

MINUTES
GPATS POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE
June 24, 2013
Conference Room D – County Square
10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Kirven, Vice Chair Senator Martin, Representative Loftis, Representative Smith, Representative Burns, Representative Hamilton, Senator Allen, County Council Chair Taylor, Councilor Norris, Councilor Payne, Councilor Meadows, Mayor Danner, Mayor Long; Mayor Raines, Mayor Eichor, Mayor Bagwell, Mayor Sheriff, Mayor Durham, Mayor McCall, Mayor Owens, Mayor Cook, Pickens Council Chair Smith, Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Edwards, Trey Fouche, C. Tumblin and J. Owings

OTHERS PRESENT: L. Estep, K. Brockington, T. Wedmore, H. Hahn, B. Jordan, C. Bentley, D. Dyrhaug, D. Cooper, E. Dillon, F. Simons, G. Baney, H. Gamble, J. Gardner, J. Chasteen, J. Wortkoetter, M. Sullivan, P. Phillips, R. Hawes, T. Elrod, V. Holmes, B. West, S. Yudice, T. Houck, S. Robbins, J. Mustar, J. Allison, B. Wilson, R. Binnicker, and L. Cassidy

Chairman Kirven called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. He apologized for the cramped space and explained issues with Conference Room A forced the committee to meet in Conference Room D.

Mr. Kirven stated this was the first Policy Committee meeting since the reorganization and he welcomed the new members of the Committee. He requested each member introduce themselves, which they did.

APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 28, 2013 MINUTES

MOTION: By Mayor Eichor, seconded by Councilor Meadows to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2013 regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ADOPTIONS OF THE FY 2014 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Tiffany Wedmore addressed the Committee members with the annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) which identifies the transportation planning activities being carried out by GPATS with the use of FHWA Planning (PL) and FTA funds. She stated the UPWP provides updates on the GPATS public involvement process, program administration, systems management and coordination and transportation plans.

Ms. Wedmore stated for several years GPATS has allocated a portion of its PL carryover funds to municipalities and counties within the region to allow them to develop eligible plans and studies. GPATS is the only MPO in South Carolina that makes its unspent funds available to its cities and counties for the purpose of carrying out planning studies. She stated this year GPATS received more requests than monies available. The GPATS Study Team, at its last meeting suggested funding all applicants at 50 percent of the requested amount, which would allow all applicants to receive funding.

Ms. Wedmore stated a list of the studies were included in the agenda packet. She requested the Committee approve the FY2014 Unified Planning Work Program and in doing so approve PL carryover funds to be allocated to the local agencies as shown in the Financial Summary.

MOTION: By Pickens Council Chair Smith, seconded by Mayor Eichor to approve the FY2014 Unified Planning Work Program. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

ADOPTION OF THE FY2014 THROUGH FY2019 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Keith Brockington, Transportation Manager addressed the Committee with the final draft 2014-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He explained the Financial Statement had been presented to the Committee at the March meeting and staff has made adjustments for the past two months. The Study Team endorsed the TIP and it has been advertised. Mr. Brockington stated in the packets are attachments which are the finalized Financial Statement and the full document of the TIP was available on the GPATS website. He stated staff was available for any questions and they were requesting approval of the program to allow GPATS spending of projects to continue uninterrupted.

Mr. Brockington answered questions pertaining to the tables which were included in the agenda

MOTION: By Senator Martin, seconded by Councilor Norris to approve the FY2014 through FY2019 Transportation Improvement Program. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Commissioner Adams, Representative Smith, Senator Martin and Senator Allen briefed the Committee on items which were currently in the Legislature. There are three bills currently; one is dealing with 50 million dollars which would be transferred to the State Infrastructure Bank which would be used for a bond of 500 million dollars to be used

toward bridges and interstate expansions. Also there was a 50% move from car sales tax which would go towards non federal aid roads. Another bill is for 50 million dollars non recurring which would go to help bridges in the state.

GPATS 2013 CERTIFICATION RESULTS

Tiffany Wedmore addressed the Committee members regarding the joint certification review by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration of the planning process for GPATS. She stated the purpose of the review was to highlight good practices, identify opportunities for improvement and to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. Ms. Wedmore stated GPATS received a number of commendations, three corrective actions and several recommendations, which will be addressed by the end of the year. Staff will provide a full copy of the Certification Review Report upon request.

GPATS/SCDOT PROJECT UPDATES

Tommy Elrod with the SCDOT addressed the Committee members with an update on various projects within the GPATS area which was included in each member's packet. He stated he would be available after the meeting if anyone had any questions or concerns regarding the projects.

GPATS 2035 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE SCHEDULE

Keith Brockington updated the Committee members on the Long Range Transportation Plan which will need to be adopted before the end of the calendar year. He stated staff had developed a list of projects which were approved last September by the Committee, but the update was not complete due to the on-going GPATS expansion efforts. Mr. Brockington presented a schedule which was included in the agenda packets for the completion of the plan. He stated the schedule was for information and staff would be on hand to answer any question.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Bates Bridge Road

Representative Burns requested information on a bridge located in Marietta, on Bates Bridge Road, which was deemed suitable for regular traffic, but not for emergency personnel back in 2000. Currently any emergency vehicles have to stop at the bridge or go an alternate route which is 3 and ½ miles around to reach an emergency situation. He stated in 2008 the Slater Marietta Fire Department was told the bridge was number 12 on a list of bridges for repairs. Representative Burns asked had the other 12 been yet repaired and requested a report on the bridge repairs. Representative Burns stated he had given documentation regarding this issue to staff.

Chairman Kirven requested staff contact the SCDOT and give Representative Burns and himself a status report within one week.

Hampton Avenue Bridge

Councilwoman Xanthene Norris requested cooperation from the Committee regarding the Hampton Avenue Bridge. She stressed the importance of providing the community with a way to stay connected.

Chairman Kirven stated there had been some discussions with the Rail Road and he assured Ms. Norris it was a work in progress.

Senator Allen requested staff prepare a status report in order to be able to determine an approach to proceed.

Chairman Kirven stated there had been various avenues pursued, including the possibility of obtaining grant monies, which was still an option. He stated staff would prepare a report on the status.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: By Commissioner Edwards to adjourn. Without objection the meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

Submitted by Recording Secretary