

MINUTES
GPATS POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE
June 20, 2016
Suite 400 – County Square
10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Butch Kirven, Representative Smith, Representative Burns, Representative Loftis, Councilor Meadows, County Council Chair Taylor, Councilor Norris, Commissioner Willard, Commissioner Davis, Mayor Raines, Mayor Danner, Mayor Durham, Milton Shockley, Keith Brockington and Matt Carter

OTHERS PRESENT: E. Vinson, H. Hahn, S. Julius, E. Dillon, T. Elrod, J. Chasteen, M. Freeman, H. Lollis, J. Gardner, A. Babinicz, S. Jackson, P. Gucker, D. Dryhaug, H. Gamble, D. Cooper, M. Rickard

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kirven called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. He announced there was not a quorum at this time and the actions items would not be taken up. Chairman Kirven stated he would move the items to the called meeting on June 29, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. He stated at that time Kimley Horn consultants would be presenting their plan for the Long Range Transportation Plan process and would be available for any questions the Committee might have.

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. He stated the I-85 widening project currently had two consultants working on a 12 mile segment from White Horse Road to SC 101. He stated with additional funding from the State Legislature it has been expanded out to be able to make some improvements from the Powdersville exit at SC 153 to pretty much all the way to Spartanburg. The I-385 Pavement Rehabilitation project did not receive any bids in May, so the design was revised and would receive new bids in August. Mr. Elrod mentioned again the Church Street Bridge over McBee as the bridge deck was in bad shape. He stated by next spring there may just be one lane in and one lane out for a few weeks. Mr. Elrod noted they were working through some challenges with the railroad on a TAP project in Simpsonville. He stated the SC 290 Guideshare Project in Greer was expected to be completed in mid-July 2016. Roper

Mountain Road between Garlington and Feaster has been under construction for a while

Chairman Kirven asked about the S-164 Batesville Road project. He asked had all the right of ways acquisitions been acquired.

Mr. Elrod stated all the necessary right of way had not been acquired and work is continuing.

Chairman Kirven asked if construction was still scheduled for the summer of 2017.

Mr. Elrod stated that was correct, bids would be accepted in February.

Mr. Elrod stated Roper Mountain Road between Garlington and Feaster, had Sloan Construction working with the bulk of the work to be complete mid-July. He stated the intersection at US 188/SC 93 in Liberty had bids open in February with Thrift Development as the low bidder. Construction scheduled to begin in June and completion expected in late 2016. He stated SC 153 in Easley was still obtaining right-of-way, expecting to have a permit in October with construction bid opening scheduled in February 2017. Mr. Elrod stated Salters Road has been closed and late this week the demolition on the bridge is expected to begin. The goal is to have it open July of 2017. He stated US 178; Ann Street in Pickens is in the process of obtaining right of way with construction beginning early 2017. The Woodruff Road widening and improvements to Scuffletwon Road is scheduled to begin by summer 2017. The Woodruff Road Parallel is in the consultant selection process, right-of-way acquisition schedule to begin FY 18 and construction in FY 2021. The SC 153 Corridor Improvements in Powdersville has underway the preliminary engineering with right-of-way acquisitions scheduled for FY18 and construction for FY19/20.

Representative Burns asked if the 153 extension project would impact Kay Drive.

Mr. Elrod stated he was not familiar with Kay Drive.

Representative Smith asked if some of the bridges were the ones money had been allocated for several years ago.

Mr. Elrod stated he thought some of the bridges might be, he was not that familiar with the bridge projects.

Representative Smith asked if some of the delay in the bridges were due to obtaining permits from Corp of Engineers.

Stephanie Jackson-Amell, SCDOT District 3 Engineering Administrator stated some delays may have been due to obtaining permits, depending on what type of permits were required. Additionally she stated some delays may have been due to the updated Floodplain Maps.

Councilwoman Norris asked if there was an update to the Hampton Avenue Bridge Project.

Hesha Gamble, County Engineer stated there was a contractor on board and work was continuing with the Rail Road, some legal issues were being worked out.

Councilwoman Norris stated she was not very happy about this.

2016 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM UPDATE

Keith Brockington informed the Committee members with the two projects accepted into the GPATS TAP and will be placed in the Draft GPATS TIP. The projects are the City of Greenville – Haywood Road Sidewalk - \$400,000 + match and City of Mauldin – Fowler Circle Multi-Use Path - \$63,050 + match. The Policy Committee will be asked to adopt these projects into the TIP at the June 29, 2016 meeting.

GPATS 2040 LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN KICK-OFF

Keith Brockington updated the members of the Committee members with an announcement of Kimley Horn being the consultant on board for the Long Range Transportation Plan update. He stated the called meeting on June 29, 2016 will allow the Committee to vote on the items they were unable to vote on today as well as information from Kimley Horn. The agenda will consist of three parts, the first being General Information, the second, interactive sessions with the Policy Committee and third, a question and answer time.

Mr. Kirven asked if there were any comments from the members of the Delegation or State Representatives would like to say a few words about the roads bill.

Representative Smith stated although the bill was not what everyone wanted, it was a good start. He stated it was not the “do all” or “end all” but they will continue to look at other means of funding. He stated this year there were a number of revenue sources moved from the Department of Motor Vehicles into the DOT Trust Fund. Representative Smith stated he felt everyone felt good about the staff changes at DOT and feel very comfortable with the people in place now.

Representative Burns stated they knew they were not at the end of the line, and the public does not understand for example, monies from three years ago are just now coming in to get ready to take action. He stated it would take time for the money that was allocated this year to actually pave roads and change bridges. He felt the general public was going to be in for a rude awakening that things all of a sudden are not happening. Whether locally there should be participation is food for thought.

Representative Loftis stated continued funding would need to be addressed, a direct source. Some funds have been diverted to the roads. He stated there were several plans out there, he was not in favor of increased taxes, but there was a House plan to reduce income tax and put a gas tax on. There were some other options. He stated we are going to have to have a continued resource and he did not think the public has thought through there are five interstates coming into the state and the inland port. There is a lot of fuel cost expended that we do not receive any revenue from.

Chairman Kirven stated everyone appreciated the hard work they had done.

Mayor Danner stated he also appreciated the efforts the Legislature did this year, and urged they consider different alternatives at the State level to possibly expanding an option for sales tax. He stated he had visited both Mount Pleasant and Rock Hill and they both had done incredible work with the roads in their areas.

Commissioner Davis stated the Commission and the DOT are pleased to have the Road Bill passed. There were a lot of ideas, a lot of back and forth. He agreed with Representative Burns that citizens think we got a 2 billion dollar check and within a year all these roads are going to be fixed. Commissioner Davis stated of course that was not true, over a ten year period that would be 200 million dollars a year. For DOT that was a drop in the bucket for one or two highways for repair. He stated he appreciated the Bill, but it was a long range project that can take years to get things done. There needs to be the stable, dependable you can count on every year kind of solution, which hopefully will come next year to allow us to have some additional money.

Commissioner Willard stated from the restructuring stand point, it did clarify, it began that process. The Secretary of Transportation has been given the task that this person has been sort of performing and asking the Commission to approve. The Commission is interested and wants to take the role of oversight, to provide policy, to provide a direction and basically get out of the way of the professionals. Hopefully that will improve project delivery as well as timeliness. The Commission will be coming back to the Legislature this year to "clean up" some of the issues that fell through the cracks. He stated he felt there would be improvements under Secretary Hall.

Commissioner Davis added a comment about the LAC (Legislative Audit Council) report. He stated it was a good thing; it pointed out there was absolutely no fraud, no ethical problems, no mistreatment of funds or people. It gave some good ideas of things that needed to be worked on, cleaned up. Secretary Hall had begun many of those same

things the LAC pointed out. Commissioner Davis stated he could not speak to things in years past, but since he has been on the Commission, the “horse trading” you hear about is just not happening. It is done by a strict priority list, ACT 114 list. He felt under Secretary Hall the trust of the Legislature and of the people will improve.

Representative Smith noted to put things in perspective; the 200 million dollars a year, just the I-20, I-26 project, the number one project would be 1.3 billion dollars for it alone.

Representative Smith thanked Secretary Hall, Stephanie and her staff for the hard work they have done to streamline the permitting process.

Chairman Kirven recognized the GPATS Study Team members and the work they do behind the scene.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, and without objection Chairman Kirven the meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Submitted by Recording Secretary