

MINUTES
GPATS STUDY TEAM COMMITTEE
January 25, 2021
Meeting conducted by remote participation
10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris Brink, Keith Brockington, Jon Caime, Tee Coker, Dwayne Cooper, Hesha Gamble, Brennan Groel, Erica Hailey, Valerie Holmes, Asangwua Ikein, Ashley Kaade, Diane Lackey, Christina Lewis, Skip Limbaker, Clint Link, Heather Lollis, Casey Lucas, Brandon Madden, Renee Miller-Cotton, Matthew Rehnborg, Dyke Spencer, Todd Steadman, Kayleigh Sullivan, Philip Trotter, Ryan Ward, Brennan Williams, and Brandon Wilson

OTHERS PRESENT: L. Smith, H. Hahn, and D. Montgomery

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Keith Brockington called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Keith Brockington welcomed all in attendance. He stated he is conducting this meeting from Texas and is unsure of the connectivity. He asked if anyone wanted to introduce themselves at this time.

SCDOT GPATS PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

Casey Lucas, Program Manager with the SCDOT, addressed members with a brief status update on projects within the GPATS area included in their agenda packets.

- SC-164 Batesville Road bridge is nearing completion; only drainage and widening work will continue on Anderson Ridge realignment.
- SC-153 Ext project is complete, and a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on December 8, 2020.
- SC-146 Woodruff Road Widening's utility relocations are complete. She stated the sidewalk and asphalt are in place, with the remainder of the storm drainage left to be installed.
- Roper Mtn Rd and Roper Mtn Rd Ext projects' utilities are now actively being relocated by Duke, AT&T, and METRO Sewer.
- Woodruff Rd Congestion Relief preliminary bridge plans have been reviewed by SCDOT and is in phase II of contract negotiations for right-of-way and construction plans with Infrastructure Consulting & Engineering (ICE).
- SC-153 Intersection Improvement's asphalt and the intermediate base have been placed on Old Pendleton Rd for turning lanes. She stated they are waiting for warmer temperatures to place the surface road. She advised on River Rd, the north leg base and intermediate have started, and storm drainage and catch basins have been installed.

- SC-107 Butler is in the public involvement phase running from January 5th to February 5, 2021. She stated other comments were collected from in-person appointments on January 14, 2021, from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. She advised on the project website, at buildingabetterbutler.com, the viewers can see public involvement displays, leave comments, or mail comments to her.
- SC-164 Gibbs Shoals Road is now open, and the project was completed ahead of schedule in October 2020.
- S-75 Cherokee Rd over US-29, set to let in April 2021, was moved to June 2021 due to utility certification issues.
- S-75 Mt Lebanon Church Rd project is complete. She advised they are awaiting stabilization to remove the remaining erosion controls, and all other punch list items are complete.
- S-154 over Huff Creek Bridge Replacement's geotechnical exploration has begun. She stated the bridge alternative analysis will be submitted soon to SCDOT by CDM Smith.
- S-140 over Shoal Creek and S-250 over Doddies Creek are on the same timeline and will be let together. She advised the right-of-way and utility coordination is nearing completion.
- Woodside Streetscape's construction plans are under review by SCDOT. She stated the right-of-way was completed with ongoing utility coordination.
- Woodside Park Connector's right-of-way plans are complete and were submitted at the end of December 2020 to begin right-of-way acquisition.
- Haywood Rd Sidewalks' documents have all been approved by FHWA, and funds have been authorized. She advised the notice to proceed is anticipated for advertising in February 2021.
- Ragsdale Rd construction is complete with final inspection and punch list remaining.
- Riverside Middle School TA project is still on hold due to funding. She stated the plans, right-of-way, and utility coordination are complete, and when additional funding is secured, the project can then be let for a contractor.
- West Georgia Rd Project, a preliminary design is underway and expects these plans to be submitted by earlier February 2021.

Ms. Lucas made herself available for any questions.

Keith Brockington asked if a report after the Butler Rd public involvement phase will be available for the February 2021 Policy Committee meeting.

Ms. Lucas advised the public comment ends February 5, 2021, and she will have some preliminary information. She stated a formal report will be ready for the April 2021 Study Team meeting and then again presented at the May 2021 Policy Committee meeting.

Keith Brockington advised he received a report stating the livestream function on the website was not working.

TRANSIT COORDINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:

Asangwua Ikein addressed members on three items from the Transit Coordinating Committee (TCC) as followed:

1. FTA Section 5310
2. Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA)
3. FY2021 FTA Transit Apportionments

Mr. Ikein stated the TCC only received one 5310 application, and it is from Senior Solutions. He explained applications must receive a score of 70 out of 100 or better to qualify, and Senior Solutions received a score of 77.3. The match for their project is as follows:

1. Local Match \$127,504.00
2. Federal Match \$253,115.00
3. Total Application \$380,619.00

Mr. Ikein stated the TCC members expressed concerns about the application for a mobility manager to coordinate with other agencies, rather than only with Senior Solutions providing the services for the elderly or disabled. He stated the person in this position would be responsible for the entire region and coordinate transportation services between various agencies and other organizations.

Mr. Ikein advised the CRRSAA Act of 2021 has made \$69,789 available for 5310. He stated this supplemental funding will be 100 percent federal share with no local match required. He advised this funding will support expenses eligible under the relevant program to prioritize payroll and operational needs. He explained the TCC would create a policy for allocation of the funding before accepting applicants.

Mr. Ikein reviewed the FTA FY2021 Transit Apportionments for Sections 5307, 5310, and 5339, included in their agenda packets, with members. He advised the split letters have been submitted to CATbus and GTA. He stated the State Mass Transit Funds (SMTF) allocations are not available and will send them to the transit agencies when they come available.

Mr. Ikein made himself available for any questions.

Keith Brockington stated these items do not require a recommendation from the Study Team at this time. He advised they are in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment, and they will be making a recommendation later.

Keith Brockington advised there were more reports regarding the livestream not working.

Tee Coker advised there is a technical issue with the livestream. He stated, to avoid stopping the meeting and beginning again, the audio recording will be posted on the GPATS website when it becomes available.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENT AC #3

Keith Brockington addressed members on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment AC #3 included in the agenda packet. The amendment changes to the TIP were as follows:

- Insertion of FY2020 End-of-Year Balance of \$14,890,000 from Annual Obligations Report
- Additional Bridge Replacement Program Entities
 - S-4-75 at US-29
 - S-39-367 at 12 Mile Creek
- Break out funding for S-23-384 Brushy Creek from lump Bridge Replacement Projects
- Delay of I-85 Widening Project funding placement outside the TIP window
- Addition of FY2021 FTA Sections 5307, 5310, and 5339 funding
- Addition of Senior Solutions application for Section 5310 funding
- Addition of CRRSAA 5310 Funding
- Removal of Expired/Withdrawn TA Projects
 - City of Simpsonville Swamp Rabbit Trail
 - City of Pickens Downtown Doodle Connector

Mr. Brockington stated the I-85 Widening Project funding request is being placed outside the current TIP. He advised a suggestion was made during a phone conversation with SCDOT representatives, Ms. Lewis and Mr. Rewis, to move these fundings back into the TIP due to previous concerns from the last Policy Committee meeting about remaining in SCDOT's priority. He asked Ms. Lewis if these amounts could be moved back into FY2026. He advised, Mr. Rewis and Ms. Peterson from SCDOT will be available at Policy Committee for any questions regarding this transmittal request.

Ms. Lewis stated from the phone conversation she understood Mr. Rewis did agree to allow funds to be moved to FY2026.

Mr. Brockington advised there was an error on the memo listing the TA project's removal should have been Pickens, not Town of Central. He stated the Town of Central TA project is active, and the City of Pickens asked to withdraw their TA project.

Mr. Brockington made himself available for any questions.

Recommendation: Mr. Brockington asked for approval or any objections from the members to pass the Transportation Improvement Program Amendment AC #3 recommendations to the Policy Committee for their approval. No verbal objections or questions by consensus.

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FY2021 CYCLE UPDATE:

Brennan Groel addressed members with a Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program status update. She stated an official notification had not been received regarding the allocation of TA funds. She explained the TA Office in Columbia advised GPATS to use the same allocation as previous fiscal years. She advised it is uncertain when the allocation of funds will be received because the TA program is on a continuing resolution with the FAST Act. She stated a TA Program Call for Projects will not be issued as discussed last year due to unexpected lapses and uncertainty if there would be a continuing resolution for the TA Program within the FAST Act. She advised the funding for this fiscal year allocation will be used towards existing projects. She explained if funds are remaining, then a call for projects will be made.

Ms. Groel made herself available for any questions.

GPATS PERFORMANCE MEASURES UPDATE:

Brennan Groel addressed members with amendment updates to the GPATS Horizon2040 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) document included in their agenda packet. She stated GPATS had been instructed to add Transit Safety Targets.

She reviewed the changes made to the LRTP and the TIP documents with the members. She stated the information was provided by CATbus and Greenlink. She advised this information was inserted in these documents with disclaimers regarding the calculation of rates. She explained GPATS is not adopting this target but rather acknowledging targets already set by the local transit agencies.

Ms. Groel made herself available for any questions.

Ms. Groel advised a Performance Report is in progress and will be added to the back of the LRTP once more information is received from the State.

Ms. Lewis replied the State's Performance Report should arrive within the next two weeks regarding the Safety Determination and Baseline Performance Report for Bridges and Pavement. She stated the mid-year Performance Report still needs more work.

Ms. Groel replied GPATS would be focusing on the rates and thanked Ms. Lewis for the information.

Recommendation: Mr. Brockington asked for approval or any objections from the members to pass the Long-Range Transportation Plan Transit and Transportation Improvement Program Transit Safety Performance Measure Amendment recommendations to the Policy Committee for their approval. No verbal objections or questions by consensus.

GPATS FY2022-2023 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AND SPECIAL STUDIES:

Keith Brockington addressed members GPATS Staff is working on the draft FY2022-2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to present to Study Team in April 2021. He advised this document is for MPO operations.

He stated, as part of the UPWP, a Call for Projects for Special Studies may be issued. He explained once the letter is received from SCDOT for the carryover balance of Federal PL Funds, they will be made known. He asked for those interested in Special Studies to submit their application by March 19, 2021. He advised an application form was included in the agenda packet, and a fillable form can be found on the GPATS website. He advised the draft will be included in the UPWP for the Policy Committee to decide at the May 2021 meeting when adopting the UPWP.

Mr. Brockington made himself available for any questions.

Mr. Caime asked if to include the Laurens County Corridor study, would this application need to be completed.

Mr. Brockington replied this application would need to be completed for the Laurens County Corridor study. He stated the application would only be for additional study of the Laurens County Corridor and not for the project's funding. He advised this project will be reviewed to determine what has not been funded in the LRTP and is expected to be completed this year. He stated the PL funds are only for planning and not for construction or implementation funding.

OLD BUSINESS:

Diane Lackey, a SCDOT representative, informed the members a draft document of the Freight Mobility Plan had been sent for Steering Committee review. She advised meetings are expected within the upcoming month.

Keith Brockington advised members can view the Swamp Rabbit Trail Extension Master Plan document on the City of Greenville's website.

Keith Brockington informed members Greenville County is kicking off the Laurens Rd Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) study. He advised this study will be conducted by consultant Kimberly-Horn, focusing on transit and land use for the corridor. He asked members if Kimberly-Horn had not invited them to join as a stakeholder to participate as a regional perspective during the public information phase. He advised adoption is expected at the end of this year or early next year.

Keith Brockington informed members the Greenville County Mobility and Thoroughfare Plan (MTP) report would be sent today. He stated the plan is now moving from existing conditions to plan development. He advised major recommendations for the plan to be developed by the end of April 2021 and then writing the plan to occur over the summer for fall 2021 adoption.

Chris Brink provided members with a brief update on the Pickens County Comprehensive Plan. He stated the visioning process has been completed, and they are working on ways to meet virtually to avoid in-person contact. He advised the target is for mid-summer 2021 adoption.

Keith Brockington mentioned the 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan update would be on an accelerated time frame to avoid updating during the census expansion. He advised the reason is SCDOT may be sending the expansion notices this summer or fall. He stated ACOG will be providing the travel model, and the document will be done in-house. He advised the document cannot be delayed from conversations with Federal Highways and must be submitted by the end of 2022. He explained when the census has finished, work will begin on a full LRTP to comply with the new schedule and be due in 2026. He advised there will be public engagement and meetings around the area later this year.

Mr. Brockington made himself available for any questions from the members on the updates or anyone wanting to share their plans.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Brockington stated the Policy Committee would be welcoming the following new members:

- Mayor Robert Halfacre of Clemson (replacing J.C. Cook)
- Mayor Blake Sanders of West Pelzer (rotating seat held previously by Mack Durham of Williamston)
- Councilman Alex Saitta of Pickens County (replacing Roy Costner)
- Councilman Henry Wilson of Pickens County (replacing Carl Hudson)

Mr. Brockington informed members a GPATS 101 Training Session would be held sometime in early February 2021. He advised the day has yet to be determined to accommodate the new Policy Committee members, and those on Study Team will be invited and encouraged to attend.

Mr. Brockington advised the Policy Committee will be holding Officer Elections for Chair and Vice-Chair at the February 22, 2021 meeting. He stated the meeting schedules for both Study Team and Policy Committee were included in the agenda packet, and meetings will continue to be held virtually until advised otherwise.

Keith Brockington advised the audio recording of this meeting will be posted on the website as soon as it becomes available.

Christina Lewis stated she did not see the bridge replacement project, S-125 over the Saluda River, on the TIP financial statement.

Denise Montgomery inquired if this was the project and was later advised to be an ACOG project.

Keith Brockington asked Study Team members to recommend adding this project to the TIP financial statement should it be determined to be a GPATS project.

Recommendation: Mr. Brockington asked for approval or any objections from the members to add the S-125 over the Saluda River project to the Transportation Improvement Program Financial Statement once determined to be a GPATS project and their recommendations to the Policy Committee for their approval. No verbal objections or questions by consensus.

Mr. Brockington made himself available for any questions.

ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, Mr. Brockington adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m.


Submitted by Recording Secretary