

MINUTES
GPATS POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE
October 19, 2020
Meeting conducted by remote participation
10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Butch Kirven, Senator Rice, Senator Allen, Senator Cash, Senator Turner, Representative Collins, Representative Smith, Commissioner Willard, Commissioner Christopher, Councilor Costner, Councilor Davis, Councilor Meadows, Councilor Norris, Councilor Seman, Mayor Amidon, Mayor Cook, Mayor Danner, Mayor Durham, Mayor McLeer, Mayor Merritt, Mayor Petersen, Mayor Shewmaker, Mayor Womack, Dick O’Neill, Ruth Sherlock, and Keith Brockington

OTHERS PRESENT: P Gucker, N. Whitworth, T. Coker, H. Gamble, B. Groel, A. Ikein, H. Hahn, C. Lucas, D. Montgomery, C. Lewis, J. Christian, E. Porter, and J. Chandler

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Chairman Kirven called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and thanked those in attendance on the virtual platform. He requested a roll call be administered of the Policy Committee members present.

Keith Brockington called on those in attendance from the panelists, asking each member to unmute their microphone after their name is called and provide an acknowledgment. After the roll call, he asked for any member whose name was not called to acknowledge at this time.

Chairman Kirven introduced the two newly appointed SCDOT Commissioners representing District 3, Pamela Christopher following former Commissioner Davis, and SCDOT At-large Commissioner, Nancy Whitworth.

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 17, 2020 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:

MOTION: By Senator Allen, seconded by Representative Smith to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2020 Committee meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no requests submitted from individuals to speak with the Committee.

SCDOT PROJECT STATUS UPDATE:

Casey Lucas, Program Manager with the SCDOT, addressed the Committee with a slide presentation update on various projects within the GPATS area, as were included in each member’s packet.

- SC-107 Butler Rd Stakeholder meeting was held in the City of Mauldin on September 21, 2020. She advised SCDOT is preparing for a Public Information Meeting anticipated for November 2020.
- Woodruff Rd Parallel virtual hearing closed August 7, 2020, and SCDOT expects to have the FHWA's signed final decision document in December 2020. She stated they would negotiate for right-of-way and construction plan development with the consultant to continue the design next. She advised over 4,000 people viewed the public hearing website page, and SCDOT responded to 76 written or verbal comments and received over 270 survey comments.
- S-272 West Georgia Rd Improvements' project design is by CECS. She advised surveys are being conducted, and the consultant has submitted a traffic study to SCDOT Traffic Engineering Office for review.
- S-154 over Huff Creek Bridge Replacement is part of the SCDOT's ten-year plan. She advised the design was submitted by CDM Smith, and surveys are expected to be completed by November 2020.
- S-75 Cherokee Rd over US-29 is a Non-Guideshare bridge project in Anderson County. She advised right-of-way acquisition is 75 % completed and is scheduled to let in April 2021.
- Riverside Middle School Sidewalk is a TA Program Project. She advised SCDOT is continuing to work with Anderson County School District to acquire additional funding, after which a letting date can be scheduled.
- Ft. Inn Woodside Connector has approximately \$351 thousand in GPATS funding and is on schedule for January 2021 right-of-way obligation. She advised the consultant, AECOM, distributed flyers to real estate owners along the existing path. She stated additional comments and information can be made on the SCDOT's website.
- S-164 Batesville Rd Widening's bridge deck has been poured with drainage work to continue through September.
- SC-153 Extension is expected to be completed in December 2020. She stated all asphalt is in place, and the installation of overhead signage is to begin.
- SC-146 Woodruff Rd Widening completion is scheduled for May 2021. She advised utility relocations are still underway. She stated curb and gutter are in place from Pawleys to Sunnydale Dr, and anticipates the paving being completed by the end of the season.
- SC-164 Gibbs Shoals Rd has an anticipated completion date of November 2020. She stated the bridge deck and approach slabs are completed. She advised the asphalt base, grooving, final surface, and guardrails will be placed in October 2020.
- S-75 Mt Lebanon Church Rd Bridge is approaching completion. She stated both bridges were completed in October 2020, and paving is to begin soon.
- Roper Mtn Rd and Roper Mtn Rd Extension are within the nine-month utility window. She advised Duke and AT&T are onsite relocating these utilities and anticipates she will have extensive progress slides or a construction update at the next Policy Committee meeting.

- SC-153 Intersection Improvements includes two intersections, SC-153 at Old Pendleton Rd and SC-153 at River Rd. She advised construction has begun at both locations. She stated clearing and grubbing had been completed with erosion control measures installed.
- Ragsdale Rd Sidewalk construction has started with storm drainage being installed at this time. She advised the estimated completion date is set for November 2023.
- Woodruff Rd Intersection Improvements at Garlington and Miller, along with ramps on I-85, are completed. She stated these two projects were bundled with the Gateway Project.

Ms. Lucas made herself available for any questions.

Representative Smith inquired when the Butler Rd Project public information stage and corridor study will be finished so the construction can begin.

Ms. Lucas advised the public information meeting launch date is expected to be mid-November 2020 and will continue for 30 days. She explained once the public information had ended, then right-of-way plans can begin and expect this to occur in January 2021.

Representative Smith asked when Preliminary Engineering (PE) will be completed for the Butler Road Project.

Ms. Lucas responded PE is underway and will be completed once it goes into right-of-way, which is expected by October 2021.

Representative Smith inquired why the PE will take this long.

Ms. Lucas responded the surveys and studies are being conducted, and from this information, a design of the intersections will be created. She advised a traffic report is being reviewed at SCDOT Headquarters and is expected to be completed next week. She stated the surveys are not expected to be completed until November 2020.

Mayor Merritt inquired if SCDOT assigned a level of priority to the 2015 – 2016 East Butler Road Corridor Study funded by GPATS and invited Ms. Lucas to meet with him and several of the City of Mauldin staff members.

Ms. Lucas responded the report was used in consideration when working through this project's purpose and need. She advised several coordination meetings were held with FHWA, GPATS, and the City of Mauldin over the last year to address issues with the report's outline versus the process SCDOT must follow with federal funding. She stated the City of Mauldin did the public involvement for this study, yet SCDOT must also do a public involvement study. She advised six were in attendance at the stakeholder meeting, then later, a virtual follow-up meeting was held with a member who could not

attend. She stated there was valuable input from the stakeholder meeting and are accommodating while developing the best project alignment. She accepted the Mayor's invitation to meet with him and staff members.

Councilor Seman advised she has also spoken with citizens about their concerns for the Butler Road Project. She offered Mayor Merritt to be part of the conversation.

GPATS.ORG PROJECT PAGE DEMONSTRATION UPDATE:

Brennan Groel addressed Committee members with a brief presentation showing how to navigate the project pages on the GPATS website. She advised the project list is still in development and works with the interactive mapping. These project pages include:

- Title of the project
- Map (works with the interactive mapping)
- Project information (Description, Purpose, Need, and Status)
- Targets Impacted
- Funding
- Construction Photos (when available)

Ms. Groel advised she soon will add project page links from SCDOT'S website where the viewer can see the schematics for SCDOT's projects.

Ms. Groel made herself available for any questions.

Chairman Kirven inquired when and how often are traffic counts available.

Mr. Brockington advised the information is provided yearly by the SCDOT. He stated the 2020 counts might be off due to travel patterns, but these counts can be included in the project pages and would take time to be updated.

Mayor Durham asked if project S-75 Cherokee Rd over US-29 would be added to the project page.

Ms. Groel responded there was no page at this time, and she would create one.

Mr. Brockington stated anyone with questions or concerns regarding the project pages would be prioritized due to the many projects needing to be added and updated should contact Brennan Groel.

GPATS TRANSPORTATION PERFORMANCE MEASURES UPDATE:

Brennan Groel addressed Committee members with amendment updates to the GPATS Horizon2040 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) document, as were included in each member's agenda packet.

Ms. Groel stated there are seven national goal areas GPATS is federally-required to monitor within South Carolina. These are:

- Safety
- Infrastructure Condition
- Congestion Reduction
- System Reliability
- Freight Movement and Economic Vitality
- Environmental Stability
- Reduced Project Delivery Delay

Ms. Groel advised this presentation is regarding Safety. She stated when SCDOT receives a final ruling for a performance measure, and they have one year to set a target once the final rule has been published. She explained after SCDOT has established its targets, MPOs and Councils of Governments in the state have 180 days to either adopt the state targets or create their own. She advised GPATS is actively monitoring four performance areas. These are safety, transit asset management, infrastructure condition, and system and freight reliability. She then reviewed the 2020 Safety Targets data chart along with the new 2021 State Targets. These consisted of the South Carolina baseline, South Carolina targets, and GPATS baseline for the five safety performance measures, which are as follows:

- Traffic Fatalities
- Fatality Rate
- Severe Injuries
- Severe Injury Rate
- Non-motorized Fatalities and Severe Injuries

Mayor Shewmaker inquired if the national figures can be added to this chart for comparison purposes.

Ms. Groel replied a Performance Measure report would be created for adoption in February 2021, and she could add this information to the report. She advised the state report would be needed, and this report has not yet been published. She stated the LRTP and TIP amendment was advertised as they are now and could not be changed.

Chairman Kirven wanted to confirm the Committee's position is to either adopt the State's standard or for GPATS to set their targets, and the national information is not a requirement to stay within federal compliance.

Ms. Groel confirmed this was correct.

Ms. Groel reviewed with the Committee members the changes in the LRTP and TIP documents. She advised this would be the fourth time these targets have been updated.

Senator Allen asked what South Carolina was the highest for in the nation.

Ms. Groel advised South Carolina has the highest fatality rate in the nation.

Ms. Groel made herself available for any questions.

Representative Smith wanted to clarify the motion is to adopt or revise the plan with state targets and GPATS targets.

Ms. Groel advised if state targets were adopted, they would become GPATS targets, or GPATS could set their own targets. She stated in the past, GPATS has adopted the state targets.

Representative Smith asked if there was a reason GPATS should adopt their own targets.

Ms. Groel is unaware of others in South Carolina, creating their own targets.

Mr. Brockington advised there are no incentives or benefits for GPATS setting their own targets.

Senator Allen stated he was advised by SCDOT regarding an increase in non-motorized fatalities in the southern part of White Horse Road and Augusta Road and wanted Committee members to know this is an area of concern for him and would be reviewing this matter.

Senator Rice asked if mopeds are with non-motorized fatalities. He stated this was a follow-up to Senator Allen's comment, for there are incidents with mopeds on the Westside of town.

Ms. Groel advised mopeds possibly are included in traffic fatalities due to having motors. She stated she would inquire and advise.

Representative Smith inquired why the state standards should be adopted when the Committee is presented with data specific to GPATS.

Ms. Groel advised the GPATS baseline is limited to certain data standings on some of the basic performance areas. She explained GPATS would have to undergo a similar analyzing process as SCDOT did between now and February 2021.

After further discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: By Mayor Cook, seconded by Mayor Durham to approve the adopted state targets for the amendment to the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) document. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

MOTION: By Mayor Cook, seconded by Mayor Durham to approve the adopted state targets for the amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) document. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

GPATS TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FY2021 – 2026

AMENDMENT AC #2:

Keith Brockington addressed Committee members on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment AC #2, as were included in each member's agenda packet. He stated this amendment contains several SCDOT requested updates.

He began with the I-85 Widening from near SC-153 exit 40 to near SC-85 exit 69. He stated it is the next major interstate widening project in the Upstate. He advised a significant amount of SCDOT funding had been spent on preliminary engineering for the corridor study and provided alternatives. He explained this funding is contingent on the availability of SCDOT Interstate Funds. He advised the Interstate Funds are being prioritized for the Carolina Cross Roads I-26 and I-20 Interchanges in Columbia and the I-526 Extension from the Port of Charleston. He stated SCDOT is requesting to shift funding to 2027 and beyond due to a lack of available funding. These changes are:

- Shift CON \$10,000,000 of System Upgrade - Interstate - Widening/New Construction/NHP Funds from FY2020 to FY2029
- Shift CON \$714,500,000 of System Upgrade - Interstate - Widening/New Construction/NHP AC Funds from FY2020 to FY2029
- Shift CON \$234,833,333 of System Upgrade - Interstate - Widening/New Construction/NHP ACC Funds from FY2021 to FY2030
- Shift CON \$234,833,333 of System Upgrade - Interstate - Widening/New Construction/NHP ACC Funds from FY2022 to FY2031
- Shift CON \$234,833,334 of System Upgrade - Interstate - Widening/New Construction/NHP ACC Funds from FY2023 to FY2032

A question was asked how much has already been spent on this project.

Mr. Brockington advised \$65.7 million has been allocated in the TIP. He referred to Casey Lucas or Christina Lewis for further spending breakdowns.

Ms. Lucas advised the project was in the design group and would contact this department for information and advise.

After further discussion amongst the Committee members, the following motion was made.

MOTION: By Senator Rice, seconded by Mayor Womack to carry over the item I-85 Widening Project on the TIP Amendment AC #2 until more information is received from SCDOT. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Brockington continued with the change request for the Woodruff Road Parallel/Woodruff Road Congestion Relief Project. He explained SCDOT's public engagement results and closing out the environmental phase allows SCDOT to have more reliability when funding is needed and available at one time rather than in annual allocations. He advised SCDOT wants to move the project out of preliminary engineering and into right-of-way acquisition. He stated this does not include construction funding because GPATS is waiting on information from the SC State Infrastructure Bank. These changes are:

- Shift ROW \$8,750,000 of System Upgrade - Urban/GPATS/STBGP Funds from FY2021 to FY2022
- Shift ROW \$28,350,000 of System Upgrade - Urban/GPATS/STBGP AC Funds from FY2021 to FY2022
- Shift ROW \$9,450,000 of System Upgrade - Urban/GPATS/STBGP ACC Funds from FY2022 to FY2025

Mayor Merritt asked why these funds were not shifted to later years as with the I-85 Widening project.

Mr. Brockington advised the funding for this project is from Guideshare. He stated these two projects are on different schedules, and the I-85 project is part of the statewide prioritized allocation.

Chairman Kirven was experiencing technical issues, and Vice Chairman Senator Rice continued with the meeting until Chairman Kirven could continue.

Mr. Brockington presented the last change with the addition of Intersection Safety Improvement SC-291 (N Pleasantburg Dr) and White Oak Dr. These changes are:

- Add CON \$150,000 Safety/HSP Funds to FY2021

Mr. Brockington made himself available for any questions.

MOTION: By Mayor Shewmaker, seconded by Mayor Cook to approve the Transportation Improvement Program FY2021 - FY2026 Amendment AC #2, as discussed. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

GPATS 2021 MEETING SCHEDULE:

Chairman Kirven noted the meeting schedule for the year 2021, as each received in their packets.

MOTION: By Mayor Cook, seconded by Mayor Peterson to approve the GPATS 2021 meeting schedule as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

Keith Brockington advised the 5310 Call for Projects is available to providers of transit service for the elderly, disabled, and those needing job access. He stated \$788,219 is available, and GPATS will be advertising to solicit for applicants until January 15, 2021, allowing time to bring a recommendation to the Study Team in January for February approval by the Policy Committee. He advised applications or questions be directed to Asangwua Ikein at aikein@greenvillecounty.org or visit gpats.org.

Commissioner Christopher introduced herself to the Committee. She began her career with South Carolina serving in Spartanburg in 1990 and is now with Anderson. She is aware of concerns with the roads and problems since 1994. She promises to work with integrity and advised if anyone has any questions to contact her. She stated she and Commissioner Woody were communicating and together will contact the SCDOT finance department regarding the I-85 Widening Project. She advised they will provide an update on this matter when available to all. She thanked the Committee for welcoming her and looks forward to working with everyone.

Mayor Cook stated he had spoken with Fred Payne regarding a COVID-19 transportation grant and understood, from his conversation, Mr. Payne wants GPATS' name to be on the grant when presented.

Mr. Brockington advised Mr. Payne's group Carolinas Alliance 4 Innovation (CA4I) is assessing the viability of applying for a grant. He stated Mr. Payne's group is working with several entities around the region to find a match for this grant. He explained GPATS capacity would be as a designated recipient and would only provide grant assistance. He stated there would be no GPATS funding involved.

Mayor Cook wanted Committee members to know this was his last GPATS meeting, for he would not be running for reelection. He stated it was a pleasure working alongside everyone for the years he has been with the Policy Committee.

Chairman Kirven thanked Mayor Cook for his service and his many contributions to GPATS.

Councilor Norris wanted to thank Senator Allen for bringing attention to New Washington Heights and asked if she and Senator Allen could meet with Chairman Kirven to discuss the issues.

Commissioner Willard advised he believes the Upstate is well represented with the two newly appointed Commissioners and looks forward to working with them both until the end of his term.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

By Councilor Norris to adjourn, seconded by Mayor Cook.
Without objection Chairman Kirven adjourned the meeting at
11:29 a.m.


Submitted by Recording Secretary