

MINUTES
GPATS POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE
September 17, 2012
Conference Room A – County Square
10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Senator Thomas, Chairman, Senator Martin, Senator Verdin, Representative Loftis, Greenville Council Chair Kirven, Councilor Norris, Councilor Payne, Councilor Meadows; Mayor Long; Mayor Raines, Mayor Owens, Mayor Eichor, Mayor Sheriff, Commissioner Edwards, J. Owings, C. Burgess and D. Mitchell

OTHERS PRESENT: K. Brockington, T. Wedmore; H. Hahn; P. Gucker, J. Wortkoetter, H. Gamble, K. Walters, T. Elrod, S. Gwinn, J. Chasteen, C. Bentley F. Simmons and G. Baney, and C. Brink

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

While waiting for other members of the Committee, Chairman Thomas allowed for public comments.

Ms. Joel Ann Chandler addressed the Committee members regarding the vote taken at the August 13, 2012 concerning her property.

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 13, 2012 MINUTES

MOTION: By Senator Martin, to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2012 regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

SOUTHERN CONNECTOR GROUP INFORMATION PRESENTATION

Tim Brett and Bill Carpenter addressed the Committee members with a brief history of the Southern Connector and the current service it provides to the citizens of Greenville County. Mr. Brett touched on the growth within the county and what the projected growth might be. He requested the Committee look at an alternate route for I-85. It could be an extension of the southern connector running parallel to I-85 and would be beneficial to economic development. Mr. Brett asked the Committee to consider doing a Corridor Study to define an alternate route and determine the cost of the route. In addition, he requested the Committee look at the entrance to the Greenville Hospital System.

Chairman Thomas moved item number 5 forward on the agenda.

2035 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

Keith Brockington addressed the committee members on the 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan Update. He stated once the final MPO boundaries are set by SCDOT/FHWA in Spring 2013, staff will be in a better position to begin a new update of the LRTP to include the new areas, and any additional changes that may be required. Mr. Brockington is requesting approval of the project list which was in the agenda packet received by the Committee members.

Representative Loftis requested adding Highway 290 to Greer to the list.

MOTION: By Council Chair Kirven, seconded by Council member Payne to approve the project list. The motion carried unanimously.

CENSUS 2010 URBAN AREA EXPANSION UPDATE

Keith Brockington addressed the Committee members regarding the urban area expansion. He stated since submitting both boundaries, no word has been heard from SCDOT/FHWA. Mr. Brockington stated letters had been sent to Governor Haley and the secretary of SCDOT from Pickens County stating their opposition to the additional MPO. Currently it is anticipated that the GPATS boundaries will be formally expanded in January 2013, with new jurisdictions seating their members in March. Mr. Brockington requested the Committee appoint a sub-committee to address any changes in the By-Laws, changes to membership make-up and formal endorsements of expansion by affected jurisdictions.

Chairman Thomas suggested any Committee member interested in being on the sub-committee, contact John Owings.

GUIDESHARE FUNDING CHANGES

John Owings addressed the Committee members on the changes in the Guideshare Funding. He explained the overall MPO and COG Guideshare funds have been reduced by 7 per cent. In addition, each MPO and COG are required to devote 20 per cent of its Guideshare funding to repaving projects and redirect 50 percent of the funding category formerly known as Transportation Enhancements (now Transportation Alternatives) back into the general state transportation fund. Mr. Owings stated the changes would be in effect in 2014 and explained to the Committee how the changes would affect the GPATS project funding.

GPATS/SCDOT PROJECT UPDATES

Tommy Elrod stated he would be available after the meeting if there were any questions regarding the project update that was included in the agenda packets.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no additional public comments.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

County Council Chairman Kirven inquired about the process to move along the request to do a Corridor Study as was requested by Mr. Brett.

Chairman Thomas stated at the next Committee meeting, there will be a presentation by Michael Dennis with the SCDOT.

County Councilor Norris requested the Hampton Avenue Bridge not be forgotten and since the last Committee meeting further information has been gathered regarding a pedestrian bridge. She requested the item be left open.

Chairman Thomas stated the item was pending and will be an open item.

Senator Martin recognized Senator Thomas for his many years of service to GRATS, now GPATS. He wished the Senator well and thanked him for all he has done for the upstate.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, without objection, Chairman Thomas adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Submitted by Recording Secretary