

MINUTES
GPATS POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE
May 21, 2018
Suite 400 – County Square
10:07a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Butch Kirven, Representative Burns, Representative Smith, Councilor Norris, Councilor Meadows, Pickens Council Chair Costner, Councilor Hudson, Senator Cash, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Willard, Representative Collins, Mayor Durham, Mayor Cook, Mayor Petersen, Mayor Owens, Mayor Curtis, Mayor Raines, Mayor Lee, Mayor White, Mayor Amidon, Addy Matney, Milton Shockley and Keith Brockington

OTHERS PRESENT: P. Gucker, S. Holt, B. Hansley, A. Ikein, H. Hahn. D. Montgomery, H. Gamble, S. Limbaker, T. Elrod, S. Amell-Jackson, S. Bell, d. Gracely, D. Dryhaug, M. Holden, K. McCormick, P. Phillips and V. Holmes

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Kirven called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Chairman Kirven welcomed Senator Cash, Mayor Amidon from Travelers Rest, Mayor Petersen from Liberty and a number of folks from the Study Team.

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 26, 2018 COMMITTEE MEETING

MOTION: By Representative Burns to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2018 Committee meeting as presented. 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 a brief update of projects as were included in the agenda packet. He stated the Batesville Road project, which he has been working on since 2009, was very close to the finish line. Environmentally they were clear, all utility agreements are 100 percent, the final offer has been made on the very last track needed and the plans are nearing completion. He stated it looked like everything would be complete and ready for construction bids in October. Construction to start early 2019. Mr. Elrod

spoke of SC153 extension in Easley. Clearance was given on the mitigation about a month ago and most of the clearing is complete. The SC14 project, Five Forks and Bethel Road project was awarded but a few things came up regarding the CORP permit and the permit was resubmitted. He stated he expected to have the permit next month and hopefully work will begin in either June or July. Mr. Elrod mentioned Woodruff Road, working with the utilities and hoped construction to be underway early next year.

Mr. Elrod answered questions regarding the Hampton Avenue Bridge. He stated staff had worked very hard on the project and some things are beyond their control. Currently they are waiting for the Railroad.

Mr. Elrod made himself available for any questions.

Chairman Kirven presented Mr. Elrod with a letter of appreciation from the GPATS Committee for his years of service

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FY2018 CYCLE RECOMMENDATION

Brennan Hansley addressed the Committee members with information on the project applications received for the FY2018 TAP Cycle. She stated staff received two new applications in addition to two previous applications that require additional finding per SCDOT review. During the process the City of Mauldin withdrew their application. Ms. Hansley went over the applications and noted the funding requests were for \$1,074,973 and the FY2018 TAP allocation is \$656,199. She stated the TAP Subcommittee recommends GPATS awards funding to the City of Pickens and City of Fountain Inn and split the remaining funds between them.

MOTION: By Mayor Cook, seconded by Representative Smith to fund the City of Pickens in the amount of \$199,893 and the City of Fountain Inn for \$232,080, holding the remainder to include in next year's program. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

GPATS TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENT AC#3

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee members with a draft financial statement for the GPATS Fiscal Years 2018 through 2023 Transportation Improvement Program. He explained the changes and adjustments which were done as illustrated in the attachment included in the agenda packets.

MOTION: By Mayor Lee, seconded by Representative Smith to approve the GPATS Transportation Improvement Program Amendment AC#3. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

GPATS FY2018 – FY2019 UPWP –FY2019 FINANCIAL RATIFICATION

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee members on ratifying the FY2019 Unified Planning Program. He noted unlike previous years where GPATS has made its carryover amount available to GPATS Jurisdictions for special planning studies, at the request of SCDOT and FHWA, GPATS will be providing \$100,000 of its carryover towards a Regional Freight Study, to be conducted by the Appalachian Council of Governments and in partnership with ACOG, SPATS and ANATS. The Financial statement will provide funding, staffing and programs for GPATS in the coming Fiscal Year.

MOTION: By Mayor Cook, seconded by Representative Smith to approve the GPATS FY2019 UPWP – Upstate Freight Study. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

GPATS BY-LAWS CONSOLIDATION AND UPDATE

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee members regarding updating the GPATS By-Laws to reflect current circumstances and to merge the Policy Committee and Study Team By-Laws. Additionally, the Study Team will be asked to “formalize” and develop a voting body in order to pass formal recommendations on to the Policy committee. This was a request from the Certification Review. Mr. Brockington went over the attachment included in the agenda packets.

The Committee members voiced their concerns regarding the Study Team being formalized and concern over items being presented to the Policy Committee which only receive a vote. Mr. Brockington made notes of the Committees concerns. After further discussion the following motion was made.

MOTION: By Representative Smith, seconded by Mayor White to hold the item until the next Committee Meeting. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

SCDOT Commissioner Davis addressed the Committee members with an update on the problem in Charleston regarding the I526 Bridge. He stated everything the Commission has heard is the bridge itself is still a good, viable efficient transportation project and did not have to immediately worry about the bridge falling tomorrow. The bridge has been inspected on a regular basis for some time just to make sure if there is a problem we

find it out before there is a tragedy. SCDOT is working around the clock to get the bridge back in order as quickly as possible.

Commissioner Davis noted SCDOT being the largest agencies in the state often becomes a whipping post. Every citizen of South Carolina rides the roads of the state. In a political time as now it is a constant barrage of staff, the Commission, the make-up of the Commission, who appoints who and so on and so forth. The Commission does not pick roads; they do not fix roads due to pressure from Legislators. All that is heard about cronyism, horse trading is absolutely not true.

Commissioner Willard stated at the last Commission meeting they approved the "Turn Back Program". It is a process initiated because of the review and audit that was done at the SCDOT two or three years ago. It is a volunteer program that if you have a road in your area that you want to have more control over that is in the state system, you can apply and depending on the type of road and condition of the road, will be turned over to you with a one-time compensation.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

Without objection Chairman Kirven adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.


Submitted by Recording Secretary