarding the Chairmanship being someone from the Delegation, and he assumed it was just protocol.

Mayor McCall stated the rotation could be as was done with the Highway Commissioners, between Greenville and Spartanburg.

Mayor Danner asked staff if after the Census results were known was there a possibility of change within the MPO's?

Ms. Wedmore stated there was a possibility the MPO's could change, but she did not think it would be changed until 2012.

MOTION: By Councilor Meadows, seconded by Representative Shoopman to table the amendment until information was received from the Census regarding MPO's.

Representative Shoopman stated he thought the results of the Census would be known shortly along with any changes to the MPO boundaries.

Senator Martin suggested carrying over the item to the next Committee Meeting, until information from the Census was received and reviewed.

After further discussion, the motion on the floor to table the amendment carried with three in opposition (Martin, Owens, and Norris).

DRAFT FY2012-2017 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN (TIP).

Keith Brockington presented the Committee members information on the draft FY2012-2017 TIP, as was included in the member's packets. He stated the changes from the previous TIP were highlighted and if there were any questions, members could contact staff or the Department of Transportation and they would be happy to provide members with answers. Mr. Brockington gave an explanation of the newer projects that were brought into the TIP from the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). He stated staff would be bringing the plan to the Committee in June for a vote.

Mr. Brockington addressed questions regarding the process in which projects were placed on the plan. He stated the projects were in the Long Range Transportation Plan and ranked according to ACT 114, and brought into the TIP. Mr. Brockington stated ACT 114 had requirements that insured projects would be ranked objectively and not subjectively.

Mr. Brockington stated the TIP would be finalized within the next two months and placed out for public comment prior to the Committee's June meeting.

ENDORSEMENT OF TRANSIT RAIL STUDIES

Transit Vision and Master Plan

Daniel McGee requested endorsement of a resolution to support the Transit Vision and Master Plan for Greenlink. He stated the plan established a long-term transit vision for the area and included specific operational recommendations for near-term, short/mid-term and long-term implementation.

The Committee discussed the Transit Vision and Master Plan at length and had various questions regarding funding. The Committee inquired if there had been an established cost per rider, per mile for the GTA routes?

Mr. Mitchell with Greenville Transit Authority stated the figures were available; however, he did not have the answer at hand. He stated he would present the Committee with the cost per rider, per mile at the next Committee meeting.

Committee members expressed concern over the cost of expansion and how the cost would be covered. In addition, the committee members were unsure of what financial commitment the endorsement would place the committee in.

Mr. McGee explained, any additional financial requests would need to be brought before the Policy Committee and would require the committee's approval prior to moving forward.

Mayor Danner stated he felt the resolution was only asking for an endorsement and the Mayor called the question.

Chairman Thomas stated the question was called and with there not being a motion on the floor, he asked how many members would like to vote on the resolution at this time rather than referring the item until the next committee meeting.

The Committee members agreed to vote on the resolution with five in opposition (Meadows, Owens, Loftis, Edwards and Thomas) and one abstention (Shoopman).

The endorsement of the resolution passed with five in opposition (Meadows, Owens, Loftis, Edwards and Thomas) and one abstention (Shoopman).

Mayor Bagwell recognized Daniel McGee who attended the Easley Council meeting.

GCEDC Multimodal Transit Corridor Alternatives Feasibility Study

Daniel McGee presented the Committee members a summary of the Multimodal Transit Corridor Alternatives Feasibility Study, requesting the committee's endorsement of the study.

After some discussion, the Chairman held the item over to the next regular meeting.

DRAFT FY 2010 UPWP

Daniel McGee presented the Committee members with the draft work program included in the committee's agenda packet. He updated the committee on the Special Transportation studies in the Work Program. Mr. McGee stated the work program as well as the TIP would be brought to Committee in June for adoption.

I-85 CORRIDOR PLAN

Michael Dennis with the South Carolina Department of Transportation addressed the Committee members about a study the SCDOT's Planning Department has been working on for the I-85 Corridor, from US25 to the 85 business split. He introduced Mr. Rocque Kneece, with CECS Inc., consultants who worked on the study. Mr. Kneece stated the study was done to address current traffic congestion and those forecast for the future. He gave a PowerPoint presentation showing various strategies and ideas for improvement. Mr. Kneece stated a final report would be given to the SCDOT at the end of the month (March). There would also be a Public Information Meeting on April 28, 2011 at Michelin and a final report would be prepared in May 2011.

Chairman Thomas left the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

County Council Chairman Kirven chaired the remainder of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no appearances for public comment.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Council Chairman Kirven adjourned the meeting at 11:38 a.m.