

MINUTES
GPATS POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE
October 21, 2019
Suite 400 – County Square
10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Butch Kirven, Senator Rice, Senator Turner, Senator Loftis, Representative Burns, Representative Collins, Representative Smith, Commissioner Willard, Councilor Costner, Councilor Hudson, Councilor Meadows, Councilor Norris, Councilor Tripp, Mayor Danner, George Campbell, Mayor Curtis, and Keith Brockington

OTHERS PRESENT: H. Gamble, B. Groel, H. Hahn, A. Ikein, D. Montgomery, P. Buathier, R. Wyatt, E. Dillon, C. Lucas, E. Halley, R. Ward, J. Chasteen, C. Brink, N. McAden, K. Sullivan, S. Limbaker, E. Greene, F. Mansbach, R. Sloan, J. Keel, D. Dyrhaug, B. McCall, C. Lewis, J. Chandler, L. Estep, and C. Link

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Kirven called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. Chairman Kirven welcomed all in attendance and thanked all to help make the needed members for a quorum.

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 3, 2019 COMMITTEE MEETING

MOTION: By Representative Smith, seconded by George Campbell to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2019 Committee meeting. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no individuals signed up for public comment.

SCDOT PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

Erica Hailey addressed the Committee members with a brief slide presentation of projects that have moved forward since the last Policy Committee meeting. She stated the hold was removed from the SC-183 and Jameson Rd Project and preliminary engineering can begin. She advised the project will be included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) once the approval from Commission has been received. She stated SCDOT is in negotiations for a consultant regarding the Butler Rd Project. She advised the Environmental Assessment (EA) has been submitted to FHWA for the Woodruff Rd Congestion Relief Project and when completed a public hearing can be scheduled.

She stated the Riverside Middle School Transportation Alternative (TA) project is in the Right-Of-Way (ROW) phase and is experiencing utility relocating conflicts which may cause the let date to be delayed from the scheduled date of May 2020. She stated

consultant, AECOM has been selected to complete the preliminary engineering services for the City of Fountain Inn Woodside Streetscape and the Pickens Downtown Doodle projects. She stated the Town of Central TA project application is still currently being reviewed and may be in phases to work with the budget due to funding issues. She stated the following projects are still waiting on utilities to be certified which may delay the let date of February 2020.

- Roper Mtn Rd
- Roper Mtn Rd Ext
- SC-153 Intersection Improvements
- S-164 Gibbs Shoals Road

She then showed progress slides of projects under construction. She stated the SC-153 Extension Project is still ahead of schedule. She advised the SC-14 Improvement Project's walls and SC-296 crossline have been completed. She stated information on the SC-146 Woodruff Rd Widening Project can be found on SCDOT construction website and has an anticipated completion date in Spring of 2021.

She stated the S-272 W. Georgia Rd Bridge Replacement Project is 90 percent completed and the beams are scheduled to be set at the end of October into November. She stated the Hampton Ave Pedestrian Bridge Project work began in March 2019 and the pedestrian installation will begin in November. She stated the Fairview Street Bridge over I-385 Project has been completed and the bridge is once again open. She advised the S-75 Mt. Lebanon Church Rd Bridge Replacement Project notice to proceed was issued in September and are estimating completion in the Summer of 2021.

Ms. Hailey made herself available for any questions.

Several members voiced their concerns over SCDOT removing the hold from the SC-183 at Jameson Rd Intersection Project and the installing of roundabouts. A suggestion was made for SCDOT to again place a hold back on this project until a decision is made by the State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) on the Pickens' County application and to acquire more community involvement.

MOTION: By Senator Rice, seconded by Representative Collins to request SCDOT obtain and consider additional input from the Delegation (stakeholders) prior to moving forward with the SC-183 at Jameson Rd Intersection Project. The motion passed by voice vote with Mayor Danner opposing.

A question was asked when consultant negotiation will be completed for the Butler Rd Project.

Ms. Hailey stated consultant negotiation can take 3 to 6 months. She advised if they cannot come to an agreement SCDOT would need to find another consultant.

Another question was asked where SCDOT is in the negotiation process with the consultant for the Butler Rd Project and if an estimated date could be given at this time.

Ms. Lucas (seated in the audience) stated SCDOT is in negotiation with the consultant but are not close to an agreement. She advised this may be completed by the next meeting with the consultant; however, if an agreement cannot be made then SCDOT will issue a turn-key proposal for this project.

GPATS PERFORMANCE MEASURES UPDATE

Brennan Groel addressed the Committee members with a slide presentation for the next set of Safety Targets for the year 2020. She advised SCDOT needed to report their target modification before August 30th, but sent their notification on August 7th. She stated Target is the terminology FHWA is using to determine the step by step needed to achieve South Carolina's Target Zero. She advised the slight increase in a few of the Targets is due to the baseline five year rolling average. She explained that each year one year of data rolls off and is replaced with the new year of data. She stated GPATS will need to either adopt the State's Targets or set their own by February 27, 2020. She advised all changes made to the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) document and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) document, were included in their packets and at their seats, highlighted for easier viewing.

Ms. Groel made herself available for any questions.

Mr. Kirven asked what her recommendation was.

Ms. Groel advised the Study Team brought forward to adopt the State's Targets.

A question was asked if this then leaves out the GPATS Baseline and shows only the State's Baseline.

Mr. Brockington stated the State's Targets will become GPATS' Targets.

MOTION: By Representative Smith, seconded by Mayor Danner to approve the amendment to the Long-Range Transportation Plan document. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

MOTION: By Representative Smith, seconded by Mayor Danner to approve the amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program document. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

SCDOT FEASIBILITY REPORTS PRESENTATION

Betsy McCall with SCDOT Planning Office addressed Committee members with a slide presentation on the Feasibility Report (FR). She stated the FR is a new process for projects and to contact her for more information. She stated the new planning phase will be able to accurately define the Purpose and Needs, Project Goals, Scope, Cost, and Schedule of a project. She advised the FR accomplishments:

- Serves as an agreement between SCDOT and the Project Sponsor with GPATS begin the Project Sponsor.
- Document of all Decisions and Discussions.
- Defines the Project

She stated FR benefits will assist COG/MPOs to evaluate Long-Rang Transportation Plan (LRTP) rankings, budgeting, have regional planner discussions, and better communication with partners. She stated the FR helps SCDOT with project focus in development and with decision documentation should an employee leave SCDOT. She advised the FR will assist better when the public has questions about a project by responding with consistent answers. She stated the FR does not add more money to a project but reduces the Preliminary Engineering (PE) phase by adding a Planning (PL) phase to the process.

She stated the role of the Policy Committee is:

- Communicate with COG/MPO Team Member
- Give comments to the COG/MPO Team Member
- Ask for clarification of the FR process
- Sign the FR

Ms. McCall made herself available for any questions.

A question was asked if this is statewide or just for MPOs.

Ms. McCall stated because the process is new the FR is being done on all intersections, widenings, corridor improvements, and interstates. She advised at a later date FR will be online.

GPATS 2020 MEETING SCHEDULE

Chairman Kirven noted the proposed meeting schedule for 2020 that each received in their packets. He asked the Committee members for any suggestions or changes.

MOTION: By Councilor Tripp, seconded by Representative Burns to approve the GPATS 2020 meeting schedule. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Brockington stated GPATS is currently accepting Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 applications until January 17, 2020. He advised the yearly amount is \$579,776.90 and is available for projects by transit providers of the elderly and disabled. He stated the application can also be found on the GPATS' website front page and contact Asangwua Ikein if there are any questions.

Mr. Brockington advised the Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT) will be holding a drop-in public meeting on October 23rd at 5:30 p.m. located at 301 University Ridge, Greenville, SC – Suite 400 to unveil the GDOT High-Speed Rail Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

A question was asked why was Georgia DOT holding the drop-in.

Mr. Brockington stated Georgia DOT has been at the forefront planning since the 1990s and has worked closely with Georgia Tech which has a department mainly dedicated to High-Speed Rail System. He advised when the Federal funding became available for Tier 1 EIS both Georgia DOT and North Carolina DOT came forward as the bidders and were both selected by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).

Another question was asked if the High-Speed Rail System takes place will it eventually come through South Carolina.

Mr. Brockington advised this is correct and that he and/or SCDOT have been a part of every meeting FRA, North Carolina DOT, and Georgia DOT they have been advised on regarding the High-Speed Rail.

A question was asked for clarification if it would be decades before a High-Speed Rail Station is in place.

Mr. Brockington stated that was correct.

A question was asked if the meeting would be a formal presentation and will it be interactive with the public so they can give input.


Mr. Brockington stated this meeting is a drop-in with drawings and maps. He stated Georgia DOT and FRA will have representatives at this meeting to answer questions and concerns. He stated there will be comment forms at the meeting for the public. He advised Policy Committee members can leave comments online from the link that was provided in the latest email to them.

Mr. Kirven noted everyone is invited to attend the Comprehensive Plan Unveiling which will be held October 24th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Greenville Convention Center.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

By Councilor Norris to adjourn, without objection Chairman Kirven adjourned the meeting at 10:59 a.m.


Submitted by Recording Secretary