

MINUTES
GPATS STUDY TEAM COMMITTEE
July 18, 2022
Suite 400 – County Square
Remote participation by members
10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Keith Brockington, Kayleigh Cleek, Tee Coker, Gregory Gordos, Mike Forman, Hesha Gamble, Erica Hailey, Mary Douglas Hirsch, Valerie Holmes, Asangwua Ikein, Jason Knudsen, Skip Limbaker, Clint Link, Heather Lollis, Liston Mehserle, Dyke Spencer, and Anna Stewart

OTHERS PRESENT: Senator R. Rice, A. Bodner, P. Butler, J. Chasteen, E. Dillion, B. Groel, D. Montgomery, S. Owen, and IS Staff

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Keith Brockington called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Keith Brockington welcomed all in attendance and asked each to introduce themselves.

GPATS PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

Erica Hailey, Assistant Program Manager with the SCDOT, addressed members with a brief status update on projects within the GPATS area.

- Projects in construction were as follows:
 - S-164 Batesville Road Widening estimated completion time had been pushed out to October 2022 due to a change in traffic signal supply. Roadway final inspections have been scheduled to be completed this month.
 - SC 146 Woodruff Road Widening final leveling of asphalt along Woodruff Road and Scuffletown Road is underway. Concrete work continues for curb and gutter, sidewalks, and driveways. The storm drainage system has been finished.
 - Roper Mtn Road/Roper Mountain Road Extension
 - Utility relocations are about 98% complete
 - Storm drain, curb and gutter, and sidewalks are completed along Roper Mtn Road Extension.
 - Culvert and Mechanically Stabilized Earth (MSE) wall have been completed on Roper Mtn Road
 - Woodruff Road Congestion Relief project is still in design. Preliminary right-of-way plans are expected to be submitted by the end of July or early August.
 - S -107 Butler Road preliminary right-of-way plans were submitted.

- SC 183 & Jameson Road Intersection hold was voted to be taken off at the GPATS Policy Coordinating Committee Meeting in May 2022. The SCDOT design team will review the design and schedule a letting date based on the findings.
- Bridge projects were as follows:
 - S-75 Cherokee Rd over US 29 installation of MSE wall has begun. Build up for roundabout and storm drainage installation continues. The contract is 24% completed.
 - S-154 over Huff Creek right-of-way acquisitions are underway.
 - S-140 over Shoal Creek bridge was closed on April 6th, 2022 with road realignment and demolition underway.
 - S-250 over Doddies Creek bridge was closed on June 20th, 2022 with road realignment and demolition underway.
 - US 29 Church Street design is underway with consultants. The public involvement plan and project website are in development.
 - S-384 over Brushy Creek bridge is in design. A public information meeting was held in June, and SCDOT is responding to these comments. Right-of-way plans are in development.
- TA Program were as follows:
 - Woodside Streetscape was let in May 2022. No acceptable bids were received, so the project scope is being reviewed.
 - Woodside Park Connector let date has been shifted to allow the City of Fountain Inn to acquire more funding.
 - Town of Central Connector Financial Participation Agreement has been drafted and is being routed for signatures. Once participation is executed, design services will begin.
- Federal Earmark Projects were as follows:
 - West Georgia Road (S-272) Improvements project scope is being revisited due to budget.

Ms. Hailey made herself available for any questions.

SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL (SS4A) GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Asangwua Ikein addressed the members with a presentation on the Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant.

Mr. Ikein advised this is a Federal Discretionary Grant which can be used for road safety projects. The grant aims to prevent injuries and fatalities on the roads. He explained this grant has a five-year horizon, can be coupled with other projects, or used as a job training program. A 20% minimum local match must be provided, and federal funding cannot be used as a local match. The due date for this grant is September 15th, 2022, by 5:00 p.m. EDT.

Mr. Ikein stated Action Plan and Implementation Plan are the two types of grants applicants can apply for; however, an applicant cannot apply for both.

Mr. Ikein said the arterials and collectors are the most dangerous roads traveled. He explained that these roads account for 18% of roadways in the GPATS region and account for approximately 70% of serious injuries and fatalities in the region.

Mr. Ikein explained the different components of the Action Plan. These were as follows:

- Leadership Commitment and Goal Setting
- Planning Structure
- Safety Analysis
- Engagement and Collaboration
- Policy and Process Changes
- Progress and Transparency

Mr. Ikein explained that due to a change in Infrastructure Law in 2021, cities are now able to use safer street design guidelines from the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) when using federal funds.

This grant is for walkers, bikers, and transit riders, not people who are driving cars. Eligible projects for this grant have to be focused on roadway safety. There are four different evaluation criteria when applying for this grant. These were as follows:

- Safety Impact
- Equity
- Additional Safety Considerations
- Climate Change and Sustainability

Mr. Ikein made himself available for any questions.

Kayleigh Cleek, with Greenlink, asked if GPATS would be applying for this grant.

Mr. Ikein replied Policy Committee would have to approve GPATS applying for this grant.

Mr. Brockington said GPATS does not have any funds which could be used as a match. The purpose of this presentation was to raise awareness about the grant and entice other jurisdictions to apply.

Brennan Groel, with the County of Greenville, asked if Policy Committee chose to apply for the grant, would there be an application process and a call for projects from jurisdictions.

Mr. Brockington replied a decision had not been reached regarding when a call for projects would be done.

Clint Link, with the City of Greenville, advised they are approximately halfway completed with the City-Wide Pedestrian Safety Study. He stated they have been discussing this grant and are interested in applying for implementation funds in 2023.

Senator Rice inquired if grant money was received would GPATS be financially responsible for unaccounted costs in the future, which cannot be used with grant funds.

Mr. Ikein replied he would ask for further clarification to answer this question. However, to his understanding, attempted safety efforts would not make GPATS financially responsible for extra costs in the future, even if the safety efforts are ineffective.

VISION ZERO SAFETY PRIORITIES

Asangwua Ikein addressed members with a presentation on Vision Zero priorities and how they are important for the SS4A Grant Applications and other GPATS priorities in the future.

The purpose is to prevent serious injuries and deaths on the roadways. Roadway design is a contributing factor to injuries on the road. The risk of injury can vary on the type of road. Arterials and collectors account for the most traffic incidents. According to Smart Growth America, the Greenville-Anderson-Mauldin region is ranked as the 17th most dangerous region in the country. South Carolina is ranked as the third most dangerous state for pedestrians.

The Five Elements of a Safe System are as follows:

- Safe Road Users
- Safe Vehicles
- Safe Speeds
- Safe Roads
- Post-Crash Care

Mr. Ikein explained high visibility crosswalks, countdown signals, and separate bikeways are ways roads can improve to accommodate pedestrians safely. Cities can implement separate bus lanes to keep transit riders safe from the roadways. Roundabouts also reduce crashes and keep drivers safe.

Vehicle safety standards are mandated at the Federal level and cannot be changed by local jurisdictions. Transportation systems can be designed to accommodate some level of human error to avoid serious injuries and fatalities when crashes occur.

Mr. Ikein discussed the elements of the Complete Streets Design Model. These elements were as follows:

- Safety
- Connectivity
- Accessibility
- Equity
- Performance
- Research and Guidance
- Funding for Infrastructure Investments
- Context-Sensitive Design and Design Flexibility

Mr. Ikein made himself available for any questions.

Clint Link, with the City of Greenville, asked if this presentation was an update on Vision Zero.

Keith Brockington responded it was an update, and Vision Zero will be important for the SS4A Grant. He advised nationally, the Vision Zero policy is becoming more prominent.

GPATS HORIZON 2045 LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN STATUS UPDATE

Keith Brockington addressed members with a status update on the Horizon2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan update. He advised this update will be minor, and GPATS is not required to do a Congestion Management Process (CMP) update. GPATS will have a CMP within a few years and be updated through SCDOT. The Travel Model has been updated, but the full update will not occur until later this year.

GPATS has held four public meetings so far. The meetings are as follows:

- Greer, 7/7: 7 Participants
- Simpsonville, 7/8: 11 Participants
- Greenville, 7/11: 17 Participants
- Travelers Rest, 7/14: 7 Participants

There are still three more public meetings to be held; Williamston on 7/19, Clemson on 7/21, and Easley on 7/25.

Mr. Brockington encouraged everyone to take the MetroQuest survey online at the GPATS website. There have been 133 responses to the survey thus far, and the survey will remain open until August 30th, 2022. Overall trends show the Safety and Security category has been continuously highly ranked on the MetroQuest Survey. Responses also indicate that most improvements are needed along roadways.

Mr. Brockington advised the Ranking and Draft Plan will be developed in August and September. The Draft will be presented to Stakeholders in approximately September, and the Final Plan adoption will be in October 2022. There may be a need to call a Policy Committee Special Meeting in November if the Final Plan is not ready by October. The Horizon2045 Update will be an appendix amendment to the Horizon2040 plan.

Mr. Brockington encouraged everyone to share the flyer and the survey with their jurisdictions and on social media. He also encouraged everyone to keep their Policy Committee Members informed.

Mr. Brockington made himself available for any questions.

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM UPDATE, LETTERS OF INTENT

Keith Brockington provided a brief update on the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program. The Bike and Pedestrian Coordinating Committee met in June to discuss GPATS's new TA program guidelines. He stated SCDOT is still discussing the TA Program and guidelines, which have not been announced yet. More discussion on the TA Program's specifics will occur once these guidelines have been announced. GPATS would like to attract larger projects with stable local funding to the TA Program. The purpose of this is to avoid cost overruns.

Mr. Brockington advised any GPATS jurisdiction interested in applying for TA Program funding should submit a Letter of Intent to Anna Stewart by August 31st, 2022. The Letter of Intent should include details about the project and the funding requested.

Mr. Brockington made himself available for any questions.

Clint Link, with the City of Greenville, asked for clarification on the total amount of TA Program funding.

Mr. Brockington replied the GPATS TA Program allocation was doubled. GPATS has approximately \$1.3 million in TA Program balance. \$300,000 of TA Program funding is expected to lapse if not used by September 2023.

Clint Link, with the City of Greenville, asked if SCDOT still does a Feasibility Study with TA Program projects.

Mr. Brockington replied depends on the project. He stated SCDOT's ability to do Feasibility Reports is minimal.

Mr. Brockington advised everyone local project costs are always much greater than the 20% local match.

TRANSIT SECTION 5310, FINAL CALL FOR PROJECTS

Asangwua Ikein addressed members advising FTA Section 5310 \$402,206 funds are available and will lapse by the end of September 2022. GPATS is making one final call for projects to spend these funds.

Keith Brockington advised the Transit Coordinating Committee would be working to avoid lapse of funds in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

Keith Brockington announced GPATS Administrative Assistant Denise Montgomery is leaving and joining the Zoning Department. This position has been advertised.

Everyone congratulated Denise Montgomery and wished her the best in her new position.

ADJOURN

Without objection, Mr. Brockington adjourned the meeting at 11:14 a.m.

Anna Stewart

Submitted by Recording Secretary