

**MINUTES**  
**GPATS POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE**  
**April 18, 2016**  
**Suite 400 – County Square**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Butch Kirven, Vice Chairman Senator Martin, Representative Smith, Representative Burns, Representative Loftis, Representative Collins, Councilor Meadows, Councilor Payne, County Council Chair Taylor, Councilor Norris, Commissioner Willard, Commissioner Davis, Mayor Cook, Mayor Lee, Mayor Raines, Mayor Danner, Mayor Durham, Mayor Curtis, Mayor McCall, Keith Brockington and Matt Carter

**OTHERS PRESENT:** E. Vinson, H. Hahn, S. Julius, B. Hansley, H. Gamble, E. Dillon, T. Elrod, J. Chasteen, M. Freeman, H. Lollis, J. Gardner, A. Babinicz, M. Richards and S. Yudice

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Kirven called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 22, 2016 COMMITTEE MEETING.**

**MOTION:** Without objection the minutes of the February 22, 2016 Committee meeting were approved unanimously by voice vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no individuals signed up to speak.

**SCDOT PROJECT STATUS UPDATE**

Tommy Elrod addressed the Committee members with an update of projects within the GPATS area as were provided in the agenda packets. The I-85, 385 interchange has begun and there is a web site (85385gateway.com ) which will provide information on the progress and plans for the project. He stated the I-385 pavement rehab project should begin in July or August. Mr. Elrod stated a new project which was in the SCDOT STIP, would look at a location along I-85 to build a park and ride lot. He mentioned the Church Street Bridge at McBee Avenue needing repair and the project would be put out to bid in December and early next year the project would begin. Mr. Elrod spoke of sidewalk projects and went over guideshare project status. He mentioned the 153 project and work was still being done regarding mitigation. He stated a site near Pumkintown was being intended for purchase to use for mitigation. Salters Road

received bids in November and in May the project would begin with Salters Road being closed about 14 months.

Representative Burns asked about the 290/253 project which was scheduled for completion in April, when would the project be completed.

Mr. Elrod stated the only information he had stated summer, he would guess that to be June.

### **2016 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM UPDATE**

Keith Brockington informed the Committee of the annual cycle for the Transportation Alternative Program received two applications, one from the City of Greenville for sidewalks along Haywood Road and the other from the City of Mauldin for Fowler Circle Multi-Use path. He stated the two projects fit within the allocated amount of \$643,694 and final inclusion of the projects into the GPATS TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) will occur in June.

### **GPATS 2016-2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENT #3**

Mr. Brockington addressed the Committee with an amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program to breakout into categories the GTA FY2015 allocation of Section 5307 as follows:

- Capital: \$142,597
- Operating: \$1,000,000
- Enhancements: \$20,703
- ADA: \$207,033
- Maintenance: \$700,000

**MOTION:** By Councilor Payne, seconded by Mayor Danner to approve the Amendment #3 to the GPATS 2016-2021 Transportation Improvement Program. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

### **EAST BUTLER ROAD CORRIDOR PLAN PRESENTATION**

John Gardner addressed the Committee with a PowerPoint presentation illustrating the East Butler Road Corridor Plan which was done with the help of Toole Design Group and Sprague & Sprague Consulting Engineers. He stated the stretch of road which the study encompasses is a stretch that citizens feel has a bigger role in defining the feel and look of the community than anything else. Mr. Gardner gave some background information regarding the project which dated back to the GRATS time. He stated the project went into the 2000 Long Range Transportation Plan as a four lane road. The SCDOT no longer builds the four lane roads and their Advance Project Report came back with a five lane roadway. There has been much opposition to a five lane road from the community and

businesses as Right of Way is constrained. He stated they had attempted to make the street fit the community. We heard what people wanted out of this street. He stated they made people a priority and heard concerns of minimizing impact on properties, mitigate congestion, address safety and drainage and improve the character and look of the roadway. Mr. Gardner illustrated where most accidents have occurred. He stated they were not expecting a huge amount of growth in the area. He illustrated three sections of the road and provided the suggestions for each. Mr. Gardner stated he felt they could maintain accessible operations with intersection improvements only.

**MOTION:** By Senator Martin, seconded by Mayor Raines to endorse the East Butler Road Corridor Plan. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mayor Raines complimented Mr. Gardner on the work that had been done on the plan.

Representative Smith endorsed the plan and commented on the problems that would occur if a five lane roadway was to be made. He also complimented Mr. Gardner on the plan.

The motion to endorse the East Butler Road Corridor Plan carried unanimously by voice vote.

### **GPATS 2040 LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN KICK-OFF**

Keith Brockington updated the members of the Committee with the anticipated contract signing with a consultant to be mid-April and formal kickoff of LRTP on May 1<sup>st</sup>. He stated staff had spent the last few months gathering data and holding internal discussion to prepare. He provided a tentative schedule for the plan. Mr. Brockington stated once the contract has been signed the Policy Committee will be given the opportunity to meet with the consultants to coordinate LRTP expectations and ideas. We are expecting to sign on Kimley Horn and Associates and they have Alta Planning and Design subcontracting and OLH Incorporated. The meeting will be set the first month or so of the process and all Policy committee members will be encouraged to attend.

Chairman Kirven asked the committee members to let him know what possible dates they could be available to have the meeting with the consultants.

Mayor Cook suggested the Chairman provide several dates and times and allow the members to pick.

A suggestion was made to perhaps schedule the meeting with the consultants in the evening or even on a Saturday.

### **TIGER VIII GRANT PRESENTATION**

Keith Brockington addressed the committee members on the status of the TIGER VIII Grant application. He stated in 2015 the City of Greenville and Greenville County submitted an application for the SCDOT TIGER Grant VII round. The application was widely praised and supported locally and was very nearly accepted and funded by USDOT Secretary Foxx. He stated building on that momentum the City and County of Greenville are again applying for TIGER VIII. The application was similar to the previous application, taking into consideration the lessons learned, refining budgets and details and overall strengthening the application. He stated if received, the grant will transform the current Greenlink transit system, it calls for the creation of circulator routes to connect West Greenville and other underserved neighborhoods within the City of Greenville as well as the municipalities. The grant requests funding for activation of the Greenville County's railroad corridor to extend the Swamp Rabbit Trail from E. Washington Street to CU-ICAR. Activation of the corridor includes a connection to the community of Arcadia Hills and Verdae. Mr. Brockington requested the Committee's endorsement of the submission of the grant.

Mayor Raines asked why the Swamp Rabbit extension is not going towards Mauldin and Simpsonville?

Mr. Brockington stated the projects had to be shovel ready in order to qualify for the application. He stated although Mauldin and Simpsonville did not have a shovel ready project, it would see expanded transit service.

**MOTION:** By Councilor Payne, seconded by Mayor Danner to endorse the TIGER VIII application.

Mayor McCall stated the study done by Furman University pertaining to the Swamp Rabbit Trail is available on line showing the total users of the trail, walkers and cyclists. It is amazing the number of people utilizing the trail. He stated he thought about 30% of the users of the trail are from outside Greenville County.

The motion on the floor carried unanimously by voice vote.

Chairman Kirven thanked the Commissioners Willard and Davis for being in attendance.

Mr. Davis spoke about the roads bill being taken up at this time. He noted he felt the current SCDOT staff was a good, strong, efficient group led by a terrific leader in Christy Hall. He stated there may have been some issues in the past, no funding issues, and no embezzling issues. He stated he felt from here on out there would be good work seen from the staff and Commission. Mr. Davis stated he felt the Commission was the transparency for the SCDOT and an important oversight group in the process. The main thing he said was to find out what the funding was going to be and to know the funding would be there next year and the next year so some planning can be done.

Mr. Willard concurred with Mr. Davis and was glad the audit came back indicating no fraud or mismanagement of funds which had been claimed. He felt it brought to light a lot about prioritization. He stated with funding being tight the state would have to look more at its freight corridors and he did not feel there would be much in the area of funding local projects. Mr. Willard stated he felt the MPO's would need to look at capacity issues primarily done with a number of intersection type improvement projects.

Representative Smith updated the committee on issues that took place in the South Carolina House last week with the Roads Bill. Currently it is being looked at to see if it really deals with the issue of funding. Dealing with restructure/reorganization the House took a very good look at the LAC (Legislative Audit Council) report and their findings concerning the internal audit process and moved that process under the State Auditor where it would have that independent support. Representative Smith stated on the budget side they identified funding sources as they have been that made sense to be put into the Department of Transportation Trust Fund. This year an additional 65 million dollars from the vehicle sales was moved into the fund, which has been done for the past three years. An additional 115 million dollars in fees, such as driver's license fees into the DOT Trust Fund. They will continue to look for funding sources.

Councilwoman Norris stated she was very supportive of the leadership role of Christy Hall.

Councilor Payne appreciated Representative Smith's explanation. He mentioned in 2014 there was a referendum that would have help Greenville County roads but was defeated because there was so much talk about there being enough money to do what needed to be done. He asked what the possibilities were that the State would find the money to meet the needs or would encourage the counties to find monies.

Representative Smith stated several areas would need to be looked at before looking elsewhere, such as gas tax for the needed funds.

Mr. Carter asked had there been discussions regarding transit.

Representative Smith stated they have not had any discussions regarding transit.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, and without objection the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

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Submitted by Recording Secretary