

MINUTES
GPATS POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE
April 17, 2017
Suite 400 – County Square
10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Butch Kirven, Representative Smith, Representative Burns, Representative Loftis, Representative Hamilton, Representative Collins, Senator Rice, Councilor Norris, Councilor Roberts, Councilor Payne, Councilor Costner, Commissioner Willard, Commissioner Davis, Mayor Raines, Mayor Danner, Mayor Lee, Mayor Cook, Keith Brockington and Addy Matney

OTHERS PRESENT: P. Gucker, T. Barber, K. Brockington, B. Hansley, H. Gamble, T. Elrod, J. Chasteen, D. Dyrhaug, S. Jackson, M. Forman, S. Limbaker, D. Cooper, V. Holmes, C. Link and Allison Fluitt with Kimley Horn

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Kirven called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He thanked the Study Team and staff for their work in getting ready for the meeting and preparing the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 27, 2017 COMMITTEE MEETING

MOTION: By Mayor Danner, seconded by Representative Smith to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2017 Committee meeting. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no individuals signed up for public comment.

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. He stated the I-85/385 project was on schedule with a May 2019 completion date. After the project is complete they will begin widening I-85 to eight lanes all the way to Spartanburg. Mr. Elrod stated they were still working with the City on the Church Street Bridge. He briefly updated the Committee on bridge projects within the area and also on safety projects. He also went over projects within the Transportation Alternative Program and Guideshare Projects.

2017 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM UPDATE

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee with an update on the status of the Transportation Alternative Program. He stated staff had received six applications totaling slightly under three times the allocated amount of \$634,694.00. The rankings were close enough that no outliers could be identified. He stated the Study Team requested the applicants be consulted as to whether reductions and funding scenarios could be developed. The final recommendations for inclusion of the selected projects into the GPATS TIP will occur in June. The Policy committee will be asked for input on their preference of selecting projects with limited funding amounts.

Mayor Cook recommended the funds should be distributed to do whole projects and not partial projects. He suggested prioritizing to two or three projects.

Representative Loftis asked were there phases.

Mr. Brockington stated some of the projects were in phases and some not. Perhaps the projects that could be scaled back could be partially funded and the ones that could not, would be completely funded. He stated staff was currently working with the applicants to determine which could be scaled back.

FY2018 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM SPECIAL STUDIES – CALL FOR PROJECTS

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee with the funding made available for Special Studies. He noted the amount available as \$149,312.00. He stated the studies must be planning in nature and require a local match equal or greater than 20% of the entire project. If the total requested through eligible applications is less than the PL carryover amount, GPATS will likely fund all requests. If the requests are beyond what is able to be funded in a given year, the Study Team will make recommendations to the Policy Committee as to which requests should be approved. He stated staff was now accepting applications and would do so until May 1, 2017.

GPATS 2016-2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENT #7

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee members with a TIP Amendment AC#7 which would include:

- Addition of Clemson Area Transit funding for ADA Compliance, and adjustment of other line items in its breakout to match allocation.
- Addition of the FY2017 State Mass Transit Funding for the Greenville Urbanized Area.
- Addition of funding for US-25 NB and SB Bridge Replacement over S-23-119 and the North Saluda River.

Chairman Kirven asked Mr. Brockington to explain the deficits indicated.

Mr. Brockington stated when there are cost overruns and the TIP is adjusted for the overruns, and balances are shifted around. Once a new TIP is approved as will be in June, the balances are reconciled.

MOTION: By Representative Smith, seconded by Representative Burns to approve the Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #7. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

HORIZON2040 LRTP UPDATE

Allison Fluitt with Kimley Horn addressed the Committee members with a status update on the progress of the Long Range Transportation Plan. She stated a lot of work and progress has been made since she was last before the Committee. Ms. Fluitt gave the GPATS State of the Region Report highlighting the demographics and existing conditions in the GPATS region, including population and employment statistics, commuting patterns, transportation networks and previous plans. She reported on the Horizon2040 Workshops, summarizing the results from the series of public meetings held for the LRTP last fall, including the September Regional Kick-off and eight October sub-regional meetings. Ms. Fluitt provided each Committee member with handouts which she will be referencing.

Mayor Danner stated the response data from the minority community is less than 15% and the response from people making over \$50,000 a year is well over 70%. Being there was a 50% increase in poverty in the area, how could we make sense of the statistically valid.

Ms. Allison stated they had looked at the total number of responses and not just at the GPATS region.

Representative Loftis stated he was thinking in the same line, 70% of the respondents had incomes over \$50,000. He wondered who that group wants public transportation for. Additionally, he stated another inconsistency was looking at the focus groups; one wants more facilities for bicyclists. It notes, some want facilities and other are interested in off street trails. He was not certain that equates to bicycle lanes, they want more facilities. Representative Loftis felt the overall emphasis with all the groups was repaving and the widening of roads.

Ms. Allison stated repaving and widening was consistently very viable.

Representative Loftis asked how the individual focus group numbers are integrated into the survey.

Ms. Allison stated with the focus groups they were interested in getting some geographic diversity, some subject matter experts, and agency partners to sit in on the groups.

Mr. Brockington stated the focus group participants were selected from the GPATS Study Team and area experts that are dealt with on a regular basis.

Representative Loftis asked who the experts were.

Mr. Brockington stated County and City Engineers, appointed officials and staff members from the GPATS area.

Representative Loftis said he was a little uneasy about the representation they had.

Councilwoman Norris stated her district, the “unseen group” as she calls them, of which many are not involved and have no transportation. In order to be inclusive, she felt they needed to be included.

Councilman Roberts agreed with Councilwoman Norris. Additionally, since the majority of the participants had an income of over \$50,000 a year, he was surprised they did public transportation. He felt had there been participation from the group Ms. Norris was speaking of it would have been even higher.

Councilman Payne asked if they were looking at any future transportation changes. Do the people taking the survey even consider Automated Connected Electric Shared Mobility as the future of mobility?

Ms. Allison stated it would be difficult to provide the education/information that would be necessary to have a question referring to future technology. There is not a mechanism in the survey to directly address that.

Commissioner Willard commented, looking over the guideshares over a five year period, each year there is about 18 million dollars. How is that 18 million dollars going to be divided up? Are you going to put it in Public Transportation, paving, new roads, widening, where are you going to allocate those dollars. He stated even though you are talking about a long range plan, there are already projects in the process that have dollars invested, so whatever you do is something that is not going to happen tomorrow or next year, it is going to happen over a period of time. Unless the Policy Committee wants to make a decision of scrapping a project. There is a new road, and are we going to take those dollars and put them in something else. We can talk about the basic issues of whether it is here or there, but the decision of this Committee is what is going to be done with the 18 million dollars.

Mr. Brockington stated staff will present strategies, different scenarios of what the Policy Committee could do with the monies. The Policy Committee will have full

authority on how to spend the dollars each year. The Study Team will be giving recommendations. He stated once the LRTP is adopted, at the February 2018 Committee meeting there will be a TIP Amendment bringing the TIP in line with the LRTP.

Ms. Allison informed the Committee of the next steps in the process.

How do you control groups that attempt to manipulate the input you get?

Ms. Allison stated she appreciated being able to include the statistical survey in the process. It helps in controlling the issue of input manipulations. GPATS was not required to have the survey in the process, but rather chose to include it in order to get a certain quality of feedback. She stated she faced that everywhere a plan was being done.

NEW BUSINESS

Senator Rice noted the Legislators would be working on the road deal.

Commissioner Willard stated the Commission had provided scenarios of how any monies would be spent if additional dollars were to be received.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Submitted by Recording Secretary